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

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5 killed in 'shootouts' in one day

STAR REPORT

Five people, including three alleged robbers, were killed in "shootouts" with law enforcers in Dhamrai, Brahmanbaria, and Rajbari yesterday.

In Dhamrai on the outskirts of the capital, three suspected robbers were killed in what the Rapid Action Battalion claimed to be a gunfight.

The deceased aged between 30 and 40 were yet to be identified.

Col Anowar Zaman, company commander Rab-2, said a gang of seven robbers on three motorcycles were preparing to rob Tk 60 lakh of an NGO in Kelea area. The money was about to be deposited in a local bank, he said.

Following a tip-off, a team of Rab-2 rushed to the area. The alleged robbers first tried to flee but started firing at Rab members when being chased.

The Rab team retaliated with gunfire, said Col Anowar, adding that later three were found lying on the spot with bullet injuries.

Doctors at Dhamrai Upazila Health Complex declared the three dead on arrival.

Three pistols and some bomb like objects were recovered from the spot, he said.

Rab said they believe the deceased were members of a gang called Rashid Bahini.

In Brahmanbaria, a man was killed in a "shootout" near Akhaura Titas Railway Bridge early yesterday, hours after he

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is addressing a discussion on "Educate to empower: Making equitable and quality primary and secondary education a reality for girls across the Commonwealth" at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka wants sustainable solution: PM

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh wanted a peaceful, sustainable and an early solution to the Rohingya crisis as the country was now bearing the entire brunt of the recent exodus of persecuted Myanmar nationals.

"Some 1.1 million Rohingyas are now in Bangladesh. We've given them shelter on humanitarian grounds. Many world leaders visited Rohingya camps to see their plight," she said.

The prime minister was delivering her speech at an event titled "Bangladesh's Development Story: Policies, Progresses and Prospects" at Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London as the keynote speaker.

She said although Bangladesh had achieved successes in various sectors, this did not mean that there were no further challenges. "We face the challenge of

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'Licensed' guns going to criminals

Say counter terrorism officials

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

To make money, some authorised arms dealers are allegedly selling legally imported and licensed guns to underworld criminals and their accomplices.

Using drill machines, the dealers erase the serial numbers from the weapons before handing them over to their new "owners".

A legally imported pistol or revolver is being sold at between Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 7 lakh.

Such sensational information came to light after the Arms Enforcement Team of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism (CT) unit recovered a German revolver and arrested two persons in this connection. The incident happened in the capital's Kamalapur area on Monday night.

The arrestees were identified as Jakir Hossein alias Bacchu, 45, and Safiullah Sikder Babu, 34.

The CT team also claimed to have recovered nine bullets from the duo.

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Raped, killed because they are Rohingya

Rights activist tells Security Council debate, urges UN to refer Myanmar to ICC for horrific crimes against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rohingya rights activist has asked the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court immediately for its horrific crimes, including sexual violence against Rohingya women, and violations against other ethnic groups in Myanmar.

"Where I come from, women and girls have been gang-raped, tortured and killed by the Myanmar army, for no other reason than for being a Rohingya," said Sultana Razia, a lawyer who specialises in trauma, mass rape, and trafficking of Rohingya girls and women.

She said her research showed that Myanmar troops raped well over 300 women and girls in 17 villages in Rakhine State since August last year.

"With over 350 villages attacked and burned since August 2017, this number is likely only a fraction of the actual total number of women raped," she said at the Security Council's open debate on preventing sexual violence in conflict yesterday.

The debate, presided over by Peru, takes place at a time when Myanmar's military has been put on a UN list of government and rebel groups "credibly suspected" of carrying out rapes and other acts of sexual violence in conflict. The Security Council is also preparing for a visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh later this month.

Myanmar's military crackdown forced some 700,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh. Doctors without Borders said 6,700 Rohingyas were killed in just one month since the atrocities began late August.

"The widespread threat and use of sexual violence was integral to their strategy, humiliating, terrorising and collectively punishing the Rohingya community and serving as a calculated tool to force them to flee their homelands and prevent their return," said the UN Secretary General's report on sexual violence in conflicts, released on March 23.

The violence is linked with an inflammatory narrative alleging that high fertility rates among the Rohingya community represents an existential threat to the majority population in Myanmar, it said.

Razia Sultana, a senior researcher with Kalanda

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Bangladeshi among Reuters' Pulitzer-winning team

UNB, Dhaka

Mohammad Ponir Hossain, a Bangladeshi photo-journalist, is one of the photography staff of the Reuters' team that won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography documenting the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The Reuters photography staff member was honoured for images of the violence endured by the Rohingya, a Muslim minority, as they fled Myanmar for Bangladesh, according to global media reports.

"The extraordinary photography of the mass exodus of the Rohingya people to Bangladesh demonstrates not only the human cost of conflict b u t

Shab-e-Barat on May 1

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed on May 1 as the Shaban moon was sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation office at Baitul Mukarram last evening.

Shamim Mohammad Afzal, director general of Islamic Foundation and member secretary of the National Moon Sighting Committee, chaired the meeting.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 18

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

JU teachers scuffle over appointments

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of teachers at Jahangirnagar University (JU) are accusing each other of "physical assault". The trouble began when a faction of pro-Awami League teachers called for a strike yesterday.

The teachers, loyal to ex-VC Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir, padlocked the university's transport office around 4:30am as part of their pre-scheduled strike.

On Monday, under the banner of "Bangabandhu Adarsha O Muktiyuddher Chetonay Bishwashi Progotishil Shikkkhok Shomaj", the group declared that they would hold a programme the next day (yesterday) protesting the violation of the university acts, statutes and syndicate by the current Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam.

When the group of six teachers put the transport office under lock and key, another group consisting of

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Buses try to overtake each other on Topkhana Road in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon. Fatal road accidents are common in the capital, where disregard for traffic rules is widespread. A victim of such reckless driving, college student Rajib Hossain died of his injuries at a city hospital early yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ILIAS ALI DISAPPEARANCE

Six years on, no progress in probe

RASHIDUL HASAN

The family of BNP leader M Ilias Ali has expressed frustration as police are yet to find any clue about the whereabouts of Ilias, six years after he went missing.

Disappointed with the probe, his wife Tahsina Rushdir on Monday told The Daily Star that law enforcers contacted her only in the first four to five months after her husband had gone missing.

"After that," she said, "no one from law enforcement agencies communicated with us or informed us about the progress."

"We are investigating [the incident] to find out Ilias based on the general diary filed in this connection. But there is no specific progress as of now," said BM Forman Ali, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station where the GD was lodged on May 2012.

Talking to this correspondent on Monday, the police official also said they were working as per the High Court directives to know the whereabouts of Ilias.

He refused to elaborate how they were working, saying that it might hamper the investigation.

Ilias, the then organising secretary of the BNP, went missing along with his driver in the wee hours of April 18, 2012. His car was found abandoned in Banani with all its four doors flung open.

Victim's wife Rushdir said, "My husband was a former lawmaker. It is the government's responsibility to find him."

"The government or the law enforcement agencies might have thought that we have forgotten him as years have passed. But the memory of Ilias Ali haunts me and my children every

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