



বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সন্তুষ্ট না'
একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাণালি বলেছিলাম-
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IS suicide blast kills 41 in Kabul

Attacker targets Shia cultural centre and media offices of Afghan Voice Agency; 84 injured

AFP, Kabul

More than 40 people were killed and dozens wounded in a suicide blast targeting Shias in Kabul yesterday, officials said, with chaotic scenes at the city's hospitals as anguished families sought loved ones.

The Sunni Islamic State group (IS) claimed responsibility for the gruesome assault on the pro-Iranian Tabayan cultural centre, the third deadly attack it has claimed in the Afghan capital this month.

Up to 100 people had gathered at the centre to mark the 38th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It is located in western Kabul, in the same building as affiliated Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), an anti-IS media outlet.

"The latest figures we have from this tragic incident shows 41 people have been killed and a further 84 people injured," health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh told reporters.

Kabul has become one of the deadliest places in war-torn Afghanistan for civilians in recent months, as the Taliban step up their attacks and IS seeks to expand its presence in the country.

Yesterday's attack saw chaotic scenes at the Istiqlal hospital where ambulances and police pickups brought victims, including women and children. Many of them had suffered severe burns to their faces and bodies, as well as shrapnel wounds, AFP reporters said.

Visibly distressed relatives searching for their loved ones inside the medical facility slapped their heads in fury as they cried and cursed the government for seemingly being unable to end the regular carnage on their streets.

Some were so distraught they crawled on the ground pulling their hair.

AFP reporters saw more than a dozen badly burned bodies lying on the floor in a room inside the hospital and wooden coffins being delivered so families could take away the remains of loved ones.

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Arms for freedom

ZAID KALAM

It was truly a fight between David and Goliath in 1971. The Mukti Bahini fighters fought the war armed with a collection of old and worn out weapons against the mighty Pakistan army, supposedly one of the best armed forces of the time.

While almost all of us are well-versed in how our brave freedom fighters won us victory, how many of us know about the weapons they used for the purpose?

The Daily Star wanted to find out what arms the Mukti Bahini used and how these arms were procured. A fascinating tale followed.

Most of the weapons used by the Mukti Bahini were taken from defeated soldiers. Then, there were homemade bombs, knives and even instances of the use of bows and arrows.

Some of the firearms though came from India; some had already been in use by the then-East Pakistan law enforcers.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

A war criminal lives in luxury in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was convicted more than four years ago for committing crimes against humanity in 1971 and he is one of the 25 most wanted Brits by the Interpol. Yet, Chowdhury Mueen Uddin is leading a luxurious life in London.

British newspaper The Sun on Wednesday ran a news item on Mueen. He now lives in a £1 million home in Southgate of North London. The newspaper found him shopping and visiting a mosque.

Prosecutors and war crimes trial campaigner in Bangladeshi viewed that this has been possible thanks to the inaction of the British government to take steps against the man who has been sentenced to death for killing the brightest luminaries of Bangladesh with a heinous intention to



Mueen Uddin

intellectually cripple the soon-to-be-born country.

"The British government is showing double standards in the case of Mueen Uddin," said Tareen Afroz, a leading prosecutor at the International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh.

"They are vocal about trial and punishment of war criminals and perpetrators of genocide worldwide. But they are allowing a convicted war criminal like Mueen Uddin to lead a life there freely," she said.

Immediately after December 16, 1971, when Bangladesh achieved victory in the war, Mueen, a leader of infamous Al-Badr Bahini, fled Bangladesh and emerged as a leader of the Muslim community in the UK.

Despite being a fugitive, he managed to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

India's 'moonwalking' traffic cop turns heads

AFP, Indore

He is inspired by Bollywood and has a Freddie Mercury-style moustache -- but it is the Michael Jackson dance moves of traffic cop Ranjeet Singh that grab attention on India's chaotic streets.

Heads turn and drivers cannot fail to notice when the 38-year-old moonwalks across busy intersections, avoiding rickshaws and trucks in the centre of Indore, a city of two million people.

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BAF PLANE CRASH Probe team formed

STAR REPORT

A high-level team formed to investigate the two Bangladesh Air Force trainer aircraft crashes on Wednesday visited Moheshkhali Upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday, ISPR sources said.

"Investigation is ongoing
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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 29

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-30 4-00 5-27 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Madan Tak gives birth in captivity

ABU BAKKAR SIDDIQUE,
Gazipur

The birth by a Madan Tak (Lesser Adjutant Stork) to four hatchlings over the past two months has elated officials and employees of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur.

This is the first instance of the bird giving birth in captivity. More reason for the joy is that the Madan Tak is officially listed as a highly endangered species of bird, considered to be vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.

Wildlife inspector at the Safari Park, Anisur Rahman, said that when the park opened, it had six

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PUNISHING LAWYER AT MOBILE COURT HC rebukes AC (land)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rebuked and cautioned Biroda Rani Roy, assistant commissioner (land) of Bhurungamari in Kurigram, for sentencing a senior lawyer in Dinajpur through a mobile court over a trifling matter earlier this month.

Biroda has abused her power by sentencing the lawyer through the mobile court and she has to be careful so that such incident doesn't recur, the court said.

It said the salaries of officials like Biroda are paid from the people's tax money, but sometimes they try to misuse their power by dominating those people.

The HC cancelled the mobile court's verdict. However, it exempted Biroda from the charges of sentencing the lawyer as she offered unconditional apology and regretted to it for the incident.

On December 17, the HC bench of

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