

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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SHAH CEMENT

Founder of 'Neo JMB' held: police

He along with Tamim Chy formed the militant group, officials claim

Counterterrorism officials yesterday claimed to have arrested a top militant who along with Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury formed terror outfit "Neo JMB" that carried out the Gulshan café attack last year and scores of secret killings. Abdu Samad alias Arif Mamu, 29, played a key role in forming "Neo JMB" in 2014 under the leadership of café attack chief coordinator Tamim, said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit. Briefing journalists at the DMP media centre, Monirul said CTTC officials arrested Samad, his father-in-law and JMB leader Ziadul Islam, 45, and another militant Azizul Islam alias Mehedi, 25, with 200 detonators and a pistol from the capital's Mohakhali bus terminal area on Wednesday night. Asked whether Samad was involved in the café attack, the CTTC unit chief said Samad's involvement in the incident has not been found yet. Samad, who is from Ballapur village in Dinajpur, had been tasked with getting fresh recruits in the Northern region long before the July 1 Holey Artisan Cafe attack that left 20 people, mostly foreigners, and two police officials dead, said the CTTC unit chief. Counterterrorism unit will probe his involvement in a number of secret killings that took place in northern districts in recent years, said Monirul.

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People wait in line in front of Howalder Cold Storage in Thakurgaon's Jagannathpur to exchange milk for potatoes. The milk was distributed among the destitute people. Each sack of potatoes was being exchanged for a litre of milk. Salam Hawalder, owner of the facility, said he took this measure to cover his losses as traders are not withdrawing their stock of potatoes, leaving him at a risk of a loss.

Farmer kills himself after threat from loan shark

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

An elderly farmer committed suicide in Hailachia village of Nali union under Ghior upazila after the money lender he borrowed money from threatened him and demanded an astronomical figure from him in compounded interest. Police recovered the body of Bachchu Kazi, 70, hanging from a tree in a secluded place around 400 yards from his house, around 11:30am yesterday. Victim Bachchu Kazi's wife Shanti Begum alleged he committed suicide in face of threats from the man they took the loan from -- Alamgir Hossain of nearby Bathaimuri village. Shanti Begum said that her husband borrowed Tk six thousand from Alamgir last year agreeing to pay an interest of Tk 10 per thousand per month. So far he has paid back Tk 6000. On Wednesday afternoon Alamgir Hossain came to Bachchu's home and demanded Tk 30,000 in total claiming that was amount accrued under the loan agreement. He threatened to kidnap Bachchu if the man failed to pay the full amount on Friday. He also threatened to kidnap Bachchu's sons and hold them till Bachchu paid up.

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 15
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	5-15	12-30	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

No honking, speeding after 10pm

HC slaps the ban in Dhaka's residential, VIP areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday banned the use of horns and fixed vehicles' speed limit to 20kph in residential and VIP areas of the capital after 10:00pm. Noise pollution has turned acute in the city, putting the public health at risk, according to a survey conducted by the Department of Environment (DoE). The survey, conducted at 70 points of the city this year, reveals that sound pollution reached 120-130 decibels (dB) at many points, almost double the permissible level. After the hearing of a writ petition, the HC yesterday also restricted the use of all kinds of horns of vehicles near educational institutions and hospitals across the country. The court asked the authorities concerned to control noise pollution on the streets near Shahbagh, between Science Laboratory and Gabtoli, and between Kakrail, Moghbazar and Mymensingh Road by forming monitoring teams. The authorities were ordered to shut down small factories producing and selling pneumatic horns across the country, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

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Israel closes Gaza border crossings

Air strikes hit Hamas after rockets fired into Israel; Riyadh says US serious about ME peace

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel announced the closure of its Gaza border crossings yesterday in response to daily rocket fire from the enclave over the past week after U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital stoked Palestinian anger. Israeli aircraft struck three facilities belonging to Hamas, the militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, before dawn on Thursday after the latest rocket attacks, Israel's military said. It said it targeted training camps and weapons storage compounds. Hamas usually evacuates such facilities when border tensions spike. Two of the rockets fired by militants were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system and a third exploded in an open area. There were no reports of casualties on either side of the frontier. The military said in a statement that "due to the security events and in accordance with security assessments" Kerem Shalom crossing - the main passage point for goods entering the Gaza Strip, and the Erez pedestrian crossing - would be shut as of Thursday. It did not say how long the closure would last. Some 15 rockets have been fired into southern Israel since Trump's Dec 6 announcement, and none of the projectiles has caused serious injury or damage. The attacks have drawn Israeli air strikes that have killed two Hamas gunmen. Two other Palestinians have been killed in confrontations with Israeli troops during stone-throwing protests along the border. Israeli cabinet minister Tzachi Hanegbi said on Israel Radio that while Hamas, which last fought a war with Israel in 2014, was not carrying out the rocket strikes, it needed to rein in militants from "breakaway groups" or it would "find itself in a situation where it has to contend" with the Israeli military. In Istanbul on Wednesday, a summit of more than 50 Muslim countries

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Disney to buy Fox film, TV assets for \$52 billion

AFP, New York

Walt Disney Co yesterday agreed to buy key film and television operations of 21st Century Fox in a \$52.4 billion stock deal that could reshape the media-entertainment world and step up a challenge to Netflix and emerging tech platforms. The blockbuster transaction also vastly reduces the Fox media empire built by Rupert Murdoch, leaving the 86-year-old tycoon and his two sons with a more tightly focused group comprised of the Fox broadcast network, Fox News Channel and sports channels. The deal will see Disney acquire the vaunted Fox Hollywood film and television studios, cable entertainment networks and international TV businesses, bringing popular entertainment properties including X-Men, Avatar, The Simpsons, FX Networks and National

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Dutch police ground drone-fighting eagles

AFP, The Hague

Dutch police have clipped the wings of their airborne drone-fighting force of eagles, and fired their winged warriors deeming them too expensive and too unruly to be effective. After a series of tests in 2015, the police last

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NATURE QUEST

Pangolins in peril

MINTU DESHWARA

Although at first glance, a pangolin may look like a reptile, it is actually a mammal. These mammals are covered in large, hardened overlapping scales with ridges. The keratin scales make up a hard shell of sorts, making the animal resemble a rui fish. Because of this resemblance, many locals call Pangolins, *Bon Rui*. They are nocturnal creatures, preferring to sleep the day away.

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The elusive Pangolin lives deep in the forests of Sylhet, Sundarbans and Chittagong Hill Tracts. They are frequently hunted as their parts are used in traditional medicine, seriously decreasing their numbers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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