



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



INT'L MIGRANTS DAY TODAY

Losing all to 'free visas'

Deceived by brokers, many migrant workers return home empty-handed from Middle Eastern countries

PORIMOL PALMA

Luring jobseekers to work independently and earn more abroad, brokers charge them high recruitment fees to have "free visas".

But these visas don't offer them a better future by any means.

Take for example the case of Abul Kalam. The 44-year-old man from Cumilla's Barura had spent Tk 4.5 lakh to go to Qatar on a "free visa" on December 18 last year. He has recently returned home empty-handed.

"I lived in Doha for nearly eight months, but worked only for two and a half months. I was jobless for the rest of the period," he told The Daily Star.

Kalam, father of three children, said he had earned QR 2,050 (Tk 46,000) as a day labourer in construction firms and he was left unpaid for more than a month.

He had to borrow Tk 20,000 to return home.

Now working as a carpenter, Kalam is struggling to bring up his family and finance his children's education.

"Like me, many other Bangladeshis have been facing a similar situation in Qatar," he said.

The Gulf country now hosts around 400,000 Bangladeshis.

A Bangladeshi contractor in Qatar said thousands of Bangladeshis were supposed to be jobless because they went there on "free visas". Many of them were returning home, a trend that mainly began since the imposition of a blockade by Saudi Arabia and its allies in June last year.

The Saudi-led blockade severed diplomatic relations

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Lying on a median strip, a man tries to shelter himself from rain with a plastic sheet near Dhaka University's Curzon Hall yesterday. Many parts of the country experienced light rain and chilly winds as an impact of cyclonic storm "Phethai". Inset, rickshaw passengers use plastic sheets to shield themselves from rain while crossing the same area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Cyclonic storm sends mercury tumbling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People across the country experienced light rain, along with chilly wind, as impact of the cyclonic storm "Phethai" forming over the West-central Bay and the adjoining South-western Bay.

The sky was covered in clouds and the sun remained out of sight in most parts of the country, while the temperature fell, especially in the north.

According to the Met office, the lowest temperature was recorded at 9 degrees Celsius in Tentulia, while the highest at 31 degrees Celsius in Teknaf.

The Phethai, the third cyclone to form in the bay in the last three months, weakened yesterday and moved towards the Southern coast of India, hitting the Coastline of Andhra Pradesh (near Kakinada) yesterday afternoon, a special bulletin of the Met office said.

The Met office yesterday forecasted light to moderate rain likely to occur in a few places of Dhaka, Khulna

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Man kills wife, 2 kids, takes own life

AGENCIES

A young man reportedly died by suicide after killing his wife and two minor children at Debpur village in Chandpur early yesterday.

They were identified as Mainuddin, 30, his wife Fatema Begum, 24, their five-year-old daughter Mithila and one-year-old son Siam.

Mainuddin's elder brother, Jasim Uddin who lives in Malaysia, informed their mother over phone around 4:00am that Mainuddin had uploaded video with his youngest child and talked at length about how he, and his wife and children, were going to die. He also wrote about his death on his Facebook wall.

Jasim Uddin then asked his mother to go Mainuddin's house to know about their condition.

Later, his mother Firoza Begum and younger brother Kalam Sarder went to the house. After entering his room, they found the bodies of the two children on the bed while Mainuddin's body was hanging from the ceiling.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed to the spot and informed police about the matter.

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PETITION ON NO-CONFIDENCE IN HC BENCH

Khaleda's lawyers seek one more day

To ask for sending BNP chief's 3 petitions to chief justice today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's lawyers yesterday sought a day from the High Court bench of Justice JBM Hassan to submit a petition expressing "no confidence" in the bench.

The bench, which has been assigned by the chief justice to dispose of the three writ petitions regarding cancellation of Khaleda's nomination papers, gave them the time until 10:30am today.

Bodruddoza Badal, a lawyer for Khaleda, told the bench that they could not complete the swearing affidavit on her (no-confidence) application yesterday.

Earlier in the day, Khaleda's lawyers AJ Mohammad Ali and Badal took time from the court, saying that they would submit the application by 2:00pm yesterday.

During the court proceedings in the afternoon, Justice Hassan told the lawyers that they were not interested to move the petitions before his bench, although the bench considered those an urgent matter related to election.

The judge also said the lawyers kept him waiting for nothing.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told the court that Khaleda's lawyers could not understand what they should do.

After the court proceedings, Badal told The Daily Star that the no-confidence application would be submitted today. In it, Khaleda will request the bench to send her writ petitions to the chief justice, the lawyer said, adding that she has no confidence in the bench of Justice JBM Hassan

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Indian forces lock down Kashmir city

Several separatist leaders detained

REUTERS, Srinagar

Indian police yesterday detained separatist leaders in the disputed Kashmir region and sealed off roads in an effort to stifle protests against the killing of civilians on the weekend.

Unrest has intensified over recent weeks in the Muslim-majority region at the heart of decades of hostility between India and Pakistan, and seven civilians were killed on Saturday when security forces opened fire at a protest over the killing of three militants.

Separatists leaders Mohammad Yasin Malik and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said they were detained as they marched towards an army headquarters in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar.

Another leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was under house arrest, police said.

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4,400-yr-old tomb discovered in Egypt



CNN ONLINE

A more than 4,000-year-old private tomb containing "exceptionally well-preserved" drawings has been discovered south of Cairo, according to Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities.

Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said the tomb had been discovered at the Saqqara archaeological site and was from the 5th dynasty of the pharaohs, which ruled roughly 4,400 years ago.

The tomb belonged to a royal purification priest known as "Wahtye," al-Anani said in a statement. Inscriptions suggested the priest had served during the reign of King Nefer-Ir-Ka-Re and was the king's supervisor and inspector of the holy boat.

Al-Anani said the tomb's walls were decorated with coloured scenes depicting Wahtye with his mother, wife and family.

The head of the excavation mission, Mostafa Waziri, said other drawings showed wine and

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Ex-Indian MP gets life over anti-Sikh riots

AFP, New Delhi

A veteran Indian politician was yesterday given a life sentence over anti-Sikh riots in 1984 that killed nearly 3,000 people following the assassination of then-premier Indira Gandhi.

The Delhi High Court found Sajjan Kumar, 73, guilty of instigating mobs during the mass killings triggered by the death of Gandhi at the hands of her Sikh bodyguards.

At the time Kumar was an MP with the then-ruling

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RESOLUTIONS ON KHASHOGGI, YEMEN

Saudi slams US Senate vote

Warns the move could impact strategic ties with Washington

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday slammed as "interference" US Senate resolutions over its war in Yemen and critic Jamal Khashoggi's murder, warning that the move could have repercussions on its strategic ties with Washington.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted on Thursday to end American military support for a Riyadh-led war in Yemen, and separately held Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for Khashoggi's killing.

The largely symbolic vote dealt a fresh warning to President Donald Trump, who has staunchly backed the Saudi regime in the face of intense global outrage that analysts say has left the kingdom diplomatically weakened.

"The kingdom condemns the latest position of the US Senate that was based on unsubstantiated allegations and rejects the blatant interference in its internal affairs," the foreign ministry said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency.

On the Yemen measure, which more broadly attacks the president's prerogative to launch military action, 49 Democrats or their allies voted in favour, along with seven

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Branch Opening

SHARAF BHATA BRANCH

United Commercial Bank Limited www.ucb.com.bd

UCB is now at Sharaf Bhata, Chattogram

UCB with its 186th Branch, is going to start the journey from today, 18 December 2018 at Sharaf Bhata, Chattogram. We are looking forward to serve you with all modern banking facilities. We cordially welcome you to our new branch to experience the difference.

Mr. Asifuzzaman Chowdhury, Director, United Commercial Bank Limited will inaugurate the branch as **Chief Guest**.

Address:
Asma Bhaban (1st floor)
Sharaf Bhata, Rangunia
Chattogram

united we achieve | **UCB**