

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

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8 killed in IS attack on Pak church

2 suicide bombers strike as people attend pre-Christmas service



A suicide bomb attack on a Pakistan church claimed by the Islamic State group killed at least eight people and wounded 30 during a service yesterday, just over a week before Christmas.

Two women were among the dead at a Methodist church in the restive southwestern city of Quetta in Balochistan province, said provincial Home Secretary Akbar Harifal.

Several of the wounded were in serious condition, police added.

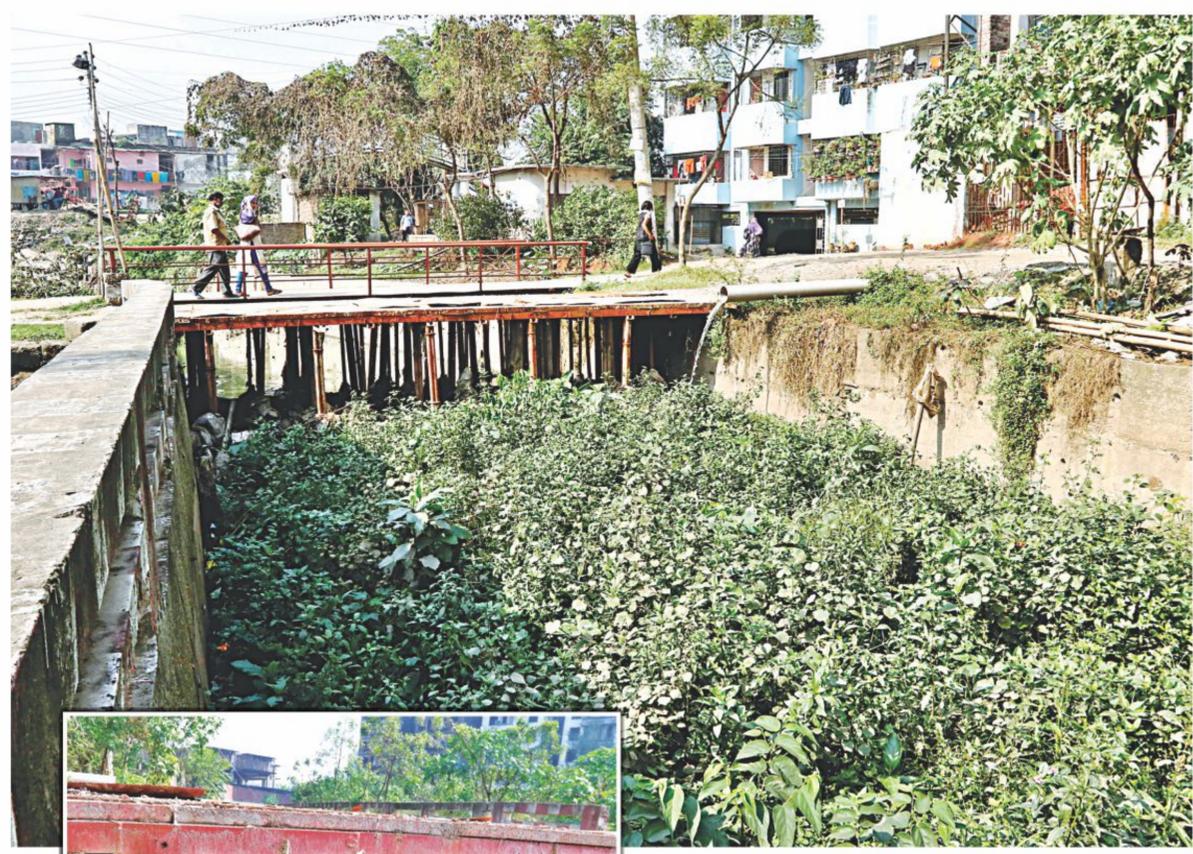
Officials said police intercepted and shot dead one attacker outside the church before he could detonate his bomb. But the second managed to reach the church's main door, where he blew himself up.

"Police were quick to react and stop the attackers from entering into the main hall," provincial police chief Moazzam Jah told AFP.

Each attacker was carrying 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of explosive plus grenades, said civil defence official Aslam Tareen.

IS, in a brief statement on its Amaq news agency, claimed responsibility.

