



বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!' BSRM Building a safer nation



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# Birangana waits for recognition

Biva, 60, does odd jobs to survive with son with challenges

SUSHANTA GHOSH with ANDREW EAGLE

Biva Rani, 60, lives in her brother's tin-shed house in Upendranath Mandal near Torki Bandar of Barisal's Gournadi upazila. She works odd jobs, as a tailor, a weaver, a midwife sometimes, in order to look after herself and her disabled son Sagor.

Biva, whose husband left her after their son was born, is a birangana, a war heroine. She was attacked in a field by Pakistani soldiers in 1971. She was then a student of class-VIII. But despite applying two years ago to be recognised as a freedom fighter for her sacrifice in the Liberation War, her status is yet to be acknowledged. She doesn't know why. "My husband left me in 1988. Since then I have floated on a turbulent sea," she says, referring to the lifelong struggle of caring for Sagor, which means "sea".

When asked about what happened in 1971, Biva at first stays silent. After some moments and a deep sigh, the narration begins.

She was living with four sisters and a brother in their family home. "In the month of Jyoshtha," she says, referring to the Bengali month that corresponds to mid-May through to mid-June, "the occupation army of Pakistan together with local razakars and other collaborators set fire to the shops in the local market. My father, who was a small trader in Torki Bandar, tried to flee with his family to nearby Ramjanpur, in present-day Madaripur. But we became separated."

Together with some other women, Biva took shelter in a sugarcane field. Unfortunately, local razakars found them and they were handed over to Pakistani soldiers. "We all became victims in that field," Biva says, weeping. "They tortured us and I lost consciousness."

When the army eventually left the area, Biva's father found her and



Biva Rani

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Police charge truncheons on BNP activists and supporters pouring out of the Old High Court gate yesterday. The BNP men, who were waiting to greet Khaleda Zia on way to her Gulshan home from a special court in Bakshibazar, broke the lock of the gate when they heard the news of her arrival. They also threw brick chunks at the law enforcers, prompting arrests.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Marbled cats still exist in Srimangal

MINTU DESHWARA

Unlike usual stories of animals nearing extinction, the forests of Moulvibazar brought forth an entirely different tale a couple of years ago.

Around three and a half years ago, a four to five days old kitten was rescued in the remote village of Niralapunjee in Srimangal. The kitten looked very different from any other cat seen in the region before.

Unbeknownst to the rescuers at the time, the

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This rare marbled cat was thought to be extinct for over 40 years until rediscovery a few years ago.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



## Jatileswar no more

BUSINESS-STANDARD.COM

Acclaimed Bengali singer Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay died yesterday at a Kolkata hospital following prolonged illness.

He was 82. Mukhopadhyay is survived by wife, son and daughter.

He had been admitted to hospital since December 6 and died of multi-organ failure as his condition turned extremely critical for the past few days, Mukhopadhyay's daughter Shubhaa said.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-30 3-45 5-24 7-00

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN IN MIDDLE EAST Work contracts do little to deter abuse

UNB, Dhaka

Hundreds of thousands of South Asian women migrant workers in the Middle East have signed employment contracts that they do not understand or do not adequately protect them against discrimination and abuse, says a new report.

The study was carried out by UN Women and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The findings were discussed at a stakeholder consultation in the Nepali capital Kathmandu in the last two days.

The study focused on migration from South Asian countries to the Middle East, which has been booming since oil-generated wealth started growing in the region in the 1970s.

At present, India is the largest sending country (at 747,000 workers), followed by Pakistan (623,000), Nepal (454,000), Bangladesh (409,000) and Sri Lanka (282,000).

But with this increase have come associated vulnerabilities, exploitation and abuse of migrant workers, particularly women, according to UN Women Asia and the IOM.

Templates for standard contracts are available, and in some cases referenced in national legislation or bilateral labour agreements, but are often not applied effectively, the study found.

"There is a colossal gap between the Standard Terms of Employment template [STOE] and the employment contracts that are used for female

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## Baby born from embryo frozen for 24 years

AFP, Miami

An American woman has given birth to a healthy baby girl from an embryo that was frozen a quarter century ago, in what hospital officials say may be a world record.

The baby, named Emma Wren Gibson, was born November 25, according to the National Embryo Donation Center (NEDC) in Knoxville, Tennessee, which

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## জাতীয় ভিটামিন 'এ' প্লাস ক্যাম্পেইন ২০১৭ (২য় রাউন্ড)

২৩ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭ ইং, ০৯ শোম ১৪২৪ বঙ্গাব্দ, শনিবার

সকাল ৮ টা থেকে বিকাল ৪ টা



ভিটামিন 'এ' খাওয়ান, শিশুমৃত্যুর ঝুঁকি কমান।



- ৬-৫৯ মাস বয়সী প্রতিটি শিশুকে মনিফ্ল্যাগ / পুষ্টি ফ্ল্যাগ চিহ্নিত নিকটস্থ টিকাদান কেন্দ্রে নিয়ে আসুন।
- ৬-১১ মাস বয়সী শিশুকে ১টি নীল রঙের ভিটামিন 'এ' ক্যাপসুল খাওয়ান।
- ১২-৫৯ মাস বয়সী শিশুকে ১টি লাল রঙের ভিটামিন 'এ' ক্যাপসুল খাওয়ান।
- ভিটামিন 'এ' ক্যাপসুল স্বাস্থ্য কর্মী / স্বেচ্ছাসেবক- এর সহায়তায় খাওয়াবেন।

জাতীয় পুষ্টি সেবা, জনস্বাস্থ্য পুষ্টি প্রতিষ্ঠান স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়



## National Level Award as Highest VAT Depositor: Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited



Mr. Alauddin Ahmed, Managing Director of Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited is receiving the National Level Award as Highest VAT Depositor under Production Category in fiscal year 2015-16 on occasion of National VAT Day (December 8, 2017).

This is a matter of immense pride for all the members of Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd. We heartily thank the Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Finance, NBR and all the concerned for this recognition and honour which will inspire HPL to create more success stories in future. We express our gratitude to all the doctors and customers for their continuous support and trust on our quality products and process commitment. Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited (HPL) is one of the leading pharma companies in Bangladesh. HPL exports its products to different countries all over the world.

Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited Nasir Trade Centre (Level-9 & 14), 89 Bir Uttam C.R. Datta Sarak, Dhaka-1205, Tel: (02) 9632176

