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সবুজ গাছ

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'

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

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STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MALDIVES

Send envoy, military

Opposition seeks Indian intervention; top judges detained; president accuses court of plotting coup

REUTERS, Male/Colombo

An exiled former president of the Maldives yesterday urged India to send an envoy backed by military to release political prisoners after the government of the Indian Ocean archipelago imposed a state of emergency and arrested two senior judges.

Best known as an "A-list" holiday destination, the Maldives plunged into crisis last week after the Supreme Court quashed terrorism convictions against nine leading opposition figures including the country's exiled, first democratically elected president, Mohamed Nasheed.

Having defied the court ruling to release the detainees, President Abdulla Yameen declared an emergency and ordered security forces to seize control of the court and arrest the chief justice and another judge.

Nasheed, who was granted asylum by Britain after the government allowed him to leave jail for medical treatment abroad in 2016, sought Indian intervention to resolve the island nation's most serious political crisis in years.

"On behalf of Maldivian people we humbly request: India to send envoy, backed by its military, to release judges & pol. detainees... We request a physical presence," Nasheed, who is currently in Colombo, said in a Twitter post.

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Sand being unloaded from a barge on the Bangshi river in Islampur area of Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila. Stench from the river water fill the area as it is badly polluted by factory waste. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

6.4-magnitude quake hits Taiwan

2 dead, over 100 injured

AFP, Taipei

A 6.4-magnitude quake on the east coast of Taiwan yesterday left two dead and more than 100 injured after buildings were toppled and a hotel collapsed.

Premier William Lai said two people had died in the quake in the port city of Hualien and 114 were injured, some seriously. He gave no further details.

The national fire agency said at least four buildings had fallen or been damaged, with television footage showing roads strewn with rubble and cracks in highways.

Images showed the collapsed Marshal Hotel slanted on its side, partially crumpled into the ground, as rescuers tried to pull people to safety.

Hualien is one of Taiwan's most popular tourist hubs as it lies on the picturesque east coast rail line and is near to popular Taroko Gorge.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen said rescuers from around the island were preparing to help.

"We will get into disaster relief work at the fastest speed," she said in a post on her Facebook page.

One Facebook livestream showed rescuers at the foot

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LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES Bangladesh among top five growth achievers: Unctad

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said that of the 45 LDCs, only five countries including Bangladesh achieved economic growth at seven percent or higher in 2017.

The four other countries are Djibouti (+7.2pc), Ethiopia (+8.5pc), Myanmar (+7.2pc), and Nepal (+7.5pc) while Bangladesh achieved +7.1pc growth that year.

The analysis contends that too many LDCs remain dependent on primary commodity exports.

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World markets in turmoil

Major indexes in London, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong follow Wall Street plunge sparking panic in investors

AFP, London

Panic gripped trading floors across the world yesterday, with Asia and Europe plunging after record-breaking losses on Wall Street, as investors fretted over the prospect of rising US interest rates and took profits following months of markets euphoria.

The selloff began last Friday when bright US non-farm payrolls data sparked fears that inflation will surge this year -- and that the Federal Reserve will be forced to raise borrowing costs more quickly than anticipated.

In initial trade yesterday, European stock markets collapsed by about 3.5 percent, mirroring dramatic falls across Asia.

"It's not doom and gloom, and it's not financial markets Armageddon; it's just a much needed and

much overdue correction," AxiTrader analyst James Hughes told AFP.

"There are four stages of a fall: hope, greed, panic and fear. We are not at fear, but we are at panic at the moment -- which is only natural after a 1,175-point fall."

New York's Dow Jones Industrial Average saw its steepest ever one-day point drop on Monday, shedding a total of 1,175.20 points or a hefty 4.6 percent in value.

And 10-year US Treasury yields are still hovering at four-year peaks.

European markets later yesterday trimmed their gains somewhat to stand about 2.5 percent lower compared with Monday's closing level.

"Markets usually grind to the upside, but fall like

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Section 32 not to harass any journo

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said a subsection would be included in Section 32 of the proposed Digital Security Act, 2018 if that was necessary for protecting investigative journalism.

He said the step would be taken in the public interest. "I can assure that no journalist will be harassed by Section 32 of the Digital Security Act, as this law is not being formulated targeting journalists," he said. "If any journalist is affected by Section 32, I will launch a legal fight on behalf of the journalist for free."

The law minister, also a lawyer by profession, was replying to questions from reporters at a "meet the press" programme organised by Law Reporters Forum (LRF) at

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PM to visit Italy Feb 12-14

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay a three-day official visit to Italy and the Holy See from February 12-14.

In Rome, she along with international personalities and heads-of-state will attend the 41st session of the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

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SpaceX to launch the 'most powerful rocket'

AFP, Miami

SpaceX is poised for the first test launch of its Falcon Heavy, which aims to become the world's most powerful rocket in operation, capable of reaching the Moon or Mars some day.

The launch, scheduled for 1:30 pm yesterday from Cape Canaveral, Florida, is the most ambitious yet for SpaceX, and has been hailed by industry experts as a game-changer because of its potential to propel the California-based company to the very forefront of the modern day space race.

"Nasa may decide to use it (the Falcon Heavy) as a way of fast-tracking its plans to get to the

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ROHINGYA RETURN Dhaka to set up 2 camps this month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is going to complete a "list of a reasonable number of Rohingya families" and set up two repatriation camps within this month as part of the process of sending back the refugees to Myanmar.

An inter-ministerial meeting held at the foreign ministry yesterday discussed the progress of matching the government-prepared refugee data with the one made by UNHCR.

Bangladesh had prepared a database of individual Rohingyas but Myanmar wanted a family-wise list, which only the UNHCR prepared.

That's why the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

REPUBLICAN RUSSIA MEMO Democrat rebuttal release gets nod

AFP, Washington

A US House panel voted unanimously Monday in favour of publicly releasing the Democratic rebuttal to President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans' claims that the FBI abused its powers while investigating his campaign.

"The vote was unanimous to release this," Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the Republican-controlled House Intelligence Committee, told reporters.

The panel's action sets up a clash with Trump, who has five days to review the request to release the document.

Democrats had pushed to have it published after

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‘বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০১৭’ এর মনোনয়নের জন্য বিদেশে অবস্থিত অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজ হতে আবেদন আহ্বান

বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতিতে অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশি ও সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবদানের স্বীকৃতি প্রদান এবং ব্যাংকিং চ্যানেলে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করতে ব্যক্তি এবং বিভিন্ন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজকে ‘বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০১৭’ প্রদান করা হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে বিদেশে অবস্থিত অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ হাউজ/রেমিটার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকগণের ৫০% এর অধিক মালিকানা রয়েছে এমন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজ আবেদন করতে পারবে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (<https://www.bb.org.bd>) দরখাস্ত ও তথ্য প্রদানের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট দু’টি ফরম (https://www.bb.org.bd/nrb/others/form1_2017.pdf ও https://www.bb.org.bd/nrb/others/form2_2017.pdf) আপলোড করা হয়েছে। বিদেশে অবস্থিত আগ্রহী অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজকে নির্ধারিত ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ (স্ক্যান কপি) আগামী ২৮/০২/২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে sh.chawdhury@bb.org.bd ই-মেইলে প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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ই-মেইলঃ gm.fid@bb.org.bd