



বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'  
একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো-  
'কেন না!'  
BSRM  
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Chittagong**  
Principal  
Cement  
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# Jhenidah village turns jujube heartland



AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Thought to have been domesticated in South Asia by 9,000 BCE, jujube has been enjoyed across the region for a very long time. Today, it would be hard to find a place in Bangladesh more closely associated with the fruit than the village of Bhatpara in Mandabaria union of Jhenidah's Moheshpur upazila. In Bhatpara, of the 3,000 bighas of farmland, 2,400 are dedicated to jujube orchards, primarily of the BAU kul variety. Jujube farming supports 800 of the 900 local families and brings a substantial Tk 30 lakhs per day into the village during the harvest season. It's an agro-industry that's brought solvency to many a villager. Perhaps ironically for a fruit with an ancient heritage, Bhatpara's jujube success story isn't all that old. The crop was first introduced to the village in 2011 by local farmer Dr Taj Uddin, who planted it on 2.5 bighas that year. The crop did well and over the following years he increased his orchard's size; moreover, inspired by his success other locals started to grow jujube too. It was the start of a radical improvement in the village economy. Now that jujube is a proven winner, villagers without land of their own often lease it to grow the fruit.

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Cauliflowers and cabbages are unloaded in Old Dhaka's Shyambazar, on the bank of the Buriganga River. The city gets supply of these vegetables every day in huge quantities -- mostly from Savar, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Narsingdi. Following a bumper yield, farmers are now counting loss after selling their produce to wholesalers at only Tk 3 to 5 per kg. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:  
ANISUR RAHMAN

## 'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in Boro Kumira area in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila early yesterday. The identity of the deceased, aged about 40, could not be known immediately, said Rab-7 sources. Around 3:30am, a group of six armed robbers waylaid a Laksham-bound pickup in Boro Kumira area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, said Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmad, commanding officer of Rab-7, at a press conference at his Patenga office. The vehicle, coming from Hathazari upazila, was carrying 21 people, including children and women, and wedding gifts for a bridegroom, he added. The criminals beat up the people and looted valuables, including gold ornaments, and cash from them, the Rab official said. The victims informed a Rab patrol team of the matter. After a short search, the Rab personnel found the robbers under a bridge where they were distributing the looted valuables among themselves. Sensing the presence of Rab, the robbers opened fire, forcing the Rab men to retaliate, said the Rab official. After the "gun battle", the Rab team found a bullet-hit man on the spot and the looted valuables. The others managed to flee.

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## 'PROXY WAR' REMARK

# Indian army chief faces criticism

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian analysts, newspapers and several opposition parties have slammed army chief General Bipin Rawat's controversial remark that "a planned influx" of people from Bangladesh into Assam as part of "a proxy war" by Pakistan with Chinese support has led to the growth of a Muslim party in that state. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen criticised General Rawat's remarks, but the main opposition Congress party chose not to comment. However, ruling BJP spokesman Sambit Patra defended the army chief, saying he "should be saluted for his talk". Some BJP leaders, who requested anonymity, conceded that General Rawat's remarks were in consonance with the party's political stance on the influx of migrants into Assam. The dominant view in India is that if the army chief had felt so strongly about the influx of people from Bangladesh into Assam, he should not have gone public with it and raised it within the government. Srinath Raghavan, a senior fellow at New Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research, said "each of his assertions is open to question." He pointed out that though the migration of people from eastern part of Bengal had been on since the 19th century, "to suggest that we are witnessing a 'planned immigration' overseen by Pakistan and China appears to be an absurd overstatement." "Such observations could lead to avoidable diplomatic friction with China as well



General Bipin Rawat

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## Maldives warns India against interference

AFP, Malé

The Maldives has warned India against interfering in its political crisis, deepening a rift with the country once seen as its closest ally. New Delhi has expressed concern about the situation in the honeymoon islands, whose president has sacked top judges, jailed political dissidents and imposed a state of emergency in recent weeks. On Wednesday it said it was "deeply dismayed" by the extension of emergency rule, earning an official rebuke from the Maldives foreign ministry. "There is no doubt that the Maldives is experiencing one of the most difficult periods in the history of the nation," the islands' research, said "each of his assertions is open to question." He pointed out that though the migration of people from eastern part of Bengal had been on since the 19th century, "to suggest that we are witnessing a 'planned immigration' overseen by Pakistan and China appears to be an absurd overstatement." "Such observations could lead to avoidable diplomatic friction with China as well

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## Neanderthals made oldest paintings



CNN ONLINE

Neanderthals may not have been that different from us, after all. New evidence reveals that they created the world's oldest known cave paintings and even wore seashells as body ornaments. Both behaviors suggest that they thought symbolically and had an artistic sensibility like modern humans. Two studies published Thursday in the journal Science detail the latest findings. "Undoubtedly it is showing that Neanderthals were thinking and behaving just like modern

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## BNP INFIGHTING One killed in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A BNP activist has been stabbed to death in what was termed by police an intraparty clash yesterday. The clash between two groups of Swachhasebak Dal, the youth front of BNP, left Sony, 26, dead and three others injured, police said. The incident took place at Gokul village in Bogra around 12:30pm. "There was a long-running dispute between two groups of the party over establishing supremacy. The clash took place when one group attacked the house of another group leader," Sonaton Chakraborty, additional superintendent of police in Bogra, said. He added that Sony was admitted to Bogra Shaheed

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The covers for an underground junction of Titas gas lines lie broken on this Old Dhaka road for several months. With no steps from the authorities, some local traders on their own demarcated the point with bamboo poles. To alert people, they also hung signs reading, "This is a pit of Titas". The photo was taken at Tanti Bazar on Thursday.

PHOTO:  
ANISUR RAHMAN

## TERRORIST FINANCING

# Pakistan back on watchlist

REUTERS, Islamabad

A global money-laundering watchdog has decided to place Pakistan back on its terrorist financing watchlist, a government official and a diplomat said yesterday, in a likely blow to Pakistan's economy and its strained relations with the United States. The move is part of a broader US strategy to pressure Pakistan to cut alleged links to Islamist militants unleashing chaos in neighbouring Afghanistan and backing attacks in India. It comes days after reports that Pakistan had been given a three-month reprieve before being placed on the list, which could hamper banking and hurt foreign investment. The United States has spent the past week lobbying member countries of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to place Pakistan on a so-called grey list of nations that are not doing enough to combat terrorism financing. Pakistan had launched last-minute efforts to avoid being placed on the list, such as taking over charities linked to a powerful Islamist figure. But the campaign proved insufficient and the group decided late on Thursday that Pakistan would be put back on the watchlist, a senior Pakistani official and a diplomat with knowledge of the latest FATF discussions told Reuters. "The decision was taken yesterday. The chair (of FATF) is expected to make a statement some time this afternoon in Paris," the diplomat said. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity. Pakistan was on the list for three years until 2015. Earlier in the week China, Turkey, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were opposing the US-led move against Pakistan but by late on Thursday, both China

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**PRAYER TIMING  
FEBRUARY 24**  
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