

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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Rohingya mass graves found in Myanmar: AP

STAR REPORT

Scores of Rohingya villagers in Myanmar have been massacred and buried in five mass graves, according to an exclusive investigation by the Associated Press.

The report, run by the news agency yesterday, contains testimonies of two dozen surviving witnesses and relatives of victims, as well as time-stamped mobile phone footage of the aftermath of the attack.

Estimates suggested that 400 members of the persecuted minority were killed by Burmese troops.

In one massacre, a group of men were picking teams for a local football-like game called "chinlone" in the village of Gu Dar Pyin, when soldiers began firing at them, reports Al Jazeera online.

A survivor named Noor Kadir later found six of his friends buried in two mass graves. He said the victims' bodies were only recognisable by the colour of their shorts.

The mass killing is believed to have taken place on August 27 and survivors told the Associated Press that soldiers had tried to cover up evidence of the atrocity.

Video obtained by the agency indicates attempts at using acid to remove the bodies.

The remains contained inside the shallow graves rose to the surface after heavy rainfall and survivors were able to film the evidence.

Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch said the report "raises the stakes for the international community to demand accountability from Myanmar" and underlined the need for a UN-led arms embargo on the country.

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MYANMAR OPERATIONS HAVE 'HALLMARKS OF GENOCIDE' -- PAGE 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina autographing a copy of "Asamapta Atmajibanee", the unfinished autobiography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at a bookstall following the inauguration of the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2018 on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

PM lays stress on respect for own culture

Inaugurates Amar Ekushey Boi Mela

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for spreading Bangladesh's art, culture and literature across the world.

"If we can't respect and enrich our own culture, language, art and literature, we can never develop ourselves as a nation in the global arena," she said.

Hasina was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2018 and International Literature Conference on the Bangla Academy premises in the city.

She said the Awami League government sincerely tries to uphold the culture and heritage of the nation whenever the party comes to power.

The premier said those who come to power illegally never know how to study culture and language. "Their

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Public safety top priority

New IGP says in first media briefing as police boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Javed Patwary, the new inspector general of police, yesterday said police will take highest measures within the law to ensure people's security and safety.

He made the statement in response to a journalist's query about security measures ahead of the verdict in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case against BNP chief Khaleda Zia on February 8.

"Our key responsibility is to ensure public security... We want to say firmly that police will take highest measures to ensure the security of people," Patwary said during a press briefing at the Police Headquarters yesterday, a day after he took over as the IGP.

Replying to another query on steps he would take during the upcoming national election, Javed said it is the Election Commission's task to hold the polls and the police's job is to ensure security, which it will do in a professional way and within

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RELEASE OF RUSSIA PROBE MEMO Trump squares off with FBI again

REUTERS, Washington

The FBI said on Wednesday it had "grave concerns" about the accuracy of a top-secret House Intelligence Committee memo alleging anti-Trump bias within the Justice Department, challenging President Donald Trump's pledge to release it.

But a few hours after the rare public rebuke by the top US law enforcement agency, a Trump administration official said the memo was likely to be released soon.

"The FBI was provided a limited opportunity to review this memo the day before the committee voted to release it," the FBI said in a statement. "As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy."

The FBI declined to say if Director Christopher Wray, who viewed the memo during the weekend, approved the statement. Trump named Wray to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation after firing Director James Comey last May.

The memo has become a lightning rod in a partisan fight over investigations into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US election and possible collusion by Trump's campaign, which Russia and Trump have both denied.

Justice Department officials have also said releasing the memo could jeopardise classified information.

Representative Devin Nunes, the intelligence committee's Republican chairman who commissioned the document, dismissed the FBI and Justice Department objections to its release as "spurious" in a statement on Wednesday.

