



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

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# Monitor pvt medical colleges

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to give special attention to private medical colleges to ensure that they are maintaining the standard of education properly.

"Private sector is coming forward, they are establishing medical colleges, but I will ask to give more attention to them to make sure that they are maintaining the standard of education and they have the proper medical curriculum," she said.

She said this while inaugurating the two-day Criticon Bangladesh 2018, 3rd International Conference on Critical Care Medicine and 1st National Conference on Critical Care Nursing at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital.

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# HC keeps article 70

Summarily rejects writ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the article 70 of the constitution under which lawmakers lose their seats in parliament if they vote in the House against their own party.

The bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of the article.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that article 70 of the constitution will remain in force.

Parliamentary membership of lawmakers who vote against their political parties will be cancelled, he added.

Full text of the HC observations was not released.

Deputy Attorney General Md Enamul Haque Molla told this correspondent that the HC rejected the writ petition on the ground that the court could not interfere in the article 70 of the constitution as the provision was incorporated in the constitution of 1972.

Though few amendments had been made to this article, its original provisions were established in the constitution, he

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# Dhaka air among the worst

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city's air again ranked as one of the most polluted in the world yesterday, according to the air quality index prepared by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

In the rating, the Bangladesh capital ranked fourth in a list of the most polluted cities in the world with an index value of 195.

Kathmandu was rated the most polluted with a value of 208.

According to the index, the air pollution level across the world varies from hour to hour and day to day.

In late February of this year, according to the same index, Dhaka ranked as the most polluted city in the world with a score of 339 and its air was classified as "very unhealthy."

The index has six categories indicating growing levels of public health hazards.

An air quality value over 300 indicates hazardous air

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# FISHING FEST

Once a week in the Bangla month of Chaitra, people of different ages in Dhamrai upazila go fishing in various waterbodies. This is not their profession, but only a hobby and they do it as part of a long tradition. In this photo taken yesterday from Hemayetpur in Savar, gleeful locals are showing off their catch.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# KHADEM RAHMAT ALI MURDER

## 7 JMB men to die, six acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A special court of Rangpur sentenced seven members of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh to death yesterday for killing Khadem Rahmat Ali in Rangpur's Kaunia upazila on November 10, 2015. They were also fined Tk 20,000 each.

The court also acquitted six other JMB men as the prosecution failed to prove their involvement in the killing.

Special Judge's Court of Naresh Chandra Sarkar declared the verdict in the presence of 11 accused out of 13, said Rathish Chandra Bhowmik, public prosecutor of the court.

Security was tightened in and around the court complex to ward off any untoward incident.

The condemned convicts are Masud Rana alias Montri, 33, Rangpur regional commander of the militant outfit, Ihsak Ali, 34, Liton Mia alias Rafiq, 32, Bijoy alias Ali alias Darji, 30, Shakhwat Hossain alias Rahul, 30, Sarwar Hossain alias Sabu alias Mizan, 30, and Chandu Mia, 20.

Of the seven, Chandu is on the run, said police.

Four of the seven -- Masud, Ihsak, Liton and Shakhawat -- had earlier been awarded the death penalty for killing Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in Kaunia on October 3, 2015.

The judgment was handed down on February 28 last year.

Those acquitted of the Rahmat Ali murder case are Abu Sayeed, 30, Toufiqul Islam alias Sabuj, 35, Jahangir Hossain alias Razib Gandhi, 26, Babul Aktar, 35, Sahadat Hossain alias Ratan, 23, and Nazibul Islam Mollah alias Badal alias Bhadhan, 25.

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# JS body seeks more money for defence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of parliamentary standing committee on defence yesterday urged the finance minister to increase defence budget.

It would be used for purchasing submarines, missiles, MiG fighter planes and other military hardware and equipment, said Subid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on defence.

"When the world is going forward in military power we will lag behind if the budgetary allocation for defence is not increased," he told a pre-budget discussion attended by Finance Minister AMA Muhith at NEC auditorium.

He urged the minister to give an additional Tk 5,000 crore for defence.

The finance minister in his speech said defence budget would be increased and urged the defence

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# Giant yellow duck goes missing off Australia



AFP, Perth

An Australian swimming club is appealing for ocean watchers to find their giant yellow inflatable duck Daphne, after the mascot was blown into the Indian Ocean with reported sightings hundreds of kilometres from where it was launched.

The duck, owned by Cockburn Masters Swimming Club, was last seen at Perth's Coogee Beach in the early hours of March 11 as organisers prepared for a carnival.

Club president Peter Marr said he tried to swim after Daphne, which is the size of a caravan, but it was moving too fast.

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# Boy's fingers severed over trifle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An influential local stabbed a child's hand and severed his fingers after he mistakenly damaged a portion of a dam at the Moynakhali embankment of Tahir upazila's Mohalia Haor yesterday afternoon.

The child, Yahin Miha, of the upazila's Sulemanpur village in Sunamganj, and a class two student of Sulemanpur Dakhil

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 19**

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



Turkish-backed Syrian rebels react in front of a burning shop in the city of Afrin in northern Syria, yesterday. Turkey's flag was flying in Afrin yesterday after its troops and Ankara-backed rebels chased out Kurdish militia forces to seize control of the Syrian city.

PHOTO: AFP

# ASEAN SUMMIT

## Suu Kyi under fire in Sydney

She is pressed on Rohingya crisis; bid to prosecute her for 'crimes against humanity' rejected

AGENCIES

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi was pressed about the Rohingya crisis at an Asean summit in Sydney yesterday, but the regional bloc stressed it could not intervene and "force an outcome".

Suu Kyi has been under intense global criticism for her public silence amid a brutal military crackdown that has forced nearly 700,000 of the Muslim-minority Rohingya to flee Myanmar's Rakhine state for Bangladesh.

The humanitarian crisis was one of the key topics at a three-day special summit between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Australia.

"We discussed the situation in Rakhine state at considerable length today," Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said at the closing press conference.

"Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the matter comprehensively, at some considerable length herself.

"It's certainly an issue that has been discussed and it is fair to say... very constructively, in our meeting.

"She seeks support from Asean and other nations to provide help ... from a humanitarian and capacity-building point of view.

"So our goal is to support a peaceful and speedy resolution of the humanitarian problems, the humanitarian disaster truthfully that has resulted from the conflict."

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