

২

বিশ্ব বন্ধুত্ব দিবস

বিশ্ব বন্ধুত্ব দিবস- পদ্মা সেতু 'সন্তব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বন্ধুত্ব দিবস- 'কেন না!'

BSRM

building a safer nation

শেখ হাসিনা

পদ্মা সেতু

MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER

SHAH CEMENT

Principal Cement in the Flyover Project

# Horrific tale of kidnap

## Gang led by Manikganj AL leader demands Tk 45 lakh in ransom; Rab rescues victims, detains 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"They put us inside sacks in a dark room with our hands and legs tied, eyes blindfolded, mouth gagged and our bodies beaten up by bamboo sticks for three days."

Transport businessman Jafor Iqbal, 40, revealed this horrific tale to The Daily Star yesterday after being rescued from the den of an 'abduction gang' allegedly run by Selim Molla, vice-president of ruling Awami League's Harirampur upazila unit in Manikganj.

Jafor and his friend Miraj Ali, 35, were picked up by some unidentified people from the capital's Tejgaon area on Friday. They were rescued by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on early Monday.

The duo gave a statement before a Dhaka court yesterday where they disclosed their abduction in details. Metropolitan Magistrate Fahad Bin Amin Chowdhury recorded their statement.

Talking to the newspaper, Jafor said he along with Miraj went to Farmgate early Friday morning on a business purpose and was talking in front of Govt Science College. At one stage, a microbus stopped in front of them and someone from inside asked them about the way to Dhanmondi, he added.

As they were showing the way to Dhanmondi, two to three people forced them into the vehicle and two to three hours later they found themselves inside a room where

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Dhoop (incense) is being burned inside Terminal-2 (arrival) at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday to drive out mosquitoes. The airport started using such traditional means to fight the mosquito menace. On February 23, a Malaysia Airlines plane returned to the gate after taxiing to the runway as a swarm of mosquitoes was inside.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# GLOBAL INDEX Bangladesh happier than India, Sri Lanka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has slipped down five notches in this year's World Happiness Report rankings, but it remains a happier place than India and Sri Lanka.

The country has been ranked 115th among 156 countries surveyed for the report while Sri Lanka and India came in at 116th and 133th positions.

The report was released yesterday ahead of the International Day of Happiness on March 20.

Among the other South Asian countries, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal were placed 75th, 97th and 101st in the rankings.

The report ranks countries by happiness levels based on six key factors: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support and generosity.

Finland is the happiest place on earth, followed by Norway and Denmark, says

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Prof Zafar Iqbal invites fanatics for talks

## Says he is not angry at the attacker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal has called upon fanatics to go talk to him.

"Come to me without your weapons and ask me questions. I will answer all your questions," said the professor.

He was addressing a reception accorded to him at Mukta Mancha on Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus, where he was attacked by a suspected radical Islamist on March 3.

"How can a man be so unhappy that he comes to kill another man only to go to heaven? I would like to know what bothers you, what your pains are," he said.

Zafar is a professor of computer science and engineering at SUST and a renowned educationalist and writer. He came under the knife attack from behind during a programme on the campus. He was stabbed multiple times in the rear of his



SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# Schoolgirl stabbed on way to school

## Police arrest accused who wanted to take revenge of filing a case against him by victim's brother

RABIUL HASAN with ANWAR ALI

Monirul had a grudge against the schoolgirl's family. He never expressed it, rather became a friend of the family. Secretly, he was planning revenge. Yesterday, he stabbed the girl when she was on her way to school.

Manjur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station, said this while talking to The Daily Star.

"I noticed him [Monirul] following me on my way to school over the last three days," said Sathi Khatun at the surgery ward of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The 13-year-old girl of Hujrapur in the town did not tell her parents of the matter, fearing that her parents might stop her from going to school. Besides, the sixth-grader thought that Monirul had no ill motive to follow her, said Sathi, daughter of Abdus Salam.

Police arrested Monirul Islam, 25, in the evening.

