

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

**BSRM**  
building a safer nation

**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**

Work in progress using Shah Cement

# Govt to build three more power plants

All coal-based, to be constructed by Chinese companies

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Chinese companies are going to construct three more coal-based power plants in Bangladesh with a total capacity of 3,960 megawatts.

Two of the plants will be set up by Bangladesh-China joint venture companies while another by a consortium of China and Hong Kong-based firms.

The power plants, with a capacity of 1,320MW each, will be built in Maheshkhali of Cox's Bazar, Kalapara of Patuakhali and Mirsarai of Chittagong.

"All the projects are now at a preliminary stage. Some procedures have to be completed before the construction work commences," State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of a joint venture agreement between Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and China Huadian Hong Kong Co Ltd to form a joint venture company (50:50 share) for setting up a 1,320-MW thermal power plant in Maheshkhali.

It also gave the go-ahead to the related Memorandum of Association and Article of Association of the joint venture company.

Following the cabinet's approval, a joint venture company would be formed and a feasibility study for the project

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Chhatra League men vandalising chairs and throwing a few at each other during yesterday's factional clash at Laldighi ground in Chittagong. The incident happened during a meeting organised to commemorate the death of Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Inset, the meeting venue after the clash.

# 10 injured as BCL factions clash in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) during a meeting commemorating former Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at historical Laldighi ground yesterday.

Identities of the injured, believed to be activists of the student front of ruling party, could not be known immediately.

City unit BCL organised the meeting to commemorate the former Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor, also former president of city unit AL, with eminent sociologist Prof Anupam Sen Gupta attending as the chief guest.

The clash erupted around 5:30pm in presence of ABM Mohiuddin's son Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, also ruling Awami League's central committee's organising secretary, over chanting slogans, said eyewitnesses.

They added local units of BCL including members

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# Putin orders 5-hr truce in Syria

# Tk 10,000cr in 10 years

Humanitarian corridor to let civilians leave enclave; 29 killed since UNSC vote

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a daily five-hour truce and the creation of a "humanitarian corridor" to allow civilians to leave the rebel-held Syrian enclave of eastern Ghouta, Russia's defence minister was quoted as saying.

In one of the bloodiest offensives of Syria's civil war, eastern Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus controlled by opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, has been subject to heavy bombardment by government forces. Russia is Assad's most powerful ally.

"With the aim of eliminating casualties among the civilian population of eastern Ghouta, a daily humanitarian pause is being introduced from Feb. 27, that is tomorrow, from 09:00 until 14:00," Russia's RIA news agency quoted Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying yesterday.

"A humanitarian corridor will be created for the exit of civilians. The coordinates (of the corridor) have been prepared and will be announced in the near future," Shoigu added.

The announcement came after at least 29 people were killed in eastern Ghouta despite the UN security council resolution passed on Saturday that demanded an end to the fighting.

Local doctors and monitors said a suspected chlorine attack in the rebel-held area outside Damascus had left 18 people injured on Sunday evening, as residents condemned the international community's inability to put an end to the fighting.

Moscow yesterday said reports of an alleged chemical attack on Eastern

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# Saudis get a taste of opera, jazz

# ACC to go after big shots

# DU expels 1, suspends 6 for assault

SRIDEVI'S DEATH  
She drowned after passing out in bathtub  
Dubai police say  
AFP, Mumbai

India yesterday mourned Bollywood superstar Sridevi Kapoor after her death in Dubai aged just 54, as police in the emirate said she drowned in her hotel bathtub.

The body of Sridevi, one of the biggest names in Hindi cinema, had been due to be brought back to Mumbai yesterday by charter flight. It was not immediately clear however when Dubai authorities would release it.

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Govt gave it to 7 banks hit by capital deficit, says Muhith in JS

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four state-run and three private banks were facing a capital deficit of Tk 9,417.42 crore as of September last year, said Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith yesterday.

The government provided those banks with Tk 10,272 crore between fiscal 2005-06 and fiscal 2016-17 to help them meet the deficit, he said in reply to a query from independent MP Md Abdul Matin.

"Yes, the state-run and private banks are now facing capital deficit. Out of total 57 banks in the banking sector, four state-run banks are having a capital deficit of Tk 7,626.23 crore while three private banks Tk 1,791.20 crore as of September 30, 2017," Muhith said.

In a scripted answer, the minister informed the House that the capital deficit at the state-run Sonali Bank stood at Tk 3140.41 crore, while it was Tk 689.9 crore at Rupali Bank, Tk 1,272.93 crore at Janata Bank and Tk 2,522.99 crore at BASIC Bank.

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AFP, Riyadh

Opera made its debut in Riyadh at the weekend with a classic Arabian love story, as bands from Beirut to New Orleans performed at the kingdom's first-ever jazz festival.

Long known for its ultra-conservative mores, the kingdom has embarked on a wide-ranging programme of social reforms that includes boosting sports and entertainment and allowing women to drive from June.

Music lovers had their first taste of jazz when a three-day festival opened on Thursday at the Riyadh Intercontinental hotel, showcasing performers such as regional darling Chady Nashif of Lebanon.

The opera "Antar and Abta" -- a legendary story of love between an Arab warrior and his cousin --

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Says its chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will catch some big names in corruption, said its Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday.

"In a war, you don't always advance. For strategic reasons, you often have to retreat... We are preparing traps. Soon you will see many corrupt people are behind bars," he said, addressing the inaugural session of a national conference organised jointly by

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 27**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

|        |      |       |      |      |      |
|--------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| AZAN   | 5-15 | 12-45 | 4-30 | 6-05 | 7-30 |
| JAMAAT | 5-50 | 1-15  | 4-45 | 6-10 | 8-00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 6 more killed in stone pits

# 6 more killed in stone pits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five workers were crushed to death and three others injured while extracting stones at a quarry in Kalairag area of Companiganj upazila on Sunday night.

They were digging in a pit when a massive chunk of earth fell over them.

In Jaintiapur upazila, another worker died after he was critically injured in a similar incident yesterday morning.

As many as 16 workers died in the illegal quarries of Sylhet in the last two months.

After Sunday night's incident, three of the workers' bodies remained buried in the pit for hours.

The victims are Motiur Rahman, 30, Ruhul Amin, 22, Ashik Ali, 38, Atabur Rahman, 30, and Moyeen Uddin, 32, said Dilip Kanti Nath, inspector of Companiganj Police Station.

In a Jaintiapur quarry, Delowar Hossain, 26, was critically injured in the morning and died hours later in a hospital, Moinul Jakir, officer-in-charge of Jaintiapur Police Station, said.

Two probe committees were formed to investigate the Companiganj incident.

The district administration formed a three-member probe body headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah while police formed a two-member probe committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Abul Hasnat.

The committees were asked to submit their reports in seven days.

Police detained Abdur Rouf, who hired the workers from the quarry.

Last year's death toll in illegal quarries in Sylhet was 32.

On January 2 this year, five workers died while extracting stones in Jaflong area.

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Workers extracting stones illegally from a quarry in Kalairag area of Sylhet's Companiganj yesterday. Five workers were killed in a quarry in the area after a huge chunk of earth collapsed on them on Sunday night.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR