

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'

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



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# Factional fights mark the BCL anniversary

At least 11 hurt in clashes at CU, Sylhet MC College, a Barisal school

STAR REPORT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-Awami League student body, were locked in factional clashes at three educational institutions while celebrating its 70th founding anniversary yesterday.

At least 11 people were reportedly injured in the clashes at Chittagong University, Nuria High School in Barisal city and Murari Chand (MC) College in Sylhet city.

Two groups of BCL activists of Chittagong University unit clashed around 1:00pm after the supporters of two groups -- Sixty Nine and Varsity Xpress -- had an altercation over standing in the front row of a procession to mark the founding anniversary, said police.

Abdullah Al Masum, additional superintendent of Chittagong police, said the two groups armed with sharp weapons attacked each other, leaving two BCL men injured.

They are Sayed Ahmed, a third-year student of zoology, and Nazmul Samir, a fourth-year student of mathematics, reports our CU correspondent.

Sayed was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Nazmul took first aid from CU Medical Centre.

Abdullah said police charged truncheons on the clashing groups to bring the situation under control.

CU acting proctor Litan Mitra said additional policemen



Chhatra League activists carry locally-made weapons during a factional clash over establishing supremacy on MC College campus in Sylhet yesterday, the pro-Awami League student body's 70th founding anniversary. Four BCL men were injured in the incident.

## Criminals kill Pabna BCL man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Criminals beat and stabbed a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist to death at Technical intersection of Pabna town yesterday evening.

Ariful Islam Sagor, 20, was also a second-year social science student of Pabna College.

Officer-in-Charge Abdur Razzak of Pabna Sadar Police Station said Ariful was at a tea stall around 7:30pm when seven to eight people picked him up.

He was beaten up and stabbed.

The people who took him put him in an autorickshaw to Pabna Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated, the police official said.

Ariful died on the way to hospital, he said.

The OC said they were yet to be certain of the motive but speculated that political rivalry could be the reason for the murder.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shibli Sadek, secretary of Pabna district unit of

## Amend rules for the lower court judges

SCBA asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association, dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday demanded that the government amend the disciplinary rules for lower court judges for incorporating a provision for setting up an independent secretariat for the judiciary.

It also urged the government to issue a gazette notification following the necessary amendments and then submit it to the Supreme Court.

SCBA President Zainul Abedin, also a vice chairman of the BNP, made the demand at a press conference at the SCBA auditorium in the capital.

"The disciplinary rules have to be amended in line with the Supreme Court directives in the Masder Hossain case," he added.

## ASSAM CITIZENSHIP VERIFICATION Trinamool terms it a conspiracy

Says it's a move to drive out Bangla-speaking people from the state

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

There is a conspiracy to drive out Bangla-speaking population from Assam, opposition lawmakers alleged in Indian parliament yesterday against the backdrop of fresh verification of citizenship in the country's northeastern state.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh, however, dismissed the allegation as "baseless".

Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy raised the issue in Lok Sabha, pointing out that names of 1.3 crore people out of 3.29 crore population of Assam had not appeared in the first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC), which aims at identifying illegal immigrants.

"We fear this is a conspiracy to drive out Bengali-speaking people from Assam. We want that they should be allowed to stay in Assam. They are normal citizens," Roy said, drawing strong support from his party's other MPs and some members of Congress and Left parties.

Roy said the Bangla-speaking people staying in Assam for generations must be allowed to live there. "The West Bengal chief minister [Mamata Banerjee] has already mentioned that this is a conspiracy.

"The Assam chief minister is saying they do not have rights in Assam. This is a very serious matter."

Outside parliament, Trinamool Congress lawmakers, carrying placards,

## Man spends 28 days in jail for fake warrant

2 cops closed for negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An assistant sub-inspector of Trishal Police Station and a constable of Mymensingh court have been closed to Mymensingh Police Lines yesterday for "negligence of duty".

ASI Bulbul Hossain and court constable Mizan were involved in the execution of a fake arrest warrant that led to a farmer being in jail for 28 days, police said.

A police team, led by Bulbul, arrested farmer Nurul Islam, 45, at Konabari of Trishal on the night of December 6, said Nurul's family.

Nurul, a father of seven, told journalists that police arrested him at a tea stall near his home and took him to the police station where the ASI told him that there was a warrant of arrest against him in a case filed with a Khulna court in 2016 under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

The following day, Nurul was produced before a Mymensingh court that sent him to jail, said Jakiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station.

## Infant's DNA tells of 'first Americans'



AFP, Paris

A baby girl who died in Alaska some 11,500 years ago belonged to a formerly-unknown population group whose discovery has shed light on the peopling of the Americas, a study of her genome revealed Wednesday.

By decoding the child's genetic fingerprint, scientists could look back on the history of the first people to conquer the New World, and conclude they likely arrived from Siberia some 20,000 years ago.

"The study provides the first direct genomic evidence that all Native American ancestry can be traced back to the same source population during the last Ice Age," researcher Ben Potter of the University of Alaska told AFP.

Potter and a team analysed the DNA of an infant whose remains were unearthed at the Upward Sun River archaeological site in Alaska in 2013.

## 200MW POWER PDB signs contract with private co

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) yesterday signed a contract with private owned Desh Energy Chandpur Power Company Limited for 200 megawatt (MW) electricity by nine months at Bidyt Bhaban in the city.

The government has taken this initiative under fast track projects to increase power in the country as per its target to generate 24,000 MW electricity of the total generation capacity by 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said the government has set up a target of providing electricity to all by 2021 at a reasonable and affordable price.

"Currently 16,046 MW power is being generated and 83 percent people are

## China, South Korea to hold talks on North

AFP, Beijing

China will send a special envoy to Seoul to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula ahead of proposed talks between North and South Korea, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

China's Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou will visit today and tomorrow to "exchange views" with Lee Do-Hoon, Seoul's envoy on Korean peninsula peace talks, a ministry spokesman said.

Their meeting comes as South Korea prepares for its proposed high-level talks with North Korea next



Piles of garbage on the ledge of Turag bridge yesterday. Locals dump rubbish in the Turag river and part of it gets stuck on the ledge.

## IRAN MASS PROTESTS Iran accuses US govt of interference

AFP, United Nations

Iran on Wednesday angrily accused the United States at the United Nations of meddling in its domestic affairs after President Donald Trump backed anti-government protests.

Iran's UN Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo said in a letter that the US government "has stepped up its acts of intervention in a grotesque way in Iran's internal affairs under the pretext of providing support for sporadic protests, which in several instances were hijacked by infiltrators."

Khoshroo charged that the United States had violated international law and the principles of the UN charter, and urged countries to condemn Washington's statements.

"The president and vice president of the United States, in their numerous absurd tweets, incited Iranians to engage in disruptive acts," said Khoshroo in the letter to the Security Council and to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"The US Department of State went so far as admitting that the US government wants to encourage protestors in Iran to change their government, admitting that the US is engaged in interfering with the internal affairs of Iran through Facebook and Twitter," he added.

The letter was released after Trump pledged to help Iranians "take back" their government and the White House weighed sanctions against those involved in the crackdown against demonstrators.

"Such respect for the people of Iran as they try to take back their corrupt government. You will see great support



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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 5

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:00 5:30 7:00

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION