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সংস্করণ

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'

একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো-

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The fourth part of our five-segment special supplement series, titled **RETHINKING URBAN SPACES: DHAKA AND BEYOND** is out today.

The supplement features a look into a possible future vision for Bangladesh, the challenges we face today, and how we can address them for a better, liveable Dhaka of tomorrow.

Make sure you get your copy of this supplement **free of charge** from your hawker.

Stay tuned for **CHANGES THAT MAKE US #NOWINLIFESTYLE** which comes out on February 24.

Long wait gets longer

Eight months on, promise to Longadu arson attack victims for new houses not yet fulfilled

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

Eight long months after the notorious arson attack by Bangalee settlers on indigenous homes and shops in Rangamati's Longadu upazila, many victims continue to live in makeshift conditions. Promised rehabilitation by the government they still wait, increasingly concerned that what shelter they have now will not withstand the approaching monsoon.

"The government seems to be insincere about victim rehabilitation," says Sanchita Chakma from Tintila village who continues to live on the roof of Manikjowr Chara Primary School. "Many government officials gave us assurances that new homes would be built quickly. But still we are waiting."

Another affected Tintila resident, Kala Chan Chakma, 55, said, "I had hoped our family would be settled in a new house before winter. Winter has come and gone. Soon enough the monsoon will arrive. What will we do then? The administration should organise our new housing as soon as possible."

Hasi Chakma, 35, from Manikjowr Chara village, meanwhile, is finding it hard to maintain an eight-member family on government handouts. "The administration provides only 30 kilograms of rice per family per month. It's not enough for a large family," she says.

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An indigenous woman sits inside what has been her home in the past few months—a shelter of iron sheets supported by bamboos—at Battye Para village of Rangamati's Longadu upazila. Many victims of the notorious arson attack eight months ago by Bangalee settlers on indigenous homes and shops continue to live in makeshift conditions.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

BNP denied nod to hold rally in capital today

To bring out black flag procession Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will bring out a black flag procession in the capital on Saturday protesting denial of permission to the party to hold a rally today.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, announced the programme at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

"We sought permission from police to organise a public rally either at the Suhrawardy Udyan or in front of our Nayapaltan central office. We took all necessary preparations, but the police did not give us permission," said Rizvi.

The BNP had drawn up a plan to hold the rally demanding release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Rizvi alleged that the government took all measures to make sure that the BNP could not arrange the rally.

He said fresh agitation programmes would be announced soon demanding release of the BNP chief.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'We are waiting our turn to die'

Bombs keep falling on Syria's Ghouta despite global outrage; new raids kill 27 more bringing death toll nears 300 in 3 days

REUTERS, Beirut

Residents of Syria's eastern Ghouta district said they were waiting their "turn to die" yesterday, amid one of the most intense bombardments of the war by pro-government forces on the besieged, rebel-held enclave near Damascus.

At least 27 people died and more than 200 were injured yesterday. At least 299 people have been killed in the district in the last three days, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.

Another 13 bodies, including five children, were recovered from the rubble of houses destroyed on Tuesday in the villages of Arbin and Saqba, the Observatory reported.

The eastern Ghouta, a densely populated agricultural district on the Damascus outskirts, is the last major area near the capital still under rebel control. Home to 400,000 people, it has been besieged by government forces for years.

A massive escalation in bombardment since Sunday, including rocket fire, shelling, air strikes and helicopter-dropped barrel bombs, has become one of the deadliest of the Syrian civil war, now entering its eighth year.

Reuters photographs taken in eastern Ghouta yesterday showed men searching through the rubble of smashed buildings, carrying blood-smeared people to hospital and cowering in debris-strewn streets.

The United Nations has denounced the bombardment, which has struck

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UPDF member shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Unidentified criminals shot dead an UPDF member in Joutho Khamar-1 area of the district's Dighinala upazila yesterday morning.

The dead, Sain Chakma, was a resident of Rus Moni Karbaripara in the same upazila.

The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) claimed that UPDF (democratic) was behind the killing of the 23-year-old.

With the latest murder, five UPDF members have been killed allegedly by activists of its rival UPDF (democratic) in the last three months.

Md Shamsuddin Bhuiyan, officer in-charge of Dighinala Police Station, said police went to Joutho Khamar-1 area on information that a body was found lying there.

Law enforcers took the

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Banana with edible peel developed

ABC NEWS ONLINE

A Japanese company has created a banana that you do not need to peel before eating.

The Mongee banana (pronounced 'mon-gay' and meaning 'amazing') has an edible skin which is said to taste like a vegetable and have a lettuce-like texture.

It has been a labour of love for 68-year-old Setsuzo Tanaka from Okayama Prefecture who has spent the past 40 years perfecting the technique for growing them.

Banana seedlings are frozen, then thawed and replanted, which his company, D&T Farm, calls the "freeze-thaw awakening" method.

According to D&T Farm, the process makes the plants grow rapidly, cutting the typical two-year cultivation process down to six months.

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Schoolteacher held for sexual harassment

Victim's mother files case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a schoolteacher accused of sexually harassing a class-X student in the capital's Jatrabari Tuesday night.

Ayub Ali, 44, was arrested near his home at Dakkhin Jatrabari, hours after he had allegedly harassed the girl, Iftekharul Islam, senior assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said.

The suspect was arrested

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ISIBL

Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30

JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Rape accused killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man accused of rape was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab at Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

Anwar Hossain Anu, 58, was accused of raping a fourth grader, Rab said, adding that the accused was "on the run".

Major Ruhul Amin, company commander of Rab-7, told the correspondent that Rab conducted an operation, acting on a tip-off, around 4:00am to arrest Anwar.

"After the presence of law enforcers was sensed by some criminals, a "gunfight" ensued between them and the Rab officials. At one stage, the criminals fled the scene," he said.

"Rab recovered Anwar's bullet-hit body and took it to Chakaria Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared him dead." They also claimed to have recovered a homemade gun, three bullets and two empty bullet shells from the spot.

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Antoinette Termoshuizen, a Dutch woman, has spent 20 years of her life relentlessly educating and rehabilitating children with physical and mental disabilities in Bangladesh.

DUTCH WOMAN'S CALLING Improving the lives of children with disabilities

KHALID HUSSAIN AYON

People call her "Vindeshi" or a foreigner. But this Dutch woman, who prefers to be called "Khalamma" or aunty, has spent 20 years to make life better for children with disabilities in Bangladesh.

Meet Antoinette Termoshuizen, a 51-year-old woman relentlessly helping educate and rehabilitate children with physical and mental challenges for all these years, thousands of miles away from home, to live up to the promise she made to a child with disabilities.

Even after an attack in Bangladesh that eventually paralysed her, she remained firm and continued her work.

"I do not feel that I am a stranger in Bangladesh. I'm Khalmma. Everybody knows me as Khalamma," said Antoinette, now living in Ghior of Manikganj, as she shared her story with The Daily Star recently.

Indeed, hers is an amazing story of selfless love.

Antoinette started off in Bangladesh in 1998 with 10 physically and mentally challenged children after forming a charity called Niketan Foundation. Twenty years down the

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PHOTO: STAR

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Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 58156305, Fax: 9144332, 58156307, 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net,reporting@thedailystar.net