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THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES  
ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420  
BSRM ULTIMA BARS





Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress  
using Shah Cement



# Trapped in uncertainty

*Around 1,200 Santal families in Gaibandha yet to be rehabilitated 2 yrs after their houses were torched*

MOSTAFA SHABUI

Santina Tudu, 60, is now all by herself and begging is her sole means of survival.

She is among many Santals who are still dealing with the consequences of a clash over a disputed piece of land in Shahebganj farm area of Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha on this day two years ago.

"I have nobody in this world. Who will look after me?" said Santina, who lost her husband in the clash and her only daughter moved away with her husband.

The government had acquired the land in 1962 from the Santals for sugarcane cultivation for the Rangpur Sugar Mill. The condition was that the land would be returned to the Santals if the mill went under, which it eventually did.

Backed by local influentials, the police launched an eviction drive on November 6, 2016. They opened fire on the Santals leaving three dead, many injured, and many more missing. A village was razed and the Santals' properties were either destroyed or looted.

Since the eviction, about 1,200 Santal families had been living in tents in Joypurpara and Madarpur villages.

Worse off are the ones who suffered gunshot injuries and have splinters in their bodies.

Dizen Tudu of Joypurpara village was shot in his left eye.

"I have lost the eye. Now I cannot go outside because the

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Hopna Marmu, 60, shows marks of bullet wounds in his chest. He was shot when police opened fire on his community members during an eviction drive in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj two years ago. *Top right*, fearing arrest over cases filed at that time, women hardly go outside their village. *Bottom right*, X-ray plate shows bullet fragments below the knee of another 50-year-old man. The photos were taken last week.



PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

## Ex-AL leader, another get death penalty

*They were involved in genocide, crimes against humanity in 1971*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday found two people, including a former leader of Habiganj Awami League, guilty of crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 and sentenced them to death.

The convicts were awarded the punishment for their direct involvement in genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated in three upazilas -- Lakshai of Habiganj, Nasirnagar of Brahmanbaria and Astogram of Kishoreganj.

Liakat Ali, 63, former president of Lakshai upazila AL, and Aminul Islam alias Rajab Ali, 62, of Astogram upazila, are now on the run.

Liakat was a commander of local "Razakar Bahini" and Aminul a commander of local "Al-Badr Bahini". They, however, used to move together in the

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## Let them exercise freethinking

*Urge speakers about young people while sharing experience from youth confce*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's youth must get an environment conducive to exercising free-thinking and they will oppose anything that infringes upon their freedom of expression.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), made the observation yesterday at a press briefing in the capital's CIRDAP auditorium.

The briefing was held to disseminate information and experiences from the Youth Conference 2018, which was organised by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh last month.

At the conference, about 2,000 young people from varied segments of the society spoke of their aspirations and what makes those difficult to achieve.

Those aged between of 18 and 35 should be aware of social, economic and political phenomenon and be actively engaged in national aspects if the state wants to meet the 2030s goal of economic growth, inclusive society and environment-friendly development, Debapriya said.

In this regard, he added that ahead of the 11th national election, members of the civil society want to sit with political parties so that their election manifestoes prioritise development of young people, including those from relatively backward regions.

In a statement, speakers at the briefing stressed the need for employment of the youth to achieve the target of "Leave no one behind" by 2030 through education compatible with the economic and technological development,

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## KHASHOGGI KILLING Riyadh sent two experts to hide murder

Says Turkey

AFP, Istanbul

Saudi Arabia sent two experts to Istanbul with the specific aim of covering up evidence after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its consulate in Istanbul, a Turkish official said yesterday.

More than a month after the Saudi royal-insider-turned critic was killed inside the mission on October 2, Turkey has still yet to recover the remains amid claims that his body was dissolved in acid.

The killing of the 59-year-old has severely dented the kingdom's image in the West and put powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the defensive.

"We believe that the two individuals came to Turkey for the sole purpose of

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## World's first-ever underwater hotel



CNN ONLINE

For once, it's an opportunity to sleep with the fishes that doesn't mean you end up like a character in a mob movie.

The Conrad Maldives Rangali Island has opened the world's first-ever underwater hotel residence.

More than just a room or a suite (this is the Maldives, after all, so luxury is the name of the game), the two-story villa is set more than 16 feet below the Indian Ocean. Its name is "Muraka," which means "coral" in the Maldives' local language Dhivehi.

In addition to a bed, shower and the other typical components of a hotel room, the Muraka takes luxury travel to another level with a private gym, a bar,

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## 'Drug dealer' shot dead in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A suspected drug trader was killed in what police said was a gunfight between two groups of drug dealers in Kushtia's Bheramara upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ratan Ali, 25, son of Moyen Ali of Coalgram village in the upazila.

Khondokar Shamim Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bheramara Police Station, said two groups involved in drug dealing traded gunshots at Coalgram village in the upazila following a dispute.

On learning about the shooting, a police team rushed to the spot around 3:30am.

"On their arrival police found a dead body on the spot," Shamim Uddin said, "who was later identified as Ratan."

Police also recovered a

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## Kader joins Oikyafront

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran freedom fighter Kader Siddique and his party Krishak Samik Janata League (KSJL) yesterday joined the Jatiya Oikyafront, a newly floated political alliance.

KSJL President Kader Siddique made the announcement at a press conference at the party's central office in Dhaka's Motijheel. Several leaders of the party and the Oikyafront were present.

"From today, we are joining the Jatiya Oikyafront for an acceptable national election... We will work for the Oikyafront with all our

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Jatiya Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain receives a written pledge of allegiance to the Oikyafront from Krishak Samik Janata League President Kader Siddique. Kader went to Kamal's chamber in the capital's Motijheel yesterday afternoon to announce his decision.

## US reinstates Iran sanctions

*Defiant Rouhani vows to continue selling oil; Israel thanks Trump as China denounces US move*

AGENCIES

A defiant Iran said it will "proudly bypass" sanctions by the United States that took effect yesterday targeting the Islamic republic's vital oil and financial sectors.

The measures described by Washington as "the toughest sanctions ever" come six months after US President Donald Trump's controversial decision to abandon the multi-nation nuclear deal with Tehran.

"I announce that we will proudly bypass your illegal, unjust sanctions because it's against international regulations," Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech.

"We are in a situation of economic war, confronting a bullying power. I don't think that in the history of America, someone has entered the White House who is so against law and international conventions," he added.

In one of Tehran's bazaars, there was anxiety over the future.

"The shadow of the sanctions has already affected the economy in a disastrous way, people's purchasing power has plunged," said Ehsan Attar in his herbal remedy shop.

"The US is just like a bully, as long as you listen to them they leave you alone, otherwise it will try to suffocate you."

Trump has made Iran a foreign policy priority since taking office, accusing it of spreading terror and seeking to destabilise the Middle East.

He detested the nuclear pact forged by his predecessor Barack Obama and five other world powers, finally deciding to abandon it in May.

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**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 6**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION