

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

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Forging a future

Visually impaired Amzad now goes to DU

KHALID BIN NAZRUL with ANDREW EAGLE



Amzad Hossain

The high point of 24-year-old Md Amzad Hossain's life was the day he was accepted to study Bangla at Dhaka University. "When the professor assured me that, having passed both the written exam and interview, I could study my favourite subject I was happier than ever before," he says.

University admission in one's chosen subject will likely bring a smile to a student's face, but for Amzad it was a milestone of particular triumph, not only for his family's insolvency but because Amzad is blind.

His father Md Rafiqul Islam is a struggling farmer from Chadukhola village in Brahmanbaria's Kashba upazila. Rafiqul along with his wife Bakul Begum held little hope for their son when Amzad lost his sight at age two. "We thought he would be a lifetime burden on his siblings," Rafiqul says.

Amzad had other ideas. At age six he memorised all the poems and short stories from his older siblings' school texts, by listening to their recitations. He pleaded to be sent to school.

Amzad's eagerness forced his family to re-evaluate his abilities. Fortunately, an uncle took the initiative to admit him to a community-based rehabilitation programme, Assistance for Blind Children, in Comilla. There, under the instruction of lawyer Sultan Ahmed, Amzad learned to read Braille. Subsequently he was admitted to Comilla's Luthfunnessa Government Primary School.

"Be careful what you wish for," goes the saying, "You just might get it." On his first day in the classroom, after wishing for it for so long, he was nervous. "My heart was shaking,"

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Police charge truncheons on the supporters of a councillor candidate of the Rangpur City Corporation polls on Central Road as they were marching towards the returning officer's office yesterday. The candidate was beaten by just one vote. Inset, an injured person being taken to hospital following a clash between supporters of two councillor candidates in the city Thursday night.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

RAPE OF 4 WOMEN Cops blamed for refusing to record case

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station allegedly refused to record a case against suspects of raping four women.

Family members of the victims and local public representatives alleged that the OC refused to record the case twice and was forced to record the complaint four days after the incident following intervention of the local lawmaker and State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed.

Four robbers allegedly raped the victims after looting gold ornaments worth Tk 3.5 lakh and Tk 87,000 in cash from their home in the early hours of December 13.

The brother-in-law of two of the victims filed a case on December 17 and police have shown two people arrested in this regard.

The plaintiff told The Daily Star they went to the police station twice to file the case on December 13 and on December 16. They later contacted the local UP chairman, who took them to the local lawmaker.

Didarul Alam, chairman of Bara Uthan Union Parishad, said, "Police recorded the case after four

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Catalans deal a blow to Madrid

Pro-independence party wins regional elections

AFP, Barcelona

With their leaders in exile or jail, Catalan separatists yesterday scrambled to reap the benefits of defeating Spain's central government in a divisive regional election.

Madrid had called Thursday's poll after secessionists declared independence on October 27, in Spain's worst political crisis since democracy was reinstated following dictator Francisco Franco's death in 1975.

The vote was widely seen as a moment of truth on Catalonia's independence question, a hugely divisive issue for the wealthy northeast region that has rattled a Europe already shaken by Brexit.

But with the secessionists maintaining a majority in the Catalan parliament, the move to call snap polls appeared to backfire against Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who had sacked the regional government and dissolved its parliament.

Emboldened by his side's win, ousted

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Two Gazans killed in anti-US protests

Palestinian president rules out Trump's peace plan after Jerusalem decision

AFP, Gaza City

Two Palestinians were killed as youths clashed with Israeli soldiers on the Gaza border yesterday in a new protest against US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the health ministry said.

The third Friday since US President Donald Trump's controversial announcement on Jerusalem was again billed by Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas as a "day of rage".

Hundreds of Palestinian protesters at various points along the Gaza border threw stones at Israeli forces, who responded with smoke grenades and live and rubber bullets, AFP correspondents said.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza said Zakaria al-Kafarneh, 24, died after being shot in the chest in clashes near Jabalia, in northern Gaza.

A second man, 29-year-old Mohammed Mohaisen, died later in clashes east of Gaza City, it said.

Six other Gazans were shot and wounded by soldiers using live ammunition, and one was in a critical condition, the ministry said.

One man dressed as Santa Claus holding a Palestinian flag was shot in the leg east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, eyewitnesses said.

In the occupied West Bank, clashes broke out in Ramallah, Hebron and other major cities, with smaller protests across the territory, including near the Jewish settlement of Beit El.

Osama Najar, spokesman for the health ministry in the West Bank, said they had seen protests in more locations than on previous Fridays.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said it had dealt with dozens of injuries during the West Bank clashes, including at least seven hit by live ammunition.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Two brothers killed in clash over land

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two brothers were killed and 20 others injured in a clash over harvesting paddy from a disputed piece of land in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat yesterday morning.

Police arrested seven people in this connection.

The deceased were identified as Ibrahim Sheikh, 48, and Palash Sheikh, 32.

Sources said Abdur Rahim Khan of Sonakhali village had a dispute over the piece of land with his neighbour Shahidul Khan. Rahim cultivated paddy on the land but on Friday morning Shahidul brought 12-14 workers to harvest the paddy.

The clash erupted after Rahim's family had tried to prevent the harvest, they said.

Rahim's relatives Ibrahim and Palash died on the spot.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Modern-day Mowgli

Indian toddler forges bond with monkeys

AFP, Dharwad



He is still too young to talk, but a two-year-old Indian boy has become a modern-day Mowgli and a subject of local intrigue after befriending a gang of langur monkeys.

Samarth Bangari's unusual friendship was discovered when the youngster was spotted alone in his village in southern India playing with nearly two dozen grey langurs.

The infant's uncle Barama Reddy said it was "strange" for the monkeys to behave like that, and villagers feared the boy would be attacked while his parents worked in a nearby field.

But it soon became clear they were more than

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

'Gunfights' kill 2 'robbers' in Kushtia, Sylhet

UNB, Dhaka

Two alleged robbers were killed in "gunfights" with police in Kushtia and Sylhet in the last two days.

In Kushtia, a suspected robber was killed in a "shoot-out" with law enforcers at Chadagara on Kushtia-Rajbari highway early yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

A police team went to spot in the early hours of yesterday on information

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 23
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-45 3-45 5-24 7-00
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Palestinian protester throws a stone during clashes with Israeli forces near the Huwara checkpoint south of Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday, as protests continue in the region amid anger over US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as its capital.

PHOTO: AFP

জাতীয় ভিটামিন 'এ' প্লাস ক্যাম্পেইন ২০১৭ (২য় রাউন্ড)
২৩ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭ ইং, ০৯ পৌষ 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 খাওয়ান।

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