

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'

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

PROUD
CONSTRUCTION
PARTNER OF
PADMA BRIDGE

N'GANJ MAYHEM

No action yet against gun-toters

RASHIDUL HASAN and SANAD SAHA

Niazul Islam, a close aide of Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, was not the only person who brandished a gun during the attack on Narayanganj Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and her supporters on Tuesday. Shah Nizam, another close aide of the MP, also flaunted a firearm during the incident. He is the joint secretary of the Narayanganj city AL and also the secretary of district Community Police.

In a photograph obtained by The Daily Star, Nizam was seen brandishing the gun in the city's Chashara area during the clash over eviction of hawkers from footpaths. Around 50 people, mostly supporters of the mayor, were injured in the incident.

Talking to this newspaper, Nizam admitted that he had wielded a gun, but claimed not to have attacked Ivy or her supporters.

"I flaunted the gun only to stop my followers from attacking the mayor's supporters who swooped on us carrying firearms."

Meanwhile, police were yet to trace or take legal actions against Niazul and Nizam.

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In image-1 and -2 Narayanganj city AL Joint Secretary Shah Nizam is seen brandishing his firearm during the attack on NCC Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and her followers by local lawmaker Shamim Osman's supporters on Tuesday. Nizam is seen (photo-3) standing next to the ADC of Narayanganj and Dhaka divisional commissioner at a programme on January 12. In image-4, Niazul Islam, an aide to Osman, is seen flaunting his gun during Tuesday's incident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/SCREENSHOT

Death toll in Sylhet stone pit rises to 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Another worker died while extracting stones in an illegal operation in Shah Arefin Tila area at Companiganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday.

With this, a total of eight people have now died in the first three weeks of the year while extracting stones there. Last year, 32 people died in illegal stone quarries in Sylhet.

Deceased Mohammad Sadik, 20, was the son of Abdul Khalik of Bagharpar in the upazila.

Saifur Rahman Khan, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said Sadik was working as a helper on a tractor.

Quoting witnesses, the OC said the driver of the tractor lost control while driving the vehicle out of a deep pit. The tractor tumbled back into the pit crushing the Sadik.

"We have recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College for autopsy," the OC said.

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Stalker stabs college girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A college girl was stabbed allegedly by her stalker in Mymensingh town on Friday.

Abul Kashem, 22, a distant cousin of the 18-year-old girl, attacked her with a knife as she kept turning down his proposal to have a relationship with him, said the victim's father.

Kashem, who passed his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams several years ago and stopped his studies since then, frequently stalked the girl, a first-year student at Muminunnessa Women's College in the town.

"We informed his parents [about the matter] several times before but they didn't do anything about it," said the girl's father, who practices homeopathy in Fulbaria upazila.

On Friday afternoon, Kashem tricked the victim into going to nearby Ganginarpar area from her college dormitory, saying he had changed and he needed Tk 200 desperately.

As she reached the area around 5:30pm, Kashem took her to a deserted place and started stabbing her, he said.

Hearing her screams, some locals rushed to the spot and took her to

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AL SUB-COMMITTEES

Quader faces ire of ex-BCL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of demonstration by a group of former Chhatra League leaders, the ruling Awami League yesterday put on hold its recently "announced" sub-committees.

The committees will be announced within three months incorporating former dedicated BCL leaders, the party said.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday made the announcement at the party president's Dhanmondi office when a group of agitated BCL leaders confined him, demanding cancellation of the sub-committees, said party insiders.

Last week, the names of members of the sub-committees came to the public domain through social media. The names of the post holders were published on Awami League's official pad with signature of its Office Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap.

Some ex-BCL leaders expressed dissatisfaction, alleging that some former leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal, pro-BNP student body, managed to sneak into the AL sub-committees by hiding their identities.

According to the AL constitution, the party will form sub-committees to strengthen and coordinate activities of secretary-level leaders.

