



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

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# QUOTA REFORM DEMAND

## Demos roll into day 4

Students unite in protests; boycott exams, classes; 4 cases filed

STAR REPORT

Demonstrations seeking reform in the civil service quota system erupted across the country yesterday, as thousands of private and public university students, along with those from other institutions, took to the streets to press home their demands.

They boycotted classes and exams, blocked nearby roads and highways and organised rallies for four consecutive days until Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced in parliament all sorts of quota privileges would be abolished in the public service yesterday.

At the central programme, several thousand students gathered at TSC in Dhaka University, while others from different institutions gathered on their campus or nearby areas. There were no major incidents.

However, there were incidents of sporadic violence during the four days.

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Students demanding reforms to the quota system in government jobs march near Dhaka University's TSC yesterday afternoon. A young man on wheelchair also joined the procession.

PHOTO:  
AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Bus crushes university student's leg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was working for a firm to support her education as her father's business was not going well. She was dreaming that in a month or two, she would finish her MBA, get a better job and run the family all by herself.

But the dream was dealt a blow yesterday.

Around 9:00am, a bus smashed her right leg against the base of a pavement in the capital's Farmgate, badly displacing the shin.

It happened as Runi Akhter, a student of University of Development Alternative (UODA) in Dhanmondi, was about to take another bus to go to her

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## Repatriation a priority

Myanmar minister tells refugees in Cox's Bazar; UNSC team likely to visit Bangladesh on Apr 29-30

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing international pressure, Win Myat Aye, an influential Myanmar minister who is overseeing repatriation of the

Rohingyas, yesterday met the refugees in Cox's Bazar and assured them to take them back and try to give them citizenship.

The social welfare, relief and resettlement minister, who made a rare trip to the Rohingya camps along with an 11-member delegation from Naypyidaw, also told the refugees that repatriation is a priority of his government and would start as soon as possible.

"The most important thing is to start the repatriation as soon as possible. We can overcome all the difficulties," Win

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## 'Get ready Russia'

Warns Trump after Moscow threatens to shoot down US missiles; Syria evacuates air bases fearing imminent strikes

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Russia of imminent military action in Syria over a suspected poison gas attack, declaring that missiles "will be coming" and lambasting Moscow for standing by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Trump was reacting to a warning from Russia on Tuesday that any US missiles fired at Syria over the deadly assault on a rebel enclave would be shot down and the launch sites targeted.

His comments raised fears of direct conflict over Syria for the first time between the two world powers backing opposing sides in the country's protracted civil war, which has aggravated instability across the Middle East.

"Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria. Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and 'smart!'," Trump wrote in a post on Twitter.

"You shouldn't be partners with a Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it!" Trump tweeted, referring to Moscow's alliance with Assad.

Trump in another tweet said US-Russian relations are "worse now" than ever, "and that includes the Cold War," reported AFP.

Russia has meanwhile taken to stronger and stronger warnings.

"We would hope that all sides will avoid steps that in reality are not provoked by anything and that could destabilise the already fragile situation in the region," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"The situation is tense," Peskov said, adding that Russia is calling for an "unprejudiced and objective investigation before making judgements" on

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## TEEN'S DEATH IN CUSTODY

### Judicial probe ordered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered judicial enquiry into the death of teenage boy Rakib Halwader allegedly in the custody of Wari police.

The move came after Rita Akter, mother of the 15-year-old boy, filed a murder case with the court against Wari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam, Inspector (investigation) Mohammad Selim, Sub-inspector Jyotish Chandra, and police source Mosarraf.

The law enforcers had claimed that Rakib was a suspect in at least three cases -- one for mugging and two for murders -- and that he was killed in a "gunfight" during a police drive in Wari's Joy Kali Mandir area in the early hours of April 6.

They also said Rakib had "stabbed" Daffodil

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## World's first 'singing road' closed



MAIL ONLINE

Dutch bureaucrats are pulling the plug on the country's first "singing road" that was designed to slow down speeding motorists.

Grooves etched into the asphalt of the N357 road at the village of Jelsum belted out the national anthem of the Friesland region when hit at over 60 kilometres per hour.

"You are now approaching a singing road," read the signs on the approach to the sleepy village.

But while drivers were reminded to take their foot off the accelerator when they hit the musical grooves too fast, locals say they were driven nuts by hearing the tune repeatedly throughout the day and night.

"It was intended as a funny campaign," said Gerrit Hofstra, spokesman for the province of Friesland.

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## Bangabandhu-1 to be launched on May 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu-1, the first commercial satellite of the country, will be sent into orbit on May 5 and it will be ready for use within two months of launch.

Through an email yesterday, SpaceX, the American company assigned to launch the satellite, said Bangabandhu-1 will be launched for its orbital slot on 119.1 degree east on May 4 evening US time. In Bangladesh time, it will be early morning of May 5, said

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING APRIL 11**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-45	6-24	7-45
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	5-00	6-28	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Govt may unmask loan defaulters thru' media

Says finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will consider unmasking bank loan defaulters through the media, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday in parliament.

Their names and addresses could be published periodically, he said responding to a supplementary question of independent lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi.

"They [loan defaulters] gobbled up the money that could have been invested in various sectors," the minister said.

Muhith said on several occasions he had given lists of loan defaulters to parliament. "For this, the members of the parliament helped me, they wanted to see the lists. I gave the lists several times," he said.

He said he had not considered publishing the names in newspapers. "But surely that can be done, I think this proposal might be considered for future," he said.



With only a couple days to Pahela Baishakh, students of Dhaka University's fine arts faculty are busy preparing the richly coloured masks that are the main features of the Mangal Shobhajatra, a procession to celebrate the Bangla new year. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO:  
PRABIR DAS

## Facebook in 'arms race' with Russia

Zuckerberg sorry for data breach, vows to work harder to block hate speech in Myanmar

AGENCIES

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg accepted personal responsibility Tuesday for the leak of data on tens of millions of its users, while warning of an "arms race" against Russian disinformation during a high-stakes hearing with US lawmakers.

In his first formal congressional appearance, the Facebook founder and chief executive answered questions for nearly five hours as he sought to quell the storm over privacy and security lapses at the social media giant that have angered lawmakers and the network's two billion users.

Under mounting pressure over the hijacking of its user data by a British political consultant, Zuckerberg reiterated his apology for the historic breach, before being grilled over how Facebook collects and protects people's personal information.

"It was my mistake, and I'm sorry," Zuckerberg said about the improper sharing of 87 million people's information by Cambridge Analytica, a firm working for Donald Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"I started Facebook, I run it and I'm responsible for what happens here."

He added that Facebook fell short in protecting the platform, noting: "That goes for fake news, foreign interference

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