

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'  
একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো-  
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# A puzzling punishment

Man, already in police custody, given jail sentence by mobile court; HC summons UNO, four cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a blatant violation of the law, a man has been punished by a mobile court when he was in police custody, and the High Court has summoned the executive magistrate and the police officials involved to explain why.

Victim Belal Uddin, 35, was arrested by Lohagara police in Chittagong on October 13 last year in a criminal case and was produced before a trial court in the port city on October 14, said Belal's counsel Manzill Murshid.

The same day, Belal was sentenced by a mobile court to eight months in prison for smoking and possessing some cannabis, he said, terming it illegal and unconstitutional.

The mobile court was conducted by Lohagara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Mahub Alam, also an executive magistrate.

It was not clear if the mobile court was conducted before or after Belal was taken to the trial court, which ordered the police to send him to jail.

Following a writ petition by Belal, the HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan ordered the UNO and the police officials concerned to appear before it on January 28.

The bench also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why Belal's jail sentence should not be scrapped and why legal action should not be taken against those involved in his sentencing.

The HC sought to know from the UNO and four police

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## FESTIVAL OF THE FISH

Thousands of locals descend on Goyahori Boro Beel in Dalautpur of Biswanath upazila in Sylhet to partake in an over 100-year-old tradition. Known as "Polob Bawa", the festival sees even Bangladeshi expats from Sylhet returning to the country to join. Armed with polois (a local fishing tool), fishing poles and bamboos, everyone attempts to catch a fish and take it home to complete the celebrations. Right, a young girl shows off her catch. She carries a poloi on her other hand. Polob Bawa brings people from all walks of life together on the occasion of one of the biggest festivals of the district. While the beel once teemed with fish, last year's yield was not satisfactory. This year, though, almost everyone managed to catch something. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

### 'CPD doesn't see dev of the country'

Muhith, Tofail blast the think-tank; CPD says its review objective

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two ministers have come down heavily on the Centre for Policy Dialogue over its latest survey, saying the research organisation underestimates the government's development efforts.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government has done many development works that the CPD does not recognise.

"They [the CPD] have found all the policies [of the government] wrong."

The government policies have lifted the country to a new high but the CDP does not acknowledge this. "The CPD is bent on bringing Bangladesh down. That's

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### They will get MPO but on conditions

Says Muhith about new institutions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon bring new private educational institutions under its Monthly Pay Order facility but with some conditions, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

A meeting will be held this month to discuss the MPO enlistment, he told reporters in reply to a query at his ministry.

The minister, however, termed the ongoing movement of a section of school and college teachers of MPO-enlisted institutions over nationalisation of private education as "bogus", saying they will not accept their demand as the government follows a policy to nationalise institutions.

Several hundred teachers of non-MPO secondary educational institutions from across the country started a six-day hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club on December 26 demanding MPO benefits. They called off the programme following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's assurance that the demand would be met.

Yesterday, the finance minister said the MPO enlistment stalled as the education ministry never took any step to reform the existing MPO policy, despite his suggestions and insistence.

"The MPO-enlistment is a bad policy. I wanted it reformed, but [that] did not taken place. That is why I stalled giving MPO [enlisting new institutions under MPO scheme]. This time we'll have to give MPO and I will give it with conditions," Muhith said.

Explaining the conditions, he said a certain percentage of the money will be earmarked for the development of infrastructure, adding, "I will earmark a certain percentage for purchasing necessary materials."

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### Joint Working Group meets in Naypyitaw

'Physical arrangement' for Rohingya repatriation likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Joint Working Group, responsible for overseeing the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh, meets in Naypyitaw today amid doubts over safe return and resettlement of the Rohingyas in Rakhine.

A 14-member delegation of Bangladesh, led by Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, will meet the Myanmar team led by Permanent Secretary at Myanmar foreign ministry Myint Thu.

Bangladesh and Myanmar are likely to finalise an agreement on the "physical arrangement" to begin the repatriation.

There are 30 officials in the JWG, 15 from each country. This is the first meeting of the JWG since its formation on December 19.

The group was formed following a deal signed between the two countries on November 23, amid global outcry over

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### Ancient cult temple below London



CNN ONLINE

In central London, seven meters underground, lies an ancient Roman temple to a mysterious god called Mithras.

Nearly 2,000 years after the temple was frequented by the all-male members of an exclusive, enigmatic cult, it has now been faithfully restored and opened to the public.

Visitors descend into a dimly lit cave beneath the new London headquarters of business news outlet Bloomberg. The temple slowly comes to life as torch light flickers and a recording of a low chanting fills the room.

Channels of light and haze extend from the rocky ruins, recreating shadowy columns to give

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### BABY MILK SCARE Bangladesh among 83 affected countries

AGENCIES

A salmonella scandal at French dairy group Lactalis has affected 83 countries, including Bangladesh, according to reports of agencies.

Twelve million boxes of powdered baby milk are being recalled from these countries, the company's CEO said yesterday in an interview with French media, reports AFP.

Emmanuel Besnier, scion of the secretive family behind one of the world's biggest dairy groups, was speaking publicly for the first time since an outcry erupted over claims the company hid the salmonella outbreak at a plant making the product.

"We must take account

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### Some teachers leak questions to embarrass govt: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told parliament that registration of an educational institution would be cancelled if any of its teachers was found involved in leaking question papers.

"Action will be taken not only against the teacher concerned, but also registration of the respective educational institution will be scrapped," he told the House with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury presiding.

In reply to lawmakers'

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IV drips stand in the foreground, providing saline to the teachers and some members of the central committee of ebtedaei madrasa, who have been on an indefinite hunger strike since January 9. Many of the protesters have become sick in the last few days. Their demands for nationalisation of the madrasas have not been met. The photo was taken in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### Ebtedai madrasa teachers want PM's assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ebtedai madrasa teachers, who are on a hunger strike unto death, rejected education minister's call to end their demonstration yesterday and said they would go on until the prime minister assured them of meeting their demand.

They want nationalisation of all registered madrasas.

The teachers met Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid twice. Nahid asked them to return to their homes calling off the strike and assured them that their demand would be placed before the prime minister and the finance minister.

"He [Nahid] told us to withdraw our strike but did not make any promise. It was nothing but a farce," said Qazi Ruhul Amin Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedai Madrasa Shikkhak Samity, the organisation leading the movement.

"We don't expect such words from him. We want a specific announcement from the prime minister," he told The Daily Star.

Ruhul Amin said they did not get any salary from the government for decades.

"We don't have any other option but to continue our agitation," he said.

Yesterday, the education ministry had a meeting around 12:30pm at its technical and madrasa division's office room to discuss the issue. State Minister Quazi Keramat Ali was also present.

The meeting decided that the matter would soon be moved to the prime minister and the finance minister.

The president and general secretary of the samity were called in and informed of the meeting decision.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center  
PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 15  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION