



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

BSRM Ultima

HIGHEST SELLING
CEMENT 12
for more than years

SHAH
CEMENT

CANCER DETECTION

Mobile clinic offers free diagnosis



MD FOISAL AHMED

When it comes to breast and cervical cancer detection, a small mobile clinic has been able to make great strides.

Lack of awareness coupled with social stigma discourages marginalised women in Bangladesh to take treatment for breast and cervical cancers, a problem experts believe can be eliminated through extensive outreach programmes.

Conventional awareness programmes are not enough to have patients seek medical help, they said, adding the patients do not get treatment due to poor socio-economic status and social stigma.

A Mobile Clinic Vehicle (MCV), launched recently, is being deemed a handy tool to influence breast and cervical cancer patients in remote areas.

Funded by a trust, the mobile clinic, first of its kind in Bangladesh, was launched in Rajshahi in August this year. The clinic is well-equipped and runs ultrasonography, mammography and other necessary tests to detect cancer for free.

Its medical team includes one male and one female physician, one nurse, two paramedics, and one technician, said Patrick Bipul Biswas, founder of the mobile screening unit.

A bitter experience in 2014 led him to create the alternative,

Hatred blamed for rise in journo murders: RSF

AFP, Paris

Hatred whipped up by "unscrupulous politicians" has contributed to the shocking rise in the number of journalists murdered in 2018, a media watchdog said yesterday.

Eighty journalists have been killed worldwide so far this year -- most notably the Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi -- with 348 in jail and 60 more held hostage, according to figures from Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

"Violence against journalists has reached unprecedented levels this year,"

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When hope turns into despair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When celebrations were underway at the city's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre (BICC) on International Migrants' Day yesterday, Rimon Hossain was waiting at the Dhaka airport for his father to pick him up.

He arrived at the airport at 12:30am after he had been in jail in Malaysia's Malacca for four months, even though he had valid work visas that he secured by spending Tk 3.5 lakh.

He said he and five other Bangladeshis had gone to Malaysia late July this year and were at a market in Malacca, though they were originally hired for a company in Kuala Lumpur. Both the companies were owned by the same family, he said.

"We had worked for only 18 days without pay and then we were detained and kept in an immigration camp for more than four months," said Rimon Hossain, father of an 11-year old boy, sitting in his Meherpur-bound bus

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Trump agrees to shut charity accused of illegality

AFP, New York

President Donald Trump has agreed to close down his personal charity, the Trump Foundation, the New York attorney general said Tuesday, accusing it of engaging in a "shocking pattern of illegality" to advance his political and business interests.

The Trump Foundation would be dissolved and its remaining assets distributed to other charities under her supervision, attorney general Barbara Underwood said in a statement.

Underwood said there had been a "shocking pattern of illegality involving the Trump Foundation -- including unlawful coordination with the Trump presidential campaign, repeated and willful self-dealing, and much more."

"This amounted to the Trump Foundation functioning as little more than a checkbook to serve Mr. Trump's business and

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Poacher sentenced to watch 'Bambi'



AFP, Chicago

A judge in Missouri has sentenced a prolific poacher to repeat screenings of "Bambi," the Walt Disney classic weepy about a fawn whose mother is slain by a hunter.

David Berry Jr will be forced to watch the animated movie at least once a month during his year-long jail term, the result of what law enforcement officials described as one of their largest-ever poaching investigations.

Berry and two family members were arrested on charges of killing hundreds of deer over three years, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation, which announced the sentence in a December 13 statement.

"If Bambi gets the point across to him, I don't have a problem with it," Lawrence County prosecutor Don Trotter told BuzzFeed News.

"The deer were trophy bucks taken illegally, mostly at night, for their heads, leaving the bodies of the deer to waste," said Trotter.

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Onslaught on Tangail hillocks

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

The landscape and ecosystem in Tangail are under threat as "influential people" are flattening hillocks, which are a geological feature of parts of the district.

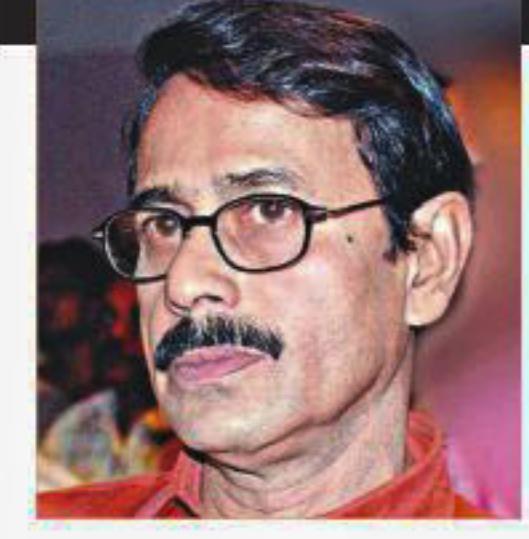
The Tangail Sal forest grew around these hillocks, which are now disappearing, said Somnath Lahiri, senior research officer at the Tangail unit of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

About three decades ago, these hillocks, locally known as "Chala" and "Tila", was covered in vegetation and was a habitat for birds and snakes. Razing the hillocks also raises the risk of landslides, he added.

A recent study by the Department of Environmental Science and Resource Management of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University found that hillocks in Gazipur and Tangail were undergoing a transformation due to commercialisation and urbanisation.

Through sources and field trips, this correspondent found hillocks being cut at 13 places in Ghatail, Kalihati, and Sakhipur upazilas -- Deopara, Tegurichala, Ghoramara,

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Saidul Anam
Tutul passes
away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned director and freedom fighter Saidul Anam Tutul passed away yesterday at the capital's Labaid Hospital in Dharmundi. He was 68.

Tutul had been suffering from a heart disease and was admitted to the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) on December 16.

The news was confirmed by his cousin eminent actor Tariq Anam Khan, and General Secretary of The Directors' Guild SA Haque Olike.

Tutul was born and brought up in Dhaka. He began his career as an actor in his teens, and was regularly featured on television and

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Caught in light rain,
labourers cross
Topkhana Road
in the capital
yesterday.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON



PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 19

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

