

Bangladesh

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 "This was made clear by official statements expressing hostility towards the media, the blocking of dozens of websites, and the many lawsuits brought against journalists by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League."

Warning of a "tipping point" for journalism, the RWB said media freedom throughout the world has never been as threatened as it is now.
 "We have reached the age of post-truth, propaganda, and suppression of freedoms -- especially in democracies."
 This reflects a world in which attacks on the media have become commonplace and strongmen are on the rise, said the Paris-based monitoring group.
 It also highlighted the "toxic" media-bashing of US President Donald Trump's election campaign and Britain's Brexit referendum.
 After six years at the top, Finland (ranked 3rd) was replaced by Norway, while at the other end of the index, Eritrea (179th) surrendered the last place to North Korea for the first time since 2007.

Madrasa boy

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 Seeing the injury marks on Al Amin's body, the mother instantly wanted to take her son to hospital "But the teachers barred me from taking away my son," Laboni said.
 Later, with the help of local people, Laboni admitted her son to Bheramara Upazila Health Complex on Monday.

Laboni the next day informed Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Bheramara Mizanur Rahman of the matter and sought action.
 The UNO instantly ordered the madrasa authority to take action against the teacher.
 Contacted, Benzir Ahmed Benu, president of the madrasa managing committee, said the teacher had been dismissed.
 The madrasa is bearing the expenses of the boy's treatment, he added.

The UNO formed a three-member probe committee headed by the upazila higher secondary education officer and asked it to submit a report by yesterday.
 "More action will follow if the incident is proved to be true," Mizanur Rahman said.
 The accused teacher could not be reached for comments.

Indian firm

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 ash handling system."
 Civil society activists and environmentalists in Bangladesh have been protesting against the super thermal power plant, saying the coal-fired plant will harm the ecology of the world's largest mangrove forest.

The BHEL, a behemoth in India's public sector, won the contract against stiff international competitive bidding and this is the company's largest power project order abroad.
 The order was issued by Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Limited (BIFPCL), a 50:50 joint venture of National Thermal Power Corporation of India and Bangladesh Power Development Board.

The EXIM Bank of India will provide the loan, for which an agreement between the bank and the BIFPCL was signed in last month.
 A facility agreement between the BIFPCL and the Exim Bank for financing the construction of the project was signed at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi in presence of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting of India-Bangladesh Business Forum on April 10.

BHEL's work in the project includes design, engineering, manufacture, supply, construction, erection, testing and commissioning of two projects of 660MW each with ultra-supercritical parameters on turnkey basis, the BHEL said in a statement on its website.
 It will also set up a jetty and a river water intake system.
 "This prestigious order is a testimony to BHEL's proven technological excellence and also to its capability in executing power projects of this magnitude and complexity on turnkey basis. The order will also provide a fillip to the company's focus on globalization as a driver of future growth," the statement said.
 The key equipment for the project will be manufactured at BHEL's Trichy, Haridwar, Hyderabad, Ranipet, Bhopal, Bangalore and Jhansi plants while the company's power sector construction division will be responsible for construction and installation activities at site.

AQIS head of Bangladesh

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 were killed.
 It also does not say whether the five accomplices of Sohel were Bangladeshis. They are Qari Abdul Aziz alias Abdul Halim, Yaqub alias Saddam Hossain, Asadullah alias Nazimuddin Maimoon, Abu Ibrahim alias Saiful Islam Hasan and Abu Bakr alias Anuj Hasib.
 The 13-page statement, titled "Behold", is said to be a transcript of an audio message from the "top AQIS leader Asim Omer". The alleged chief of the Bangladeshi affairs of AQIS and his five companions were mentioned only in a paragraph.
 The statement was also published in al-Qaeda's media production house "As-Sahab Media", with a photograph of Sohel, said Bangladeshi law enforcement members.
 This newspaper could not independently verify the authenticity of the statement.
 Asked, Assistant Inspector General (confidential) of the Police Headquarters Mohammad Moniruzzaman said they had no information about Sohel and the five other men.
 "We are looking into the matter and verifying the information," Moniruzzaman, who deals with the crimes related to militancy, told The Daily Star yesterday. He has been assigned to maintain communications with the Afghan police on the matter.
 He said the information was scanty and it seemed the photograph used in the statement was old.
 Contacted, several officials from the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police also said they had no information about Sohel and the

five others.
 The statement was uploaded on Telegram early Wednesday, said sources in Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies.
 Sohel's death was first learnt from a video released by As-Sahab Media last month, as mentioned by Ansar al-Islam members in Dawahillallah online forum. Ansar al-Islam is believed to be the Bangladesh chapter of AQIS.
 Maj (dismissed) Syed Ziaul Haque is the only known top ranking leader of Ansar al-Islam and the operational wing chief of the outfit.
 On several occasions, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said Zia could be arrested any time as he was under surveillance of law enforcers.
 Mufti Jasim Uddin Rahmani, the alleged founder and spiritual leader of Ansarullah Bangla Team (now Ansar al-Islam), has been in jail since August 2013.

Osama bin Laden's successor, Egyptian Islamist ideologue Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the formation of AQIS in September 2014 to carry the group's fight to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
 Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), which allegedly started targeted killings of war crimes trial campaigners and secularists in 2013, was banned in 2015 after Ansar al-Islam/AQIS claimed responsibilities for several murders of freethinkers, atheist bloggers and publishers in Bangladesh.
 The group has so far claimed responsibility for 13 attacks in which 11 individuals including writers and bloggers, one publisher and two LGBT activists were killed.

US moves THAAD

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 capability of the THAAD system in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threat," the ministry said in a statement.
 The battery was expected to be operational by the end of the year, it said.
 The United States and South Korea agreed last year to deploy the THAAD to counter the threat of missile launches by North Korea. They say it is solely aimed at defending against North Korea.

But China says the system's advanced radar can penetrate deep into its territory and undermine its security, while it will do little to deter the North, and is adamant in its opposition.
 "China strongly urges the United States and South Korea to stop actions that worsen regional tensions and harm China's strategic security interests and cancel the deployment of the THAAD system and withdraw the equipment," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a briefing.
 "China will resolutely take necessary steps to defend its interests," Geng said, without elaborating.
 The United States began moving the first elements of the system to South Korea in March after the North tested four ballistic missiles.
 The liberal politician expected to win South Korea's election, Moon Jae-in, has called for a delay in the deployment, saying the new administration should make a decision after gathering public opinion and more talks with Washington.

Television footage showed military trailers carrying equipment, including what appeared to be launch canisters, to the battery site.
 Protesters shouted and hurled water bottles at the vehicles over lines of police holding them back.
WE WILL FIGHT
 More than 10 protesters were injured, some of them with fractures, in clashes with police, Kim Jong-kyung, a leader of villagers opposing the deployment, told Reuters.
 Kim said about 200 protesters rallied overnight and they would keep up their opposition.
 "There's still time for THAAD to be actually up and running so we will fight until equipment is withdrawn from the site and ask South Korea's new government to reconsider," Kim told Reuters by telephone.
 The United States is sending the USS Carl Vinson carrier strike group to waters off the Korean peninsula, where it will join the USS Michigan, a nuclear submarine that docked in South Korea on Tuesday. South Korea's navy has said it will hold drills with the US strike group.
 North Korea's foreign ministry denounced a scheduled UN Security Council meeting on Friday, chaired by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, saying the United States was "not morally entitled" to force members states to impose sanctions on it.
 China's envoy on North Korea, Wu Dawei, met his Japanese coun-

terpart, Kenji Kanasugi, for talks in Tokyo and they agreed that they would "respond firmly" to any further North Korean provocation, Japan's foreign ministry said.
CHINESE AIRCRAFT CARRIER
 China launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier yesterday amid rising tension over North Korea and worries about Beijing's assertiveness in the South China Sea.
 State media has quoted military experts as saying the carrier, China's second and built in the northeastern port of Dalian, is not expected to enter service until 2020, once it has been kitted out and armed.
 The launch "shows our country's indigenous aircraft carrier design and construction has achieved major step-by-step results", Xinhua news agency said.
 Fan Changlong, a vice chairman of China's powerful Central Military Commission, presided over the ceremony, Xinhua said, during which a bottle of champagne was broken on the bow.
 The launch follows China's celebration on Sunday of the 68th birthday of the founding of the Chinese navy, and comes amid renewed tensions between North Korea and the United States over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

Cameron
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 He will attend a roundtable discussion with Bangladeshi civil society members, economists and business leaders today.
 The Bangladesh chapter of International Growth Centre (IGC) hosts the roundtable titled "Fragility, growth and development: Bangladesh's progress" at a city hotel, one of the invitees told UNB.
 Prominent economist Rehman Sobhan is likely to chair the roundtable. IGC Bangladesh Country Director Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Country Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud and Badiul Alam Majumdar, among others, will be present.
 Cameron is the chair of IGC's Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development.
 The host, however, remained tight-lipped about Cameron's engagements in Dhaka.
 The British politician will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban at 10:00am today, another official told UNB.
 The commission aims to generate innovative ideas to help tackle state fragility and state failure. Promoting inclusive growth in fragile and conflict situations is now a key priority for development.
 During his brief visit, Cameron is likely to visit a DFID-funded project.
 He was the prime minister of the United Kingdom from 2010 to 2016.
 Cameron will leave Dhaka today after his less than 24-hour stay here. Initially, his visit was planned for four days but has been cut short apparently due to the upcoming UK elections.
 British Prime Minister Theresa May has called a general election for June 8, amid polls that indicate she could win a huge Tory majority in parliament.