AFP, Quetta



What looks like a garden of herbs is actually a recently renovated sewage canal in the capital's Beriband in Rayerbazar. Real estate developers constructing high rise buildings next to it, built a foot bridge over it to make transit of material easier, despite there being a road just up ahead. Inset, the steel rod foundation trap garbage, completely blocking the passage of water.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'They'll not return to power'

Says PM about anti-liberation forces

UNB, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said people would never give their mandates to anti-liberation forces, patrons of war criminals and the corrupt as those would drive the country to destruction.

"The people of Bangladesh will never cast their votes for these anti-liberation forces, the corrupt, killers who killed people by arson attacks and patrons of war criminals. They will never be able to come to power ... people won't let them return [to power]," she said.

The PM said this while speaking at a discussion organised by Awami League marking the Victory Day and Martyred Intellectuals Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina said those who wanted to develop the country and people's fate and free the country from hunger and poverty would never support those who had patronised war criminals, made them ministers and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

SHRINKING ELEPHANT HABITAT Deforestation largely blamed

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, back from Cox's Bazar

Rohingya settlements at one of the country's reserve forests have blocked the migration path of the Asian elephants, resulting in human-elephant conflicts.

The forest is depleting fast and Rohingya camps are making the situation worse. Attacks of wild elephants on refugee camps and cropland have become a common phenomenon.

An International Union for Conservation of Nature study claims that eight of 12 elephant corridors in the country's nine reserve forests are in Cox's Bazar. Of the 300 elephants in nine reserve forests, 112 have been spotted in Cox's Bazar alone.

The study says all the corridors have been closed following construction of roads, a cantonment, and human settlements.

The Ukhia-Teknaf reserve forest where the Rohingyas have taken shelter is one of the important habitats of the elephants in Cox's Bazar.

Since late August to date, around 4,000

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Gas crisis cripples Chittagong city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

The port city has been experiencing a severe gas crisis for more than a week, forcing its residents to use alternative means to cook or buy prepared food.

The crisis occurred as the Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL), assigned to supply gas to the Chittagong region, is getting around 40 mmcft gas less than required from the national grid every day.

To address the crisis in the residential areas, the KGDCL officials have recently stopped supply to two power plants and a fertiliser factory, but the situation has not improved.

Md Raihan, a resident of Lalkhan Bazar area, said he had to buy lunch for three consecutive days as they could not cook food.

"We get gas very early in the morning and after midnight, but the flow is very low. This situation is prevailing for more than a week," he said.

Like many other residents, Raihan is confused whether he should wait for restoration of gas supply or go for alternative means.

Sushanta Chowdhury, a resident of Bakalia area, said his wife has become fed up with the situation. "She has to wait for gas till midnight. Then she cooks food and goes to bed. Again she has to wake up very early to complete her day's cooking by 6:30am as the supply completely stops after that," he said.

"We pay the bill regularly but cannot use gas as per our daily needs," he observed.



SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

That madrasa principal sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Madrasa principal Faijul Amin Sarkar, who at a doa mahfil in Tangail sought heaven for Bangabandhu's killers, was sent to jail yesterday.

Abdul Kadir Talukder, former commander of Gopalpur Muktijoddha Sangsad, filed a case against the principal with Gopalpur Police Station under Special Powers Act, 1974 on Saturday night, said Hasan Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Golam Kibria sent Faijul to jail after police produced him before a Tangail court in the morning, Court Inspector Anwarul Islam said.

Gopalpur upazila administration organised

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Blankets hung on trees to warm the needy



ARAB NEWS, Jeddah

As weather experts predict that this winter will be one of the harshest for Riyadh in years, some residents of a neighbourhood in the capital are helping those in need.

A video has gone viral on Twitter showing pictures of blankets hanging on trees in Al-Rayyan district for those in need to keep warm.

Sultan Al-Mousa, who tweeted the video, said he hopes it will encourage more such initiatives.

But as the neighbourhood is considered

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BASIC BANK SCAM Bacchu skips ACC quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chairman of scam-hit BASIC Bank Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu skipped yesterday's interrogation at the Anti-Corruption Commission, saying he is sick.

After grilling him on December 4 and 6, the ACC set yesterday for further interrogation, but Bacchu sought one month's time.

Wishing not to be named, an ACC official said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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