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Dhaka hopes for positive response on cargo ban

Boris Johnson to visit Feb 9-10

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is eagerly waiting for a positive announcement during the upcoming visit by the British foreign minister regarding withdrawal of the UK's ban imposed around two years ago on direct air cargo from Dhaka.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and London yesterday confirmed that British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson will pay a two-day official visit to Bangladesh on February 9-10.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a highly placed source of the government said he is hopeful that there will be a good news

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Elephants pass test of their intelligence

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Elephants have passed a test of intelligence which scientists say has "profound" implications for our understanding of their mental capabilities. They were found to be capable of performing a task that showed they have a level of self-understanding that is rare in the animal world and defeats humans until they are about two years old.

Elephants have already shown they can recognise themselves in a mirror, something that is thought to be relatively rare among animals.

The new test, which was described as "deceptively simple", involved picking up a stick and handing it to a researcher.

But sometimes the stick was tied to a mat on

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Angering Israel, Poland passes Holocaust bill

US expresses concern

REUTERS, Warsaw

Polish lawmakers yesterday approved a bill that would impose jail terms for suggesting Poland was complicit in the Holocaust, drawing concern from the United States and outrage from Israel, which denounced "any attempt to challenge historical truth".

Poland's ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) says the bill is needed to protect Poland's reputation and ensure historians recognise that Poles as well as Jews perished under the Nazis. Israeli officials said it criminalises basic historical facts.

The Senate voted on the bill in the early hours yesterday and it will now be sent to President Andrzej Duda for signature.

"We, the Poles, were victims, as were the Jews," Deputy Prime Minister Beata Szydlo, a senior PiS figure and supporter of the law, said on Wednesday before the vote. "It is a duty

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NATURE QUEST

A Painted Stork on the banks of the Padma river near Rajshahi city recently.

PHOTO: ENAM UL HAQUE

Padma banks painted red

ENAM UL HAQUE

A large flock of very rare and colourful birds has brightened the banks of Padma river near Rajshahi City recently. The birds called Painted Stork thronged the shallows and shoals before the bird-watchers and photographers of the city.

Colours of the bird's enormous bill, naked head and very long legs are of various shades of pink and red. Its tail sports several casual brush-strokes of vermilion that validates the very name "Painted Stork". It is the most colorful of the 20 species of storks of the world and the most threatened of the six species of storks being seen in Bangladesh today.

There were more than 150 birds in the flock seen at the riverbank in Rajshahi. Such a big flock of Painted Stork anywhere in the world is a spectacle; in Bangladesh it's a first in a century. Painted Stork occurs only in the Oriental region and is a very rare winter visitor to the coast and the banks of our large rivers. In the past 50 years, there were only a handful of sightings of this rare bird in Bangladesh; and only a few birds were seen in each sighting. Arrival of this ample flock in the cold winter days was a shot in the arm to our faint aspirations to see the wetlands of Bangladesh today as hospitable to these birds as it had traditionally been.

Bangladesh was once a great home to the storks. Seven species of the birds lived in and around our countless marsh lands and bayous.

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Teenager's beheaded body found in mosque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The beheaded body of a teenage boy was found inside a mosque in Rangpur yesterday, said police.

The dead was identified as Abu Talha, 14, son of Khanjan Ali, an army sergeant of Rangpur cantonment and a resident of Bhagibalapara in the town.

Police could not find the severed head till filing of this report.

According to the family members, Talha was a resident student of Rahmania Nurani Hafiza Madrasa in Rangpur.

Every day he used to have his lunch at home. On Wednesday afternoon, he went out after lunch, his mother Tahmina Akter Bithi told local journalists.

As he did not come home yesterday, his family members went to the madrasa looking for him but he was not there.

Locals found the beheaded body on the first

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DIGITAL SECURITY Draft law will be reviewed before passage

Says Tofail Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft of the Digital Security Act-2018 will be reviewed before its passage and it may see some changes, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said yesterday.

The draft will be sent to the law ministry and then to the parliamentary standing committee for review.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 2

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:15 5:52 7:15

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION