

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

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# Colossal loss

Buet study finds traffic jam eats up 5 million working hours a day in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic congestion in Dhaka eats up around 5 million working hours every day and the average speed of vehicles during rush hours has come down to 5kmph, according to the Accident Research Institute of Buet.

The congestion causes an annual loss of between Tk 20,000 crore and Tk 55,000 crore, says ARI, citing findings of organisations working on the issue.

"However, about 50 to 70 percent of the losses can be avoided through proper actions," ARI Director Prof Moazzem Hossain told a roundtable yesterday.

"Sixty percent of Tk 37,000 crore [half way between Tk 20,000 crore and Tk 55,000 crore] can be saved by those actions," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star later, Moazzem, a teacher at Buet's Civil Engineering department, said the ARI came up with the estimates analysing available data, including that of Government's Revised Strategic Transport Plan (RSTP) and Dhaka Urban Transport Network Development Study.

ARI and Road Safety Foundation, an organisation working for safe roads and driving, organised the roundtable titled "Traffic Congestion in Dhaka City: Economic and Health Problems" at the ARI building.

In July last year, a World Bank analysis had said in the last 10 years, average traffic speed in Dhaka dropped from 21kmph (kilometres per hour) to 7kmph, which was slightly above the average walking speed.

The speed may drop to 4kmph by 2035, slower than the walking speed, it added.

"Congestion in Dhaka eats up 3.2 million work hours

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Three indigenous women on their way home after fetching water from a stream in Chapainawabganj. Even though fresh water sources are not scarce in their village, they prefer to cook with water from the streams that are common in the region. The picture was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

## Two college teachers 'picked up' in Rajshahi

One returns home, other remains traceless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Unknown people abducted two college teachers in Rajshahi's Charghat upazila yesterday.

One of the teachers, Bazrul Islam, returned hours after the incident. The other teacher, Shafiqur Rahman, remained traceless.

Bazrul teaches Political Science and Shafiq English at Dakra Degree College in the upazila.

Quoting Bazrul, Charghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam said two unidentified men came in a motorcycle and intercepted Bazrul and Shafiq in Anupampur village around 11:00am while the two teachers were on their way home in another motorcycle.

Moments later, a black microbus appeared at the scene. Some men came out and forced the two teachers

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**MG!**

"Do we have to learn the standard of democracy from the Germans? From the country of Hitler?"

**HT IMAM**  
PM'S POLITICAL ADVISER  
ABOUT THE GERMAN STUDY THAT SAID BANGLADESH IS NOW AN AUTOCRACY

### Stop working, go home

GIZMODO.COM

The South Korea government has created an initiative to force its employees to stop working so much. Over the course of the next three months, it will shut down government computers progressively earlier on Friday nights.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government plans to start the initiative on March 30th, and will roll it out in three phases, according to the BBC.

For the first phase, all computers will be shut

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## KILLING OF BANGLADESHI CLERIC NY man faces life term in jail

AP, New York

A New York City man was convicted Friday of first-degree murder for the broad daylight killings of a Bangladeshi Muslim cleric and his assistant.

A state supreme court jury convicted Oscar Morel, 37, in the fatal shootings of Imam Maulana Akonjee and Thara Uddin, his friend and assistant. The men were shot as they walked home following prayers on August 13, 2016.

Richard A Brown, district attorney of the borough of Queens, called the killings "a senseless act of gun violence in the middle of the afternoon and carried out in a close-knit neighborhood filled with families and children."

Brown said in a statement that he hopes

Oscar Morel

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## Saudi Arabia opens airspace to Israel

Air India flight lands in Tel Aviv flying over Saudi airspace

AFP, Tel Aviv

Air India has launched the first scheduled service to Israel to be allowed to cross Saudi airspace, a sign of a behind-the-scenes improvement in ties between the Arab kingdom and the Jewish state.

Flight AI 139 landed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport about 30 minutes after its scheduled arrival time of 1945 GMT Thursday.

"This is a historic moment," Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Katz told AFP on the tarmac as the Boeing Dreamliner rolled to a halt.

"It is the first time that there is an official connection between the state of Israel and Saudi Arabia," he said in Hebrew.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin was also there to welcome the flight.

There will now be three flights weekly in each direction, ending a decades-long Saudi ban on the use of its airspace for commercial flights to Israel.

Israel's national carrier El Al currently operates an India service to Mumbai that takes a detour over the Red Sea to avoid flying over Saudi

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## FB lost \$58b after alleged data breach

STAR REPORT

A public apology by Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg failed to quell outrage over the hijacking of personal data from millions of people, as the tech giant ended the week \$58bn lower in value in the aftermath of the scandal.

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 25**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-45 6-20 7-45

JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 5-00 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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