

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

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# Water running dry in hills

CHT villages losing springs, streams

ANVIL CHAKMA, SAIKAT DEWAN and ANDREW EAGLE

Every day, 30-year-old Ruposhi Chakma has to walk three kilometres to reach a well, to fetch water for her five-member family. In Chela Chhara village in Rangamati's Kawkhali upazila where she lives, there isn't a nearby water source anymore. An increasing number of families in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are facing the same problem. Over the last five years, countless springs and streams that were once reliable for water are now dry.

Chela Chhara is home to around 150 Chakma families and once had no less than seven springs to rely on for water. "They all dried up," says one villager. "We dug a 15-foot well in a stream bed to access water but it is quite some distance from our houses."

In nearby Upor Para village the situation is similarly bleak. "During the dry season even our well has no water," says housewife Suchona Chakma. "To fetch water in these months involves a difficult two kilometre trek through hilly terrain."

Committee secretary of a local conservation group, Sudatta Bikash Tangchangya believes indiscriminate environmental destruction is to blame. "Many trees have been felled. Stones have been extracted from streams, undermining water retention capacity," he says. "This summer's crisis stems from rampant environmental damage inflicted by vested quarters."

To make matters worse, in parts of Rangamati streams were disturbed by the landslides of 13 June last year, with dislodged stones halting previous water flows.

Nor are wells always a viable alternative. "We dug up to

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Villagers collect water from a well in Chela Chhar village in Rangamati's Kawkhali upazila. Members of Chakma families have to walk around three kilometres to fetch water as springs and streams in the hill district are running dry. They spend hours every day carrying water. Inset, two children collect water from a well in Khagrachhari's Kamini Para village. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# AL hopeful of Teesta deal

Says Quader on return from Delhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday expressed optimism that Bangladesh and India would reach an agreement to resolve the longstanding Teesta water-sharing issue.

"We talked about the crisis over the Teesta river water. If the Teesta water-sharing deal is signed during the tenure of the two prime ministers, it will create a tremendous goodwill in both countries," said Quader, also road transport and bridges minister.

He was talking to reporters after landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from India. An AL delegation, led by Quader, made a three-day visit there at the invitation of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

With the parliamentary elections in Bangladesh just months away, the 19-member team went to India on Sunday and held talks

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# Belal Chaudhuri passes away

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned poet, Language Movement veteran, journalist and organiser Belal Chaudhuri passed away yesterday noon. He was 79.

He had been suffering from multiple ailments and was put on life support at a hospital in the capital on Friday, said his son Abdullah Yusuf Protik.

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# TORONTO ATTACK

# Driver charged with murder of ten

AFP, Toronto

A van driver who ran over 10 people when he plowed onto a busy Toronto sidewalk was charged with murder yesterday, as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged a rattled nation not to live in fear after the "senseless attack."

Police said the suspect, 25-year-old Alek Minassian, was not known to them before Monday's carnage in Canada's most populous city, which also left 15 people injured.

He also was not in the crosshairs of intelligence and security agencies, leading Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to sideline the theory of a terror attack such as those carried out by extremists in London, Nice and other major cities.

"On the basis of all available information at the



Alek Minassian

present time, there would appear to be no national security connection to this particular incident," Goodale said.

But authorities said the incident during the busy lunch hour Monday was undoubtedly deliberate, and Minassian - his head shaved, and in a white police jumpsuit - was charged with first degree murder in a brief court appearance.

He also faces multiple counts of attempted murder over those injured in the incident.

Two South Koreans were among the dead, a foreign ministry official in Seoul told AFP, adding that another of the country's citizens seriously injured.

As the wounded recovered in local hospitals, federal, provincial and local investigators were

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# First lab-bred coral created to save reefs

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Genetically engineered coral has been created by a team at America's prestigious Stanford University, in a project they hope will serve as a "blueprint" for future coral conservation.

For the first time, researchers were able to apply a unique tool called CRISPR-Cas9 to edit coral genes.

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# Child rape suspect killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man accused in a child rape case was killed in a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-7) early yesterday at Banskhali upazila in Chittagong.

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

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

AZAN 4-20 12-45 4-45 6-29 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A contractor of Dhaka North City Corporation has dug up the road near Moghbazar Wireless Gate to lay drainage pipes. Construction materials and old pipes have been left on the road, choking the busy thoroughfare. This has been causing suffering to commuters for weeks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Trump, Macron seek new Iran measures

The move comes as deadline looms

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron pledged yesterday to seek stronger measures to contain Iran, as the U.S. leader considers whether to ditch an international accord meant to prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

At a joint news conference after lengthy talks, Trump did not repeat threats to withdraw from the 2015 agreement with Iran which was negotiated by his predecessor, former President Barack

Obama, but made clear he has little patience for staying in the deal.

Midway through a three-day state visit by Macron, the two leaders were remarkably chummy, repeatedly shaking hands and extolling each other's friendship.

The friendliness extended to their talks on Iran, Syria and trade but there was no indication of a breakthrough on Macron's bid to persuade Trump to keep the United States in the Iran nuclear deal, maintain U.S.

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**Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited**  
71-72 Old Elephant Road, New Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

**NOTICE**

The construction work for first Metrorail in Bangladesh is progressing in full swing. To maintain ongoing construction work safely and smoothly, the median of the road and also some parts of the either side of the road from Pallabi to Agargaon are barricaded. As a result, the regular space for plying the vehicles on the road has now been reduced to some extent. In these circumstances, both the users and vehicles plying on the road from Pallabi to Agargaon are earnestly requested to use alternative road.

For this issue, we need co-operation from all citizens of Dhaka city. The concerned authorities of Metrorail apologises for temporary inconvenience for the sake of greater development.

**Duly Request By: Metro-Rail Authority**

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