


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







Akaruzzaman Flyover
Chittagong

Principal Cement Brand



Businessman traceless for six days

Family alleges he was picked up by plainclothes men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman remained traceless for six days after some people identifying themselves as detectives had abducted him from his house in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area, said his family members.

Sazal Chowdhury, 46, who is involved in ship breaking business, was dragged out of his flat on the first floor of a building at Block-G and forced him into a microbus around 7:30pm on March 11.

The abductors also took away the CCTV footage recorder of the building.

Devdas Bhattacharya, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that no DB team picked him up. Several teams were working to find him.

Sazal's mother Diluara Begum went to Bhatara Police Station immediately after the incident, but police denied recording any case or general diary, alleged the woman.

Contacted, SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they registered the GD on Tuesday after an investigation.

Sazal Chowdhury

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FAREWELL, SOLDIERS

Top right, army chief General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq salutes four martyred Bangladeshi peacekeepers, killed in a mine explosion in Mali, after their namaz-e-janaza in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. *Bottom right*, army men standing before the photos of the four -- warrant officer Abul Kalam, lance corporal Aktar, sainik Rayhan and sainik (cook) Jamal. *Above*, military personnel carry one of the coffins before the martyred soldiers are flown from Tejgaon Old Airport to their village homes for burial.

Deputy Force Commander of United Nations in Mali Major General Amadou Kane came with the bodies of the troops as an honour to the valiant peacekeepers. Bangladesh is the second largest troop contributor to the mission in the West African country, according to the UN Peacekeeping website. Until December 2017, Bangladesh had 1,398 troops serving in Mali. In September 2017, three Bangladeshi peacekeepers were killed and four others injured in an explosion during a clash with criminals in that country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ROHINGYA CRISIS UN launches \$1b refugee fund appeal

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday launched an appeal for nearly \$1 billion to care for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, while underscoring that efforts must remain focused on securing the safe return to Myanmar of those displaced.

UN agencies asked for \$951 million (774 million euros) through the rest of the year to provide basic needs for the nearly one million Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh, including the almost 700,000 who have crossed the border since August.

The head of the UN refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, told reporters that the immediate concern was mobilising life-saving aid for refugees, especially with monsoon season approaching and tens of thousands of people living in areas prone to landslides and floods.

Grandi again acknowledged that it "may take a very long time" before any Rohingya can return to their home in

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Move on for 'Rakhinisation'

Myanmar's ethnic Rakhine migrants repopulate Rohingya-free buffer zone under a donor-led plan

AFP, Koe Tan Kauk

Buddhist flags hang limply from bamboo poles at the entrance to Koe Tan Kauk, a "model" village for ethnic Rakhine migrants shuttled north to repopulate an area once dominated by Rohingya Muslims.

The new arrivals are moving to parts of Rakhine state mostly "cleared" of its Rohingya residents, whose villages were bulldozed and reduced to muddy stains on a landscape of lush farmland.

The Rakhine migrants, who come from the poor but relatively stable south, are -- for now -- few in number.

But they carry great expectations as the pioneers of a donor-led "Rakhinisation" plan to upend the demography of the once majority-Muslim area.

"We were really afraid of those Kalars and didn't

plan to come here," Chit San Eain, a 28-year-old who has moved with her husband and toddler into a basic hut in Koe Tan Kauk tells AFP, using a pejorative term for Muslims.

"But now that they are no longer here, we have the chance to meet again with our relatives who live up here," she added, the ruins of a Rohingya settlement lying a few kilometres away.

Nearly 700,000 Rohingya have been driven from northern Rakhine into Bangladesh since August 25 last year by a Myanmar army offensive against Muslim militants.

Another 300,000 Rohingya were pushed out from the south and centre of Rakhine by army campaigns stretching back to the late 1970s.

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KHALEDA'S BAIL SC hearing tomorrow on pleas against HC orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to hear tomorrow four separate petitions filed in connection with a High Court order that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Two of the petitions were filed challenging the HC order that granted the bail and the two others for vacating the SC order that stayed the bail.

According to the SC website, all four petitions have been included as items No 9 and 10 on Sunday's cause list of the four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain.

The government and the

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Easter Island, its history vanishing

MAIL ONLINE

Easter Island and its mysterious history are slowly disappearing under rising seas.

In recent years, waves have begun to reach dozens of ancient statues that are dotted around the island's coast.

Many believe these stone statues, carved between 1100 and 1680, could hold clues as to why and how Easter Island's civilisation collapsed centuries ago.

But the UN has warned they could be engulfed by waves entirely, with sea levels set to rise as much as six feet by 2100.

Nicholas Casey, a New York Times correspondent based in Columbia visited the remote island

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Syrians from the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region, just outside Damascus, cross a regime-controlled corridor in Hamouria in Eastern Ghouta, after leaving the besieged enclave towards government areas yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

UK-Russia ties crash to post-Cold War low

Kremlin furious over linking Putin to ex-spy poisoning, set to expel British diplomats

AGENCIES

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday said statements by British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson tying Russian President Vladimir Putin to the attack on an ex-double agent were "shocking and unforgivable" as Moscow's relations with London crashed to a post-Cold War low.

Mentioning Putin in the context of Sergei Skripal's poisoning "is nothing but shocking and unforgivable behaviour from the point of view of diplomacy," Peskov said.

Speaking of Putin, Johnson yesterday said: "We think it overwhelmingly likely that it was his decision to direct the use of a nerve agent on the streets of the UK, on the streets of Europe, for the first time since the Second World War."

But Peskov repeated that "Russia has nothing to do with this story," in comments carried by Russian news agencies.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia are in critical condition after being exposed to a Soviet-designed nerve agent on March 4 in the English city of Salisbury, reported AFP.

Russia has denied any involvement, cast Britain as a post-colonial power unsettled by Brexit, and even suggested London fabricated the attack in an attempt to whip up anti-Russian hysteria.

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'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

An alleged leader of a robber gang was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Companiganj Upazila of Noakhali yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ibrahim Majhi, 50, from Urir Char union of Sandwip, Chittagong.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Meemtanul from Rab-7 said a gang of robbers, led by Ibrahim, was preparing to carry out a robbery in the coastal area. On receiving the tip-off, a Rab-7 team

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING MARCH 16

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 |

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