

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

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For the love of learning

Chapainawabganj curd seller establishes, runs village library for 48 years

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

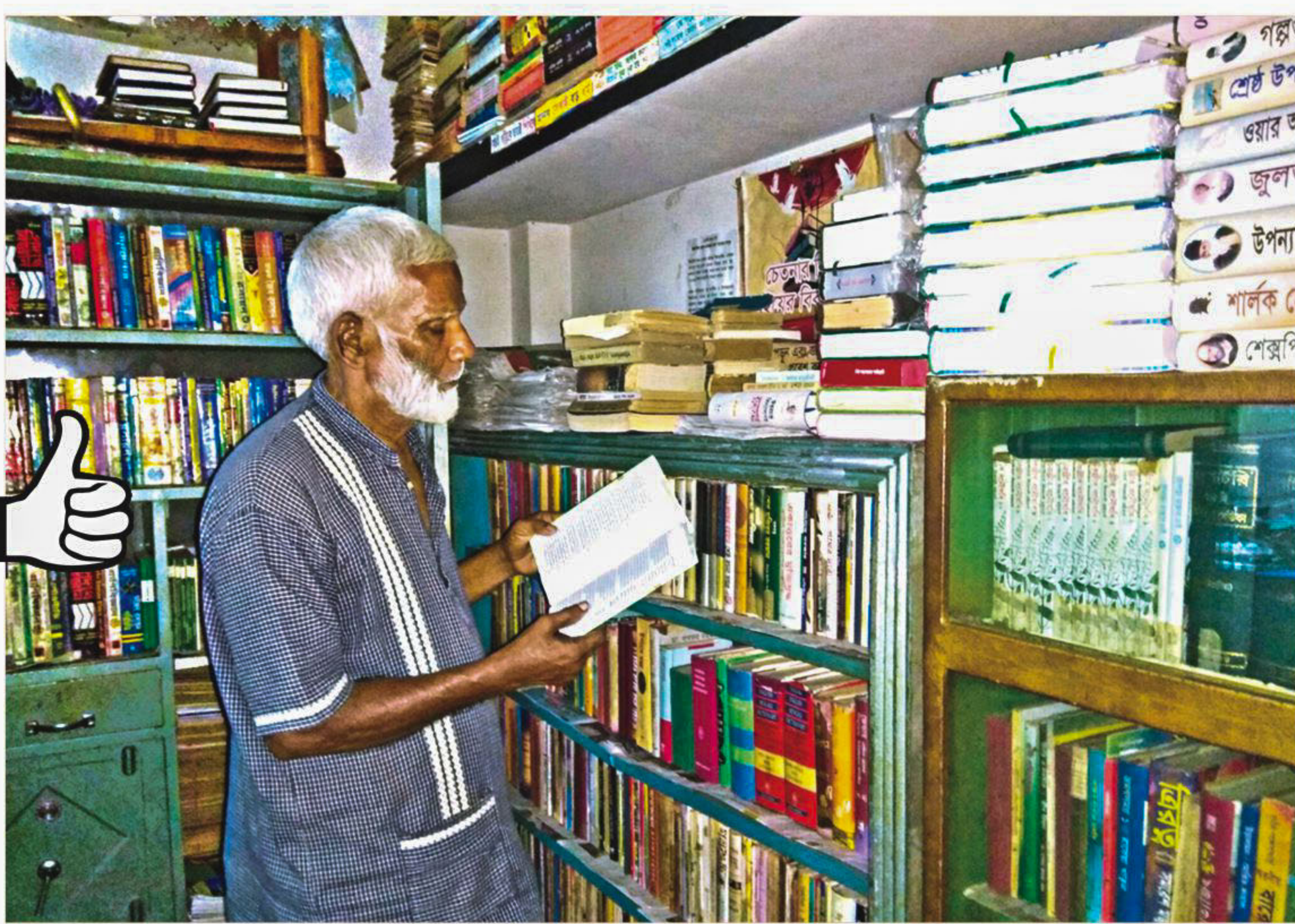
When 81-year-old Ziaul Haque was young, just one taka and two annas was all he needed to start class-VI. For his father, a curd seller with a wife and four children to consider, it was too expensive. Unable to enrol, Ziaul harbours a lifetime of regret. Instead, at age 19 he joined the family business; and to tantalise his interest in learning, some years later he founded a village library.

"I sell curd and buy books," says Ziaul, originally from Chama-Mushribhuja village in Daldali union of Bholahat upazila in Chapainawabganj. "I couldn't continue my own studies. I don't want other children to experience that. I don't want anyone to leave school because they can't afford books."

For almost 62 years Ziaul has been selling homemade curd. He rises at dawn to sell the product through the day, working until dusk. "I earn up to Tk 25,000 per month," he says. "I save as much as I can. Last October I went to Rajshahi and spent Tk 13,000 on books. The library currently has around 14,000 titles. I have also donated more than 4,000 books to different educational institutions over the years."

Biographies, history, general knowledge and religion: the books at the Ziaul Haque Library cover many topics. There are books on freedom fighters, books about computing, books for study and books for leisure. Open between

CHANGE MAKER



Ziaul Haque, 81, browsing books at the library he founded at Bot Tala-Mushribhuja village in Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabganj.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

BANGLADESHI WOMAN Australian police start probe into terror links

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian Federal Police have started an investigation into possible terror links of Momena Shoma who was arrested in Melbourne for stabbing a man in the neck on February 9.

Momena, 24, attacked the man just nine days after she had gone to Australia from Bangladesh on a student visa.

The investigators believe she was radicalised before flying to Australia. Even her younger sister Asmaul Husna alias Sumona, 22, attacked local police when they went to their house at Kazipara in Dhaka to inquire about Momena.

Both the sisters are now behind bars in Australia and Bangladesh.

"A representative of Australian police and a legion officer have held a meeting with us for updates of Momena and her sister Sumona," Mohibul Islam

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

3 ministers of JP to resign, says Ershad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jatiya Party's ministers in the cabinet of the Awami League-led government will resign soon, said JP Chairman HM Ershad in Rangpur yesterday.

Three of his party lawmakers are in the cabinet now, said Ershad, also the special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"I am enjoying the status of a minister," said the former president, adding that his party discussed the issue internally and decided to quit the cabinet.

"It's a matter of time," said Ershad while talking to reporters at Rangpur Circuit House.

His comments came after JP leader Raushan Ershad at the Jatiya Sangsad recently urged Hasina to relieve her three party ministers -- a minister and two state ministers -- from the cabinet to help it emerge as the "real opposition" party and thus help the JP survive with dignity.

Raushan also asked whether the JP was in opposition or in government.

Ershad also agreed with the statements of his wife and Leader of the Opposition Raushan who said their party faced huge criticism for joining the cabinet.

Dismissing the possibility of forming alliance with the BNP ahead of the next elections, he said he was doubtful whether the BNP would take part in the polls.

The BNP is now going through a leadership crisis, Ershad said.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

28 killed in Burkina Faso terror attack

Armed group attacks military HQ, French embassy; all 6 attackers killed

AFP, Ouagadougou

At least 28 people were killed as an armed group attacked Burkina Faso's military headquarters and the French embassy, the government said, adding that six assailants were also killed.

The coordinated operation underscored the fragility of the Sahel nation, one of a string of African states struggling with a bloody jihadist insurgency.

Heavy gunfire broke out mid-morning in the centre of the capital Ouagadougou, an AFP reporter heard. The deaths are reported in the military headquarters attack.

Witnesses said five armed men got out of a car and opened fire on passersby before heading towards the French embassy. The car was later seen ablaze.

At the same time, an explosion occurred near the headquarters of the Burkinabe armed forces and the French cultural centre, which are located about a kilometre (half a mile) from the site of the first attack, other witnesses said.

In a statement, the government said the attack was "aimed at the French embassy in

Burkina Faso and the armed forces headquarters."

Earlier, the government had announced that six assailants had been killed -- four in the embassy attack and two in the second attack -- while state TV said seven members of the security forces had also died.

French government sources said there had been no French casualties and described the situation as "under control".

Speaking to state TV channel RTB, Information Minister Remis Fulgance Dandjinou said the attack had "strong overtones of terrorism".

President Emmanuel Macron's office said the French leader was "being informed in real time" of the situation.

Burkina Faso is one of a group of fragile countries on the southern rim of the Sahara that are battling jihadist groups.

The insurgency has caused thousands of deaths, prompted tens of thousands to flee their homes and dealt crippling blows to economies that are already among the poorest in the world.

On August 13 last year, two assailants

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Murdered for love marriage!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was hacked to death allegedly by his uncle over her love marriage in Raninagar village of Sirajganj's Solonga yesterday.

The victim, Momota Khatun, 25, daughter of Abdul Mazid Mondol, married Sanwar Hossain, of the same village, four years ago without her family's consent.

Md Waheduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Solonga Police Station, said Momota went to Dhaka along with her husband after the marriage. Recently, her father accepted their marriage and asked them to visit him.

But her uncle Amir Hossain did not accept it. He became angry with Momota and hacked her with an axe when she went to a pond near their house about 7:00am, the OOC said.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Penguin 'hotspot' found in Antarctic

AFP, Paris



A thriving "hotspot" of 1.5 million Adelle penguins, a species fast declining in parts of the world, has been discovered on remote islands off the Antarctic Peninsula, surprised scientists said yesterday.

The first bird census of the Danger Islands unearthed over 750,000 Adelle breeding pairs, more than the rest of the area combined, the team reported in the journal Scientific Reports.

The group of nine rocky islands, which lie off the northern tip nearest South America, in the north-west Weddell Sea, housed the third- and fourth-largest Adelle penguin colonies in the world, they found.

"It is certainly surprising and it has real consequences for how we manage this region," study

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Diabetes has five categories, not two: study

AFP, Paris

Scientists yesterday unveiled a revised classification for diabetes, one they said could lead to better treatments and help doctors more accurately predict life-threatening complications from the disease.

There are five distinct types of diabetes that can occur in adulthood, rather than the two currently recognised, they reported in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, a leading medical journal.

The findings are consistent with the growing trend toward "precision medicine," which takes into account differences between individuals in managing disease.

In the same way that a patient requiring a transfusion must receive the right blood type, diabetes subtypes need different treatments, the study suggested.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING MARCH 3

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



People watch as black smoke rises after the capital of Burkina Faso came under multiple attacks yesterday, targeting the French embassy, the French cultural centre and the country's military headquarters.

PHOTO: AFP

'Trade wars are good'

Trump defiant after criticism of steel and aluminium tariffs; stock market plunges

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday spoke out defiantly in the face of global criticism of his plan to impose tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, claiming "trade wars are good, and easy to win".

The fighting words came after the billionaire politician's proposal sparked a furious reaction from major steel- and aluminium-producing nations and jitters in stock markets around the world.

"When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win," Trump tweeted.

"Example, when we are down \$100 billion with a certain country and they get cute, don't trade anymore-we win big. It's easy!"

After weeks of rumour and counter-rumour about his administration's intentions, Trump on Thursday announced he would sign off on measures designed to protect US producers "next week".

The tariffs -- 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminium -- cover two materials that are the lifeblood of the construction and manufacturing sectors in the United States.

The announcement angered key US allies -- Canada, the European Union, Australia, and Mexico -- as well as rival China. European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker vowed the bloc "will react firmly" to defend its interests.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2