These sub-committees will comprise a chairman, a secretary, not more than five assistant secretaries, expert members, associate president, secretary and members.

The AL's 20th National Council in October 2016 but the party is yet to announce its sub-committees. Sub-committees under the immediate past party central committee also drew criticisms as a large number of people were included there, prompting party leaders to say that they would be cautious in forming sub-committees next time.

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Lakehead school owner 'abducted'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified men allegedly picked up the owner of Lakehead Grammar School from in front of the school's Gulshan branch yesterday.

"Some seven to eight people in plainclothes arrived in front of the Gulshan branch of the school in a microbus around 4:00pm, refused to identify themselves, and picked up Khaled [Khaled Hassan Matin]," Salaudhin Miah, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station told The Daily Star, mentioning the general diary filed in this connection.

Police are looking for Khaled, he said, adding that they would see if there was any CCTV footage available.

Edris Ali, an employee of the school, filed the GD with Gulshan Police

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Youngest woman to captain Boeing 777

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Indian pilot Anny Divya claims to have become the youngest woman in the world to captain a Boeing 777.

The 30-year-old's achievement has been widely reported in India, where she flies for commercial airline Air India.

"From a child, I always wanted to be a pilot, although I didn't have much guidance on how to become a pilot," she told Indian news show Mirror Now.

"My parents have always been very supportive even though there were people telling them not to send me to flying lessons and the fees were a lot for them to pay at that time, but they managed."

She revealed in the interview that before taking command of the 777, she had the opportunity to

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Gunmen attack Kabul hotel, take hostages

REUTERS, Kabul

A group of as many as four gunmen attacked the Intercontinental Hotel in the Afghan capital Kabul last night, seizing hostages and exchanging fire with security forces as the building caught fire and residents and staff fled.

Hotel manager Ahmad Haris Nayab, who managed to escape unhurt, said the attackers had managed to get inside and people were fleeing amid bursts of gunfire on all sides, but he had no information about any casualties.

Afghan interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said details of the raid, which came days after a US embassy warning of possible attacks on hotels in the capital, were unclear.

He said the attackers, who entered through a

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Rakhine state Chief Minister Nyi Pu "insisted on completion of the finishing touches on buildings, medical clinics and sanitation infrastructures" during a visit to repatriation camps in the state on Friday, the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported yesterday.

PHOTO: GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

IJTEMA PHASE 2 Akheri Munajat today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The second phase of the Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims, ends today with Akheri Munajat or final supplications seeking divine blessings for people and the Muslim Ummah.

Hafez Mohammad Zibayer, imam of Kakrail Mosque in the capital, is expected to lead the supplication, which is scheduled to begin at 10:00am. The Munajat would be offered in both Bangla and Arabic.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees from home and abroad would raise their hands and pray for peace and prosperity.

The three-day final phase started on Friday on the banks of the Turag river in Tongi. This year's first phase concluded with Akheri Munajat on January 14.

The Tabligh Jamaat has been organising the annual congregation since 1946.

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COMBATING FAKE NEWS

Facebook to rank news outlets

CNN ONLINE

Facebook wants to make sure its users aren't duped by stories from untrustworthy news publications. So it's asking users which news publications they trust.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on Friday the social media network is using surveys to rate news organizations and assign them trust scores. It will use those scores, along with other factors, to decide how much to show a source in people's news feeds.

"There's too much sensationalism, misinformation and polarisation in the world today," Zuckerberg said in a post. "Social

media enables people to spread information faster than ever before, and if we don't specifically tackle these problems, then we end up amplifying them," he said.

The company decided to use community input to rank news sources in an attempt to be as objective as possible, Zuckerberg said.

The surveys will ask a "diverse and representative" sample of Facebook (FB) users if they've heard of a news outlet and how much they trust it.

News outlets that score well can expect to see their stories to be more widely distributed on Facebook, while those with lower scores might see less activity. The new

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:40 7:00

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:44 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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