Food crisis

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 in remote villages.
 Dohindra Lal Tripura, member of Ward-8 of the union, said price of one kilogramme of coarse rice is Tk 45 at Machalong Bazar, the nearest market of the areas facing the food crisis. However, the price shot up to Tk 85-90 when it reaches their areas -- Udolchori, New Joipu, Old Joipu, Batling Para and Tarum Para -- due to poor communication.
 It takes one and a half days to reach many areas from Machalong Bazar, he said.
 "People have no money to buy the costly food. They have no income source," said Dohindra, adding that many have to eat boiled potato and banana trees for one or two meals a day.
 Suchila Chakma, a woman member of Sajek union, said women and children are the worst victims of the crisis.
 Nelson Chakma, chairman of Sajek Union Parishad, said the crisis began three months ago and around 40 villages are now affected and in need of emergency food supply.
 "I have already informed the upazila administration and even sent a letter to the ministry [Disaster Management and Relief] to allocate 600 tonnes food for the union," he told The Daily Star yesterday.
 Barha Hrishhi Chakma said they have informed the district administration more than two weeks ago about the situation, but no aid arrived.
 "Five tonnes of rice were allocated for the affected people. Of the rice, two tonnes are likely to reach on Monday," he said, adding that all elected representatives of his upazila have jointly distributed more than four tonnes of rice on April 22.
 "It was very, very inadequate," he observed.
 Contacted, Prokash Kanti Chowdhury, acting deputy commissioner of Rangamati, told The Daily Star yesterday that after receiving a letter from the local Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad chairmen, they have already allocated five tonnes of rice for the affected areas.
 He claims the food aid was distributed among the people around a week ago.
 "We have sufficient stock of food and asked the local representatives to inform us if more food is required," he added.

SWAT hunts

FROM PAGE 1
 Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.
 Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the militants fired shots as officials asked them to surrender, he added.
 Later, a team of DMP's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) was airlifted from the capital, which launched the operation codenamed "Eagle Hunt" around 6:40pm, about two hours after reaching the scene.
 As the police assault began, the militants hurled four to five grenades, said Proloy Kumar Joarder, deputy commissioner of CTTC.
 "Some of those were hurled at the law enforcers at the main gate. Some others were exploded inside the house, which we suspect was part of suicide blasts," he added.
 Heavy sounds of gunshots and explosions were heard near the house till 7:30pm, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.
 No law enforcers were hurt.
 "We have suspended the operation at 8:30pm due to darkness," M Khurshid Hossain, deputy inspector general of Rajshahi Range police, told The Daily Star by phone.
 Asked about any movement inside, he said they were not sure about that.
 But he added there were explosives in the house. "We will resume our operation early in the morning tomorrow [today]."
 According to CTTC officials, a man named Rafiqul Islam alias Abu, his wife and two children live in the house. He rented the house in February. Two other people may have joined with them recently.
 The local administration imposed restrictions on gathering of people -- Section 144 -- in the area since 6:00am, said Shafiqul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Shibganj.
 Before launching the operation, law enforcers brought Abu's mother Fulsana Begum and aunty Chameli Begum, among other relatives, to ask them to surrender.
 Chameli told The Daily Star that they asked Abu through hand mikes to send the children out. But there was no response from inside, and they went back home after 5:30pm.
 Locals said the owner, Saidur Rahman alias Jhentu Biswas, 75, allowed Abu to live in the house for free.
 Abu married Sumaiya Begum about nine years ago and the couple has two daughters, aged eight and six. He used to sell different kinds of spices in local markets, his mother said.

She added her son studied at Trimohoni Alia Madrasa in Shibganj and had a circle of about 10 friends. He didn't have good relations with other people.
 From his early years, Abu used to practise religion in a different way. For example, he used to celebrate Eids on the day Saudi Arabia observes them.
 Meanwhile, police yesterday picked up three people who were in good terms with Abu, a police source said, though there was no official confirmation.
 The three were identified by the source as Mahfuzur Rahman alias Mohon, Abdus Salam and Monirul Islam.

A market

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 pleased to witness Anowara's success. Several years ago at a time when Majeda was pregnant her husband Ibrahim left her, an act that consigned Majeda to a seemingly hopeless existence, in the unrelenting clutches of hardship and despair. But in 2012 she too thought to try her hand at business. She opened a cosmetics shop.
 Nowadays, her once-dire economic circumstances are nothing but a bad memory. "I earn net profits of up to Tk 15,000 per month," Majeda says. "From business earnings I purchased land, built a home, bought a motorcycle for my son who has helped me a lot in establishing my business, and I helped him get married."
 Ganochetona has provided business training to a total of 18 local women who now run various business including grocery and computer stores, and small eateries in the area's main market. Inspired by their success, a further 14 women from struggling families gained the confidence to start businesses of their own, without any assistance.
 "We were able to involve women in running businesses as an alternative means to a livelihood," says Shyamol Roy who coordinated Ganochetona's project. "Often their husbands are farm labourers whose incomes have suffered a lot due to natural disasters."
 Of the 50 shops in the marketplace, 32 are now run by women. The general secretary of the village market association, Konika Parvin, is herself a businesswoman.
 "Many destitute women have been able to build a better future through business," Konika says. "We are empowered now. We can meet any obstacle arising from either within our household or from without, and we do it with self-confidence and courage."

Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh
 Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
 National Agricultural Technology Program
 Phase-II Project (NATP-2)
 Department of Livestock Services (DLS),
 Krishi Khamar Sarak, Framgate, Dhaka-1215.

PIU/NATP/DLS/ Vehicle hire/PS/LS-24/2017/316 Date: 25.04.2017

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock
2	Agency	: Department of Livestock Services(DLS)
3	Procuring Entity Name	: Director, PIU-NATP-2, DLS
4	Procuring Entity Code	: 5003
5	Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
6	Invitation for	: Tender for procurement of Vehicle hire
7	Invitation Ref No	: PIU/NATP/DLS/ Vehicle hire/PS/LS-24/2017/316
8	Date	: 25.04.2017
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	: Open Tender Method (OTM)/National Competitive Bid (NCB)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	: GOB, IDA & IFAD
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	: IDA & IFAD
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	: 5003
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	: National Agricultural Technology Program Phase II Project (NATP-2)
14	Tender Package No.	: PS/LS-24
15	Tender Package Name	: "Procurement of Vehicle hire"
16	Tender Publication Date	: on or before 26.04.2017
17	Tender Last Selling Date	: 15.05.2017
18	Tender Submission & Closing Date and Time	Date Time 15.05.2017 12.00 noon
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	15.05.2017 01:00 p.m.
20	Name & Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document (Principal) - Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document	Address: PIU-NATP-2-DLS, Room No106, Ground Floor, 1 st Building, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 PIU-NATP-2-DLS, Room No 106, Ground Floor, 1st Building, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215 PIU-NATP-2-DLS, Room No 106, Ground Floor, 1st Building, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	Reputed Firms/Tenderers shall have: Valid Trade Trade License, VAT Registration Certificate, Income Tax Clearance Certificate up to 30/6/2016, Specification of the vehicle, Year of manufacture, Credit line certificate from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, Experience certificate of similar nature of works, Annual Average Turn Over, Submission of Tender Security as Pay Order/Bank Draft, Bank Guaranty from any recognized Scheduled Bank etc.
22	Brief Description of Services	: Supply of Vehicle on Hire basis
23	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	: Tk. 1000/= (One Thousand taka) only
	Pckge No	Identification of Package Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in Days
24	PS/LS-24	Procurement of Vehicle hire PIU-NATP-2-DLS, Dhaka Tk 1,50,000/= The Intended Completion Date of the Contract is 5 years or Completion of the project whichever is earlier. However the first contract will be made for a period of one year and the contract is renewable for each year upon successful completion of previous contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
25	Name of Official Inviting Tender	: Dr. Monjur Mohammad Shahjada
26	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Director
27	Address of Official Inviting Tender	PIU-NATP-2-DLS, Room No 106, Ground Floor, 1st Building, Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
28	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. 8143128 Fax No. 9128872 e-mail: directoratpdl@yahoo.com
29	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings	


Dr. Monjur Mohammad Shahjada
 Director
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 Phase II Project (NATP-2)
 Krishi Khamar Sarak, Farmgate, Dhaka.