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সম্প্রদায়িকতা

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'

একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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শেখ হাসিনা

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SHAH CEMENT

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Tending to the sick and lonely

Christian community plays a vital role in health, edn sectors

PORIMOL PALMA

Following an accident that almost crippled him, Akhtaruzzaman can finally see a ray of hope in life, thanks to the love and care shown by the nuns of the Missionaries of Charity.

After the accident near Babu Bazar Bridge fractured both his legs, the 24-year old was treated at a city hospital for a week. He was released before a full recovery.

The hospital personnel rented an auto rickshaw to drop Akhtaruzzaman at his shanty in Babu Bazar, but the driver abandoned him by a roadside there on November 8. Having yet to regain full mobility, he was forced to stay under the open sky for three days.

"I ate only if anybody gave me something," said Akhtaruzzaman, a day labourer, who had already been living a life full of struggles in Old Dhaka.

With the help of a passerby, he went to an orphanage, Shishu Bhaban, at Islampur run by the Missionaries of Charity (MC), a religious congregation founded by Mother Teresa in 1950.

"[The] Sisters immediately gave me food, a lungi and shirt. They then sent me to another sister's house at Farmgate in a CNG," Akhtaruzzaman said, lying down on a bed at the Home of Compassion, a charitable organisation at Tejgaon run by the MC.

There, paramedic nuns dressed his injured legs, provided meals, medicines and the care required. When needed, they also take him to the hospital.

"I might have died if I did not come here. I pray to Allah

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The National Curriculum and Textbook Board is sending free textbooks to educational institutions ahead of the New Year. Students would get the books on the first day of the upcoming year. The photo was taken in front of Dhanmondi Government Boy's High School in the capital recently.

Provide info on Bacchu's transactions

ACC asks BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sent a letter to the Bangladesh Bank seeking documents of all banking transactions of former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu and his family members.

The central bank will collect the information from scheduled banks and provide it to the ACC, an anti-graft body source told The Daily Star.

Recently, the commission has begun its enquiry into alleged irregularities in disbursing Tk 20 crore loan to the bank accounts of two firms owned by Bacchu's younger brother.

In 2014, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, the central bank's anti-money laundering unit, discovered the matter in a probe.

According to the BB findings, around Tk 4,500 crore had been siphoned

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Prepare for movement, election

Khaleda to BNP men; 'country being run Pakistan-style'

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the party leaders and activists to prepare for movement and elections simultaneously.

She reiterated that it will not be possible to hold a free and fair election if Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains in power.

"We want elections; we do not want any chaos. Elections should be free, fair and inclusive, and for that to happen, parliament needs to be dissolved. Elections should be held under a neutral government. People cannot go to the polling stations if Awami League stays in office," she said.

The former prime minister also alleged that "the country is being run Pakistan-style". "There is no democracy, no election in the country. People were barred from entering the polling centers."

Khaleda made the remarks while addressing a discussion organised by

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A war baby's quest to know motherland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Bangladesh was celebrating its newly-found victory in the 1971 Liberation War against the Pakistan occupation forces, the fight for many rape victims was far from over.

Fearing, quite validly, that the society would not accept war babies, many went for abortions while many others abandoned their newborns.

And one of those abandoned babies was Shama Jameela Mollie Hartt, who was later adopted by a Canadian couple and taken to that country on July 19, 1972. But Shama's love for her biological mother and motherland is still strong and that love brought her back to Bangladesh after 45 years.

Shama along with her daughter flew into Bangladesh on Friday crossing over thousands of miles from Canada to spend a few days here and know this country and its people.

"It would be nice to meet her. I would pay my respect. I think what these women [rape victims of 1971] went through was incredibly courageous...They are heroes," Shama said pointing to her biological mother.

She said she tried hard but failed to get any information about her mother because there is nothing on record.

During the Liberation War, Pakistani occupation army and its local collaborators killed around 30 lakh people and violated over two lakh women in Bangladesh.

Shama was one of the 15 war babies adopted by 14 Canadian couples. Joel and Trudy Hartt took Shama with them and raised her along with their other children.

Yesterday, Liberation War Museum organised a dialogue between Shama and students of two private universities at its Sher-e-Banglanagar complex.

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Shama Jameela

Corruption in education sector coming down: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday claimed that corruption has come down significantly in the education sector, thanks to measures taken by his ministry.

He urged the officials of the directorates under the ministry to stand firm against graft and irregularities.

Nahid made the call at a programme organised to distribute laptops among the officials of Directorate of Inspection and Audit (DIA) on the compound of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education in the capital.

About the measures against corruption, he said he held separate meetings with different departments and directorates after assuming office in 2009. At

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Largest amphibious plane takes off



China's home-grown AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft in production, took to the skies yesterday for its maiden flight.

The plane, codenamed "Kunlong" according to state news agency Xinhua, took off from the southern city of Zhuhai and landed after roughly an hour-long flight.

With a wingspan of 38.8 metres (127 feet) and powered by four turboprop engines, the aircraft is capable of carrying 50 people and can stay airborne for 12 hours.

"Its successful maiden flight makes China among the world's few countries capable of developing a large amphibious aircraft," chief designer Huang Lingcai told Xinhua.

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ATTACK ON HINDUS Engineer sent to jail in Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sent an assistant engineer of Rangpur Zila Parishad to jail in a case filed in connection with attacking Hindu houses in Thakurpara village of Sadar upazila last month.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Quamrul Islam passed the order after investigation officer of the case produced Fazlar Rahman before the court.

On Saturday, Detective

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ISIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 25

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

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Accused to become approver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the history of war crimes trial in Bangladesh, an accused has decided to give testimony as an approver in a case filed against 11 Mymensingh men.

Abdul Latif, 58, of Pagla in the district, filed a petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday. The tribunal fixed January 17 to hear the petition.

Latif filed the petition under Section 15 of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. As per the law, he has to plead guilty to give testimony as an approver, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told this correspondent.

"At any stage of the trial, a tribunal may with a view to obtaining the evidence of any person supposed to have been directly or indirectly concerned in, or privy to, any of the crimes specified in section 3, tender a pardon to such

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While trying to overtake a minibus, this bus drove onto a central reservation in Mirpur's Shewrapara area yesterday, leaving eight to 10 of its passengers injured. The driver managed to flee but locals vandalised the vehicle.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

New sanctions an 'act of war'

N Korea slams fresh UN move over its missile tests, vows to continue weapons push

North Korea yesterday slammed fresh UN sanctions imposed over its missile tests as an "act of war", its first response to the latest diplomatic move to punish Pyongyang's ever-accelerating weapons drive.

Tension has been high on the flashpoint peninsula as the isolated but nuclear-armed regime has staged a series of atomic and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests -- most recently on November 29.

The latest launch of the Hwasong-15 ICBM, seen capable of hitting all major US cities, further heightened global alarm over the rapid advance in the country's weapons technology.

"We fully reject the latest UN sanctions... as a violent breach of our republic's sovereignty and an act of war that destroys the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and a wider region," Pyongyang's foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run KCNA news agency.

Pyongyang's bellicose reply came a day after the UN Security Council unanimously passed new, US-drafted sanctions that will restrict oil supplies vital for the impoverished state.

The third raft of sanctions imposed on the North this year, sparked by last month's ICBM test, also received the backing of China -- the North's sole major ally and economic lifeline.

The sanctions also order the repatriation of North Korean workers sent abroad to earn much needed revenue for Kim Jong-Un's regime.

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