

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'  
একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো-  
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# Only the best for mother and child

Upazila health complex in Dinajpur leads quiet revolution in maternity care

KONGKON KARMAKER with ANDREW EAGLE

For over 75 years, the Finnish government has been giving a "baby box" of clothes, sheets, toys and supplies to every expectant mother. A matter of national pride, the initiative is credited with helping Finland achieve one of the world's lowest infant mortality rates.

Since last July, each baby born at the Birganj upazila health complex in Dinajpur is also provided with a gift hamper. It is but one part of a quiet revolution in maternity healthcare being implemented by local doctors, midwives and public officials. With the aims of eliminating unnecessary caesarean section delivery and enhancing accessibility, the Birganj healthcare team is setting an example for others to follow.

The driving force behind the change is the upazila's health and family planning officer, Dr Zahangir Kabir. "Most pregnant women, especially from rural areas, don't take full advantage of public healthcare. For reasons including a lack of awareness and financial hardship, many mothers-to-be experience pregnancy at home. It is one cause of high mortality rates among mothers and newborns."

An associated problem is the overuse of caesarean section delivery at public facilities. The World Health Organisation reports that caesarean section is used in around 37 percent of deliveries in Bangladesh, while a reasonable rate would be close to 10 percent.

"People run after caesareans," remarks Dinajpur's civil surgeon Dr Mawla Baksh Chowdhury. "It's a risky option." Moreover, the overuse of costly caesareans has helped earn the public system a reputation for being expensive.

Together with local doctors and midwives Dr Kabir favoured change. They aimed to increase the percentage of natural births at the complex, to implement free, quality antenatal and postnatal care for mothers and infants, and to raise awareness of the risks of caesarean and home delivery.

Their first move was to develop the first floor of the complex into a maternity friendly environment with a well-equipped obstetrics department, a six-bed labour ward, antenatal and postnatal care units and a well-coming breastfeeding corner.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Government officials, doctors and midwives along with four newborn babies and their mothers pose for a photograph at Birganj Upazila Health Complex of Dinajpur. Because of its good service, this medical facility has already managed to have 145 normal deliveries this year, compared to just 94 in 2016. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY Opposition moves to impeach CJ

REUTERS, New Delhi



Dipak Misra

India's opposition parties launched an unprecedented bid to impeach the country's top judge yesterday, submitting a motion accusing him of failing to protect the independence of the judiciary from executive interference among other charges.

The petition, backed by lawmakers from seven parties, raised five charges against Chief Justice Dipak Misra, including an accusation he arbitrarily used his power to allot sensitive cases and questioning his conduct in the acquisition of land.

Misra came under a cloud in January when the four next highest-ranking judges

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

## Dozens of Rohingya arrive in Indonesia

At least 80 of the persecuted minority group from Myanmar came in a boat

AGENCIES

About 80 Rohingya in a wooden boat arrived in Indonesia yesterday, officials said, the latest batch of the vulnerable minority to come ashore in the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

The group landed in Aceh province on Sumatra island, just weeks after dozens of the persecuted Muslim minority from Myanmar came ashore in neighbouring Malaysia.

All appeared to be in good condition, according to local police chief Riza Yulianto, who added that it was not clear how long they had been at sea.

"Thank God they're all healthy even though a few are just children," he told AFP.

"We have given them food and we are thoroughly checking their health one by one."

It has been rare for Rohingya migrants to attempt the sea routes south since Thai authorities clamped down on regional trafficking networks in 2015, sparking a crisis across Southeast Asia as large numbers were abandoned at sea.

But there have been concerns desperate migrants might start taking to the high seas again after mainly Buddhist Myanmar launched a new crackdown last year that forced about 700,000 members of the Muslim minority to flee to Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## Dr Kamal for acceptable JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the upcoming parliamentary polls have to be acceptable to all so that people's rights can be ensured.

"It has to be an election through which they [people] can get back their rights," he told a discussion in the city's Mahanagar Natyamancha in the capital.

Jatiya Oikya Prakria, a citizens' platform formed by Kamal, organised the programme titled "Expectations Confirmed in the Constitution of Bangladesh, Present Situation and Doable".

Addressing the event as

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

## World's largest plane set to take flight



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The largest plane ever built – backed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and his company Vulcan Aerospace – is set to take full flight for the first time within months.

Known as Stratolaunch, the huge aircraft is so big that it requires two cockpits and six jet engines to take off.

The aircraft also has a wingspan of 385 feet, over a hundred more than the average football pitch.

Its six Pratt & Whitney PW4056 747 jet engines are used to power a monster jet with 28 wheels that weighs 580 tonnes when fully loaded with a rocket payload.

It is believed the plane may be used to launch a rocket under the codename Black Ice. Initial details

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

## Cop's body recovered from river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Body of a police constable was recovered yesterday about 21 hours after he had jumped into the Kaliganga river in Manikganj to catch a fugitive.

Divers from the fire service's Dhaka unit recovered the body of Shahinur Rahman from the river in Joynagar area around 1:30pm, said Rifat Rahman Shamim, superintendent of police in the district.

Shahinur, son of Wahidur Rahman of Gohailbari village in Ashulia upazila of Dhaka, was posted at Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

According to his elder brother Shamim Hossain, Shahinur joined the police

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## Near miss at Tribhuvan

All 139 abroad safe after Malaysian jet skids off runway as pilots abort takeoff

AFP, Kathmandu

A Malaysian jet carrying 139 people that aborted its takeoff and skidded into mud forced Kathmandu airport to shut down for more than 12 hours causing flight chaos yesterday after the latest near miss on the city's notoriously dangerous runway.

Nobody was hurt in the incident but hundreds of passengers had flights out of the Nepalese capital cancelled and all incoming flights were diverted after the Malindo Airlines Boeing 737 went off the runway late Thursday.

The jet was speeding down the Tribhuvan International Airport runway when the pilots detected a problem and aborted takeoff, airport spokesman Prem Nath Thakur said.

The jet skidded into grass and came to a halt in mud about 100 feet (30 metres) from the runway at the airport which had a major crash last month.

"All aboard are safe," Thakur said, adding that the cause of the cockpit alert was not immediately known.

Nepal's only international airport reopened again just before midday after the jet was "removed without any damage," Thakur added.

More than 100 people were needed to move the jet, its tyres stuck in grass that

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Onlookers watch Nepali workers trying to bring a Malindo Airlines Boeing 737 back onto the runway at the international airport in Kathmandu yesterday after it skidded off the runway following an aborted take-off. The airport was closed following the incident, officials said. Nobody was hurt in the incident but incoming flights to the Nepali capital were diverted.

PHOTO: AFP

## Headmaster found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Headmaster of a primary school was found dead in Dumuri village of Bogra's Adamdighi upazila yesterday.

The victim, Abdur Rashid, 57, was the headmaster of Dumurigram Government Primary School.

Police detained a couple, neighbours of the teacher, for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Rashid left his house around 8:00 pm on Thursday, telling his wife

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center  
PRAYER TIMING  
APRIL 21  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-27 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-31 8-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION