



A mango tree adorned with buds at an orchard in Terokhadia area of Rajshahi, a district famous for tasty varieties of the popular summer fruit. The photo was taken a few days back. PHOTO: ANWAR ALI HEMU

Penguin

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co-author Heather Lynch of Stony Brook University told AFP.
Just 160 kilometres (100 miles) away on the west of the peninsula -- a thin limb jutting out of West Antarctica -- Adelie numbers have dropped about 70 percent in recent decades due to sea ice melt blamed on global warming.
"One of the ways in which this is good news is that other studies have shown this area (the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula) is likely to remain more stable under climate change than the western Antarctic Peninsula," said Lynch.
"So we end up with a large population of Adelie penguins in a region likely to remain suitable to them for some time."
Adelies are one of five penguin species that live in and around the Antarctic continent.
A medium-sized penguin, they grow to about 70 centimetres (almost 28 inches) tall, and weigh three to six kilograms (about seven to 13 pounds). They are identified by a white ring around the eye.
They are carnivores, and krill -- shrimp-like creatures that are commercially fished in the area -- is an Adelie staple.
The Danger Islands group was discovered thanks to Earth-monitoring satellites, said the research team from America, Britain and France.

'Trade wars are good'

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"We will not sit idly while our industry is hit with unfair measures that put thousands of European jobs at risk," he said.
Canada and Germany both termed the tariffs "unacceptable", with the German foreign minister Sigmar Gabriel urging Trump to reconsider.
Trump also said yesterday he plans to impose "reciprocal taxes" on imports from all trading partners to reduce the US trade deficit.
UNACCEPTABLE
Trump has long threatened to impose tariffs on steel and aluminium, accusing other countries of dumping and deploying "unfair" trade practices.
He has been particularly critical of China, although steel and aluminium each account for less than one percent of the country's total exports to the United States.
Beijing yesterday urged the US to "exercise restraint" and respect international trade rules.
"If all countries followed the example of the United States, (it) will undoubtedly result in a serious impact on the international trade order," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing.
The timing of Trump's announcement was provocative for China: its top economic envoy Liu He was in Washington, holding meetings at the White House on Thursday.
"They candidly exchanged their views, building the necessary conditions for the next step in deepening cooperation," Hua said of the meetings with US officials.
China has previously warned it was ready with counter-measures should the Trump administration deploy tariffs, but the foreign ministry did not indicate yesterday that any such moves were in the works.
The White House has embarked on a campaign to renew American infrastructure, with steel likely a major input.
But Trump's announcement has faced significant domestic opposition, including within his own White House and the Republican party.
US automakers, oil and gas produc-

ers and other industry groups have publicly urged the president to not impose new barriers on metal imports, warning the measures could jack up prices and invite reprisals, harming the US economy.
DANGER IS CONTAGION
Sources familiar with Trump's decision say he faced stern opposition from aides, including top economic advisor Gary Cohn, who argued the move could ultimately damage US industry.
But trade hawks like Peter Navarro, who was by the president's side as he made his remarks, appeared to have won the day.
The same sources said it was not impossible that carve-outs follow, making the measures more palatable to the EU, Canada and South Korea.
Trump's decision -- which leans on a rarely-used trade provision allowing protections for national security -- could hit other countries far more than China, which is the world's largest steel producer but accounts for less than one percent of US imports.
Steel producers in Canada, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey rely far more heavily on the US market.
The US Commerce Department said last month that the global glut of steel and aluminium threatened US national security, and presented the White House with a set of options, including quotas, tariffs targeting specific countries, and across-the-board tariffs on all imports of the metals.
Trump's proposal most closely resembled the last option.
Analysts said that while there were initial sharp stock market losses in the steel and aluminium sectors following the announcement, the main fear was what it could mean in the future.
"We think overall, the danger is contagion -- the reaction -- rather than the actual tariffs themselves," Fat Prophets resources analyst David Lennox told AFP.
The benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.7 percent on Thursday and Asian markets quickly followed suit, with Tokyo closing 2.5 percent down and Hong Kong falling 1.5 percent yesterday.

Murdered

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Momota was taken to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where she died around 12:30pm, the police official said.
Amir went into hiding soon after the incident, the OC said, adding that police were trying to detain him.

28 killed

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opened fire on a restaurant on Ouagadougou's main avenue, killing 19 people and wounded 21. The attack remains unclaimed.
On January 15 2016, 30 people, including six Canadians and five Europeans, were killed in a jihadist attack on a hotel and restaurant in the city centre.
Responsibility was claimed by a group called al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).
France, the former colonial power in the Sahel region, has deployed 4,000 troops and is supporting a five-country joint force gathering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.
On February 21, two members of the French counter-terrorism force were killed by a landmine near Mali's border with Niger and Burkina Faso. Twelve French troops have been killed since the campaign, called Operation Barkhane, was launched in August 2014.
The United Nations also has a 12,000-strong peacekeeping force in Mali called MINUSMA, which has taken heavy casualties. Four UN peacekeepers were killed by a mine blast on Wednesday in the centre of the country.
In a separate development on Friday, the specialist US website SITE, which monitors jihadist activity, said kidnappers had released a video of a 75-year-old French hostage, Sophie Petronin, who had been abducted in northern Mali in late 2016.
Petronin, who had been running an association helping Malian orphans, appears in poor health in the brief video.
Her kidnapping, hitherto unclaimed, was carried out by the "Support Group for Islam and Muslims." In the background, Macron's voice is heard on a loop, saying "I will protect you."

Diabetes

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Similarly, scientists have also identified distinct kinds of microbiome -- the bacterial ecosystem in our digestive tract -- that can react differently to the same medication, rendering it more or less effective.
"This is the first step towards personalised treatment of diabetes," said senior author Leif Groop, an endocrinologist at Lund University in Sweden, adding that the new classification is a "paradigm shift" in how the disease is viewed.
People with diabetes have excessively high blood glucose, or blood sugar, which comes from food.
Some 420 million people around the world today suffer from diabetes, with the number expected to rise to 629 million by 2045, according to the International Diabetes Federation.
Currently, the disease is divided into two sub-types.
With type-1 -- generally diagnosed in childhood and accounting for about 10 percent of cases -- the body simply doesn't make insulin, a hormone that helps regulate blood sugar levels.
For type-2, the body makes some insulin but not enough, which means glucose stays in the blood.
This form of the disease correlates highly with obesity and can, over time, lead to blindness, kidney damage, and heart disease or stroke. Acute cases may also require limb amputations.
EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS
It has long been known that type-2 diabetes is highly variable, but classification has remained unchanged for decades.
For the study, researchers monitored 13,270 newly diagnosed diabetes patients ranging in age from 18 to 97.
By isolating measurements of insulin resistance, insulin secretion, blood sugar levels, age, and the onset of illness, they distinguished five distinct clusters of the disease -- three serious and two milder forms.
Among the severe types, a group of patients with insulin resistance -- in which cells are unable to use insulin effectively -- was at far higher risk of kidney disease.
"This group has the most to gain from the new diagnostics as they are the ones who are currently most incorrectly treated," Groop said.
Another group facing serious complications was composed of relatively young, insulin-deficient patients.
The third "severe" group were people with auto-immune diabetes corresponding to the original "type-1" diagnosis.
The two other groups have milder types of the disease including one, which includes about 40 percent of the patients, beset with a form of diabetes related to advanced age.
"This will enable earlier treatment to prevent complications in patients who are most at risk of being affected," said lead author Emma Ahlqvist, an associate professor at Lund University.
The results were checked against three other studies from Sweden and Finland.
"The outcome exceeded our expectations," said Groop.
The researchers plan to launch similar studies in China and India.

ARTICLES CRITICAL OF CJ Nepal newspaper appears in court

AFP, Kathmandu
Nepal's largest newspaper yesterday appeared briefly in court summoned by the country's chief justice for publishing articles critical of him, in a case widely condemned as an attack on press freedom.
The Kantipur Daily was subpoenaed by chief justice Gopal Parajuli on contempt of court charges for a series of articles that said the country's top judge had given different dates of birth on various official documents.
Judges in Nepal have to retire at 65 and the suggestion is that Parajuli knocked years off his age to hold office for longer.
In the subpoena issued Sunday by Parajuli -- who will preside over the case despite being directly implicated in it -- the newspaper is accused of using "objectionable language" and repeating "imaginary facts". It made no reference to the chief justice's multiple birthdays.
"The articles published by the Kantipur Daily are intended to obstruct the judicial process and weaken the judiciary by disrespecting the court and spreading confusion about the court and its justices," according to the order seen by AFP.
Kantipur Daily's editor-in-chief, the chairman, a company director and a reporter appeared for the scheduled hearing yesterday, but it was postponed until Sunday. They could face up to a year in jail if found guilty.
Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders slammed the move against the newspaper and urged lawmakers to impeach the top judge.

US sees hope for negotiated end to Afghan war
AFP, Washington
The United States dared to permit itself renewed hope Thursday that the longest war in its history may be closer to a negotiated settlement, after Afghan-led talks went better than expected.
After 17 years of guerrilla conflict and several diplomatic false starts, American officials take nothing for granted -- and they still expect the spring thaw to herald more fierce fighting.
But they were pleased, both publicly and privately, by this week's international conference in Kabul, which they see as a step towards talks between President Ashraf Ghani's government and the Taliban.
Ghani played his role to a tee, holding out his hand to the Taliban and suggesting that if they join talks they could be recognized as a political party with a legitimate role in Afghanistan's future.

EU for stepping
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agreement reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the repatriation of the refugees should allow for a voluntary, safe and dignified return to their places of origin.
Mogherini recalled the need for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to be fully associated with the process.
EU's Foreign Affairs Council on Monday sought steps for targeted restrictive measures against senior military officers of the Myanmar armed forces responsible for serious and systematic human rights violations.
It also sought measures for an extension of the existing embargo on arms and equipment which can be used for internal repression as well as options for its strengthening.
The council "adopted conclusions" on the situation in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State, which remains extremely serious.
"In view of the situation, the council invites in its conclusions the high representative to make proposals without delay," says a press release of the council.

3 ministers

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Even if the BNP boycotts the next polls, it will be locally and internationally acceptable, the JP chief opined.
About BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail, Ershad said he had been in jail for over six years, although the cases filed against him were bailable. "Despite the High Court's order, I was not allowed to join parliament."
The JP will hold a grand rally in the capital on March 24 to show the party strength, said Ershad, adding, "We want to show the country people that we are ready to come to power."
JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader, Co-chairman GM Quader and Rangpur City Corporation Mayor Mostafar Rahman Mostafa, among others, were present at Rangpur Circuit House.

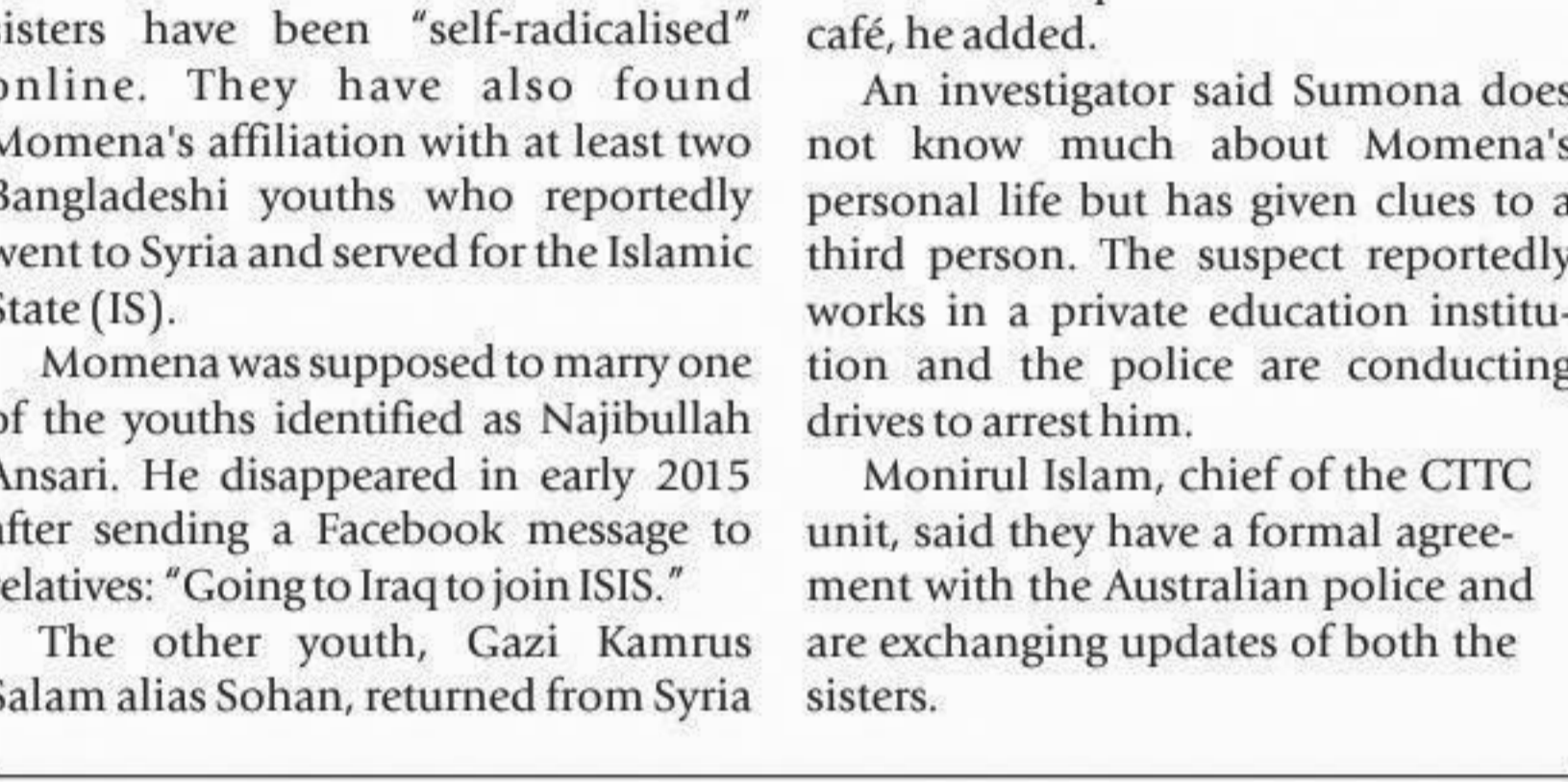
For the love of learning

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4:00pm and 8:00pm daily, Ziaul's library, which first opened in 1969, regularly attracts around 20 students at a time.
Originally the library was situated in his ancestral village, but 23 years ago Ziaul moved to neighbouring Bot Tala-Mushribhujia village and took his library with him. He has a three-room, single-storey home that he shares with his second wife and son; one room serves as the public library. It has two steel cabinets and multiple bookshelves for the collection, with two reading tables where visitors can peruse books, magazines or the daily newspapers.
"My wife supports the library," says Ziaul. "She always encourages me to buy books."
Bot Tala-Mushribhujia is a small farming community. It's not the sort of place one would expect to find a library. As such, Ziaul's establishment is, to local students who would otherwise have to do without, a prized asset.
"I often visit," says Mehedy Hasan, a student at nearby Rohonpur Yousuf Ali College. "Many students do. The library helps us to learn. It's a good place to study."
The library attracts visitors from further afield too. Sometimes people arrive from elsewhere in the country, even overseas. In 2006 multinational Unilever Bangladesh Limited awarded Ziaul a medal in recognition of his efforts.
"Ziaul's library plays an important role in our area," remarks Asgar Ali, the acting principal of Mushribhujia High School and College. "It has a bigger collection than many libraries. It promotes a literary environment and attracts people of all ages, with all levels of reading ability."
Ziaul, who has also been made a member of the college's governing committee, believes his library may have social benefits too. "These days many young people get caught up with drugs," he says. "I always hope that instead they will spend time with books to improve their lives, rather than destroying them."
"The library teaches important life skills," says the chairman of Daldali's local council, Majharul Islam. "Students learn how to locate and analyse information. They learn to think creatively and critically. They gain new knowledge, offering an opportunity to develop a lifelong learning habit."
Yet sadly, within his own family Ziaul hasn't always been quite as virtuous. While his son from his second marriage studies in class six, his daughters from his first were married at a tender age and thereafter unable to complete their schooling.

Australian police
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Khan, deputy commissioner of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.
He added the Australian police have shared some information they have gathered by interrogating Momena and they have also shared some updates with them.
"We are now verifying some clues we have found about Momena," he said without elaborating.
The CTTC officials believe both the sisters have been "self-radicalised" online. They have also found Momena's affiliation with at least two Bangladeshi youths who reportedly went to Syria and served for the Islamic State (IS).
Momena was supposed to marry one of the youths identified as Najibullah Ansari. He disappeared in early 2015 after sending a Facebook message to relatives: "Going to Iraq to join ISIS."
The other youth, Gazi Kamrus Salam alias Sohan, returned from Syria in 2015 and has landed in prison, had introduced Ansari to Momena.
The counter terrorism officials said Momena and Ansari had developed a relationship and agreed to get married but could not in the face of opposition from Ansari's family.
Speaking anonymously, a CTTC high official told The Daily Star that Momena started changing after her enrolment in North South University in 2012. She might have connected to Nibras Islam, who was killed during a commando operation at a Gulshan cafe, he added.
An investigator said Sumona does not know much about Momena's personal life but has given clues to a third person. The suspect reportedly works in a private education institution and the police are conducting drives to arrest him.
Monirul Islam, chief of the CTTC unit, said they have a formal agreement with the Australian police and are exchanging updates of both the sisters.

BGB protests

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told the news agency, using an acronym for the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, a militant group, and declining to elaborate further.
"It was not aimed at antagonising Bangladesh," he added.
Nearly 700,000 Rohingya crossed over from Myanmar into Bangladesh fleeing a brutal military crackdown that the United Nation denounced as a textbook case of ethnic cleansing amid reports of arson, murder and rape.
Myanmar agreed to hold the talks yesterday in response to BGB's call and assured that it will take back all the 6,500 Rohingyas on the no man's land near Konapara village.
US IS MONITORING SITUATION
Meanwhile, the United States said it was watching carefully the situation around the border with Bangladesh following military build-up by Myanmar.
"I can just tell you that we're watching that carefully. I can certainly understand that would be a concern of the government of Bangladesh, but we're watching that one closely," US State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert said in reply to a question during a press briefing in Washington on Thursday.
The US Embassy in Dhaka on its Facebook page wrote: "We are aware of reports of an increasing presence of Burmese troops near the Bangladesh border and are closely monitoring the situation."
[With inputs from our Cox's Bazar and Bandarban correspondents, BSS and AFP]



Officials of Border Guard Bangladesh and Myanmar's Border Guard Police hold a flag meeting in Ghumdhum yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

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army personnel as part of their strategy for internal security," he told The Daily Star.
The BGB official called upon his Myanmar counterpart to inform Bangladesh before mobilising forces along the border so that no misunderstanding is created.
A seven-member delegation of BGB sat with a nine-member team of Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) for the flag meeting.
Officials at the scene and residents in the neighbourhood said the overnight appearance of Myanmar army in battle gear escalated further the frights among the Rohingyas on the zero lines.
They said the Myanmar troops were asking the Rohingyas on zero lines to immediately quit the area, using megaphones and firing gunshots forcing several Rohingya women and children to enter Bangladesh.
Terming the army deployment a violation of border norms, Border Guard Bangladesh also increased its strength along the border at Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari to "face any circumstances".
Myanmar made the move some 10 days after it had agreed to take back the Rohingyas from the no-man's land.
Yesterday, AFP quoted Myanmar government spokesman Zaw Htay as saying the recent spike in security along the border is a response to new intelligence about the movement of Rohingya militants.
"We acted this way based on the information we got regarding terrorism, especially the Arsa movement," he