Monirul's grudge began to grow when the girl's elder brother filed a case against him for attacking him five years ago and he had to spend six months in jail, said OC Manjur.

This incident led to the attack on the girl, the police official said.

In 2013, Monirul stabbed Sathi's brother and badly injured one of his hands with a hammer following a quarrel over playing carrom. The case is still under trial, said Sathi's father.

"It was five years ago. Meantime, we forgot our grievances. He [Monirul] was also trying to build a good relation with us," said the father.



Sathi Khatun

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# AL leader assaults 'rape victim'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A local Awami League leader allegedly tortured a woman who was reportedly raped and asked her to leave her village in Nandail.

The 22-year-old woman filed a case accusing Sohan Mia, 25, of Chandpur village yesterday, said Yunus Ali, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Stations.

She was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for tests, he added.

Locals alleged that Sohan took her to a shop on Monday night.

As she did not return home, her family members and neighbours went to look for her and found her in the shop with Sohan early in the morning.

Sohan tried to flee but was caught by locals.

In a village arbitration

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Google guru tests flying taxis in NZ



AFP, Wellington

Pilot-less flying taxis are being tested in New Zealand as part of a project backed by Google co-founder Larry Page that supporters say will revolutionise personal transport.

New Zealand regulators late Tuesday approved plans for Zephyr Airworks, a subsidiary of Page's company Kitty Hawk, to develop and test the futuristic air taxis.

Known as Cora, the electric aircraft has a dozen small lift rotors on its wings, making it capable of vertical take-off and landing like a helicopter.

But developers say it is much quieter, meaning it could transport passengers in urban areas using rooftops and car parks as landing pads.

"We are offering a pollution free, emission free vehicle that flies dependably, we think this is the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# Ensure safety, security of the Marma sisters

## Amnesty urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has urged the government to ensure safety and security of the two Marma sisters, one of whom was allegedly raped and the other sexually assaulted by members of security forces in January.

"Ensure immediate safety and security of the two Marma sisters with their consultation and consent and launch investigation into the sexual assault on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

ISIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING MARCH 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-45 6-18 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# NON-GOVT TEACHERS Demand for nationalising jobs illogical

## Says prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the non-government teachers' ongoing movement for nationalisation of their jobs illogical, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said their demand would not be met.

The government is considering a move to recruit teachers through the Public Service Commission, she said at a joint meeting of the Awami League and its associated bodies at the Gono Bhavan.

Leaders of the AL presidium, advisory council, central working committee and its front and associated bodies were present, said meeting sources.

Hasina, also the AL president, asked her party leaders to stand beside the families of the US-Bangla aircraft crash victims.

She also directed them to enquire about the condition of the victims' families

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Border Guard Bangladesh, near, personnel and members of the Myanmar Border Guard Police meeting on the Naf river near Teknaf yesterday morning as part of their joint patrol of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Tillerson warns about Russia

## Fails to thank or praise Trump in farewell speech; China hopes firing won't affect N Korea talks

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump threw US diplomacy into fresh turmoil by firing his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, and promoting two officials condemned by human rights groups for endorsing or overseeing torture.

A visibly shaken and demoralised Tillerson spoke briefly at the state department on Tuesday, without taking reporters' questions. He did not criticise Trump's decision but nor did he include the president in a list of thank-yous.

He warned of Russia's "troubling behaviour and actions" in a parting statement. "Russia must assess carefully as to how its actions are in the best interests of the Russian people and of the world more broadly," he said.

"Continuing on their current trajectory is likely to lead to greater isolation on their part, a situation which is not in anyone's interest."

The US has accused Russia of actively interfering in the 2016 presidential election, stealing Democratic party communications and pushing out disinformation through social media, claims Moscow denies.

Kremlin yesterday said ties with the US could not get any worse under next Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, after the sacking of Rex Tillerson, reported AFP.

"It's hardly possible to fall below the floor, so it is unlikely things will get any worse in this regard," President



SEE PAGE 11 COL 4