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Dheki lives on to make pitha tasty



Remember “dheki chhata chal”? The rice finely threshed in a “dheki”, a heavy wooden pestle that was once popular among rural women in Bangladesh, has made a comeback to give the “puli pitha” (rice cakes) its unique taste for the inhabitants of a village in Rajshahi.

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



A volunteer holds a scale model of a Shaheed Minar on the premises of Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. People from all walks of life placed wreaths at the monument in a show of respect to the language heroes, who laid down their lives on February 21, 1952 to establish Bangla as a state language. More on pages 3, 5.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

21 forever

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the nation paid homage to the Language Movement heroes on the International Mother Language Day, people visited the capital's Central Shaheed Minar.

Bare-foot and adorned in black-and-white, they placed floral wreaths at the monument and stood in silent remembrance those who embraced martyrdom to make Bangla the state language in 1952.

To mark the day, different political parties, their front organisations, as well as socio-cultural organisations chalked out programmes. Law enforcement agencies took adequate security measures in and around the Central Shaheed Minar to ensure peaceful observance of the day.

On February 21, 1952, students and people from all walks of life took to the streets in Dhaka to protest

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12 held with over one lakh yaba pills in Cox's Bazar

11 of them Rohingyas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday detained 11 Rohingya men with 100,000 yaba pills from a fishing trawler on the Bay of Bengal in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Lieutenant Faizul Islam Mandal, station commander of coast guard in St Martin's Island, said all the detained Rohingyas were from Myanmar's Maungdaw.

Acting on a tip-off, coast guard members conducted a drive in the South-East area of the Bay and recovered the large consignment of the crazy pills, he said.

"Thus, we prevented the yaba pills from entering Bangladesh," the coast guard official said.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

JeM plans even bigger strike

Warn Indian intelligence inputs; opposition renews attacks on Modi after Kashmir suicide blast

AGENCIES

Emboldened by its success in the Kashmir suicide bombing, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) plans to carry out another guerrilla attack of a much bigger magnitude, intelligence intercepts of conversations on February 16-17 between JeM leadership in Pakistan and its terrorists in Kashmir have revealed.

As per the intercepts, exclusively accessed by TOI, Jaish terrorists resolved to execute another bombing to cause massive casualty to Indian security forces. On Wednesday, a top intelligence official said various inputs from different quarters indicated that there could be a major attack either in Jammu or outside J&K.

Quoting intel sources, TOI had reported on February 19 that a 21-member JeM squad, including three suicide bombers, had infiltrated into Kashmir in December last year to launch three attacks, including two outside the valley.

The intercepts picked up by the agencies also revealed that JeM is to release the video of the preparations of the Pulwama suicide bombing preparations. Intelligence analysts said the release of the video is intended to glorify 20-year-old Adil Ahmad Dar, who rammed his explosive-laden Maruti Eeco van into one of the buses of the 78-vehicle CRPF convoy, killing 40 jawans on February 14. The video could help Jaish recruit more gullible and radicalised Kashmiri youth into suicide bombing missions, an analyst said.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Trump bars IS woman from returning to US

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump said Wednesday he is barring a US-born former Islamic State propagandist from returning home, making the highly unusual case that she is not a US citizen.

Trump's refusal to admit 24-year-old Hoda Muthana comes just as he is pressing Europeans to repatriate their own Islamic State fighters and will likely face legal challenges, with US citizenship extremely difficult to lose.

Trump said on Twitter he has "instructed" Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "not to allow Hoda Muthana back into the country" -- a break with usual US protocol not to comment on individuals' immigration issues.

"Ms. Hoda Muthana is not a US citizen and will not be admitted into the United States," Pompeo said in a terse statement.

"She does not have any legal basis, no valid US passport, no right to a passport, nor any visa to travel to the United States," he added.

The US generally grants citizenship to everyone born on its soil and the

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China unveils first female AI anchor



MAIL ONLINE

China's state-run press agency has welcomed its first female AI anchor who will join its growing team of virtual presenters.

The female AI newsreader will make her professional debut during the upcoming meetings of the country's national legislature and top political advisory body in March, according to Xinhua at a press conference on Tuesday.

Modelled after the agency's flesh-and-blood journalist Qu Meng, the AI newsreader was jointly developed by Xinhua and search engine company Sogou.com and can "read texts as naturally as a professional anchor".

"Hello everyone, I am the world's first female AI presenter developed by Xinhua News Agency and Sougu. My name is Xin Xiaomeng," says the journalist in an introductory video.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

'Rohingyas attack' German journos in Ukhia camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A group of Rohingyas in Ukhia's Kutupalong refugee camp attacked six people, including three German journalists, and snatched valuables from them yesterday.

The attackers also vandalised their cars, said police and witnesses.

Surat, a community leader of the camp, said the attackers thought the journalists were child traffickers.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-30 4-30 6-03 7-30

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



WINGS OF WETLAND

A white-breasted waterhen (Dahuk) treads on a wetland in Pirojpur town's Masimpur area recently. Locals say the number of the waterbird, which makes loud and repetitive croaking calls during the breeding season, has come down in the area.

PHOTO COURTESY: SM PARVEZ

গুণমাত্র রেজিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসক এর ব্যবস্থাপত্র মোতাবেক নিয়মিত এন্টিবায়োটিক সেবন/গ্রহণ করুন।

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ট্রেটার মার্ক যুক্ত

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