

**"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"**

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

**BSRM**  
building a safer nation

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge  
We forge steels with the same expertise

**Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**

Work in progress using Shah Cement

**SHAH CEMENT**

# Golan belongs to Israel: US

Trump signs decree angering Syria; world rejects move; air raids pound Gaza after rocket hits near Tel Aviv

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday declared that the Golan Heights belongs to Israel, a move that risks plunging the volatile region in a new crisis.

With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looking over his shoulder at the White House, Trump signed a proclamation officially granting US recognition of the Golan as Israeli territory - a dramatic shift from decades of US policy.

The move immediately triggered global anger and a sharp response from Syria, which once held the strategic land.

Netanyahu was visiting Washington for the conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the pro-Israel US lobby, but cut his visit short after a rocket fired yesterday from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip hit a house north of Tel Aviv, lightly wounding seven Israelis in an unusually long-range attack.

He arrived in Washington on Sunday, originally for a four-day trip.

Just as Netanyahu entered the White House, Israeli warplanes struck targets in Gaza linked to Hamas -- which denied carrying out the attack -- with the prime minister vowing to respond "forcefully to this wanton aggression."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Fire and smoke billowing out of buildings in Gaza City during reported Israeli strikes yesterday. Inset, US President Donald Trump holds a proclamation recognising Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights as he is applauded by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others at a ceremony in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

## Student, biker killed in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed after being run over by a bus in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

Nur Islam Shanto, 28, was a mechanic of a motor workshop in the Bijoy Sarani area, police said.

He was on his way to Mirpur when a bus of Tetulia Paribahan hit his motorcycle from behind on Begum Rokeya Sarani in Shewrapara area in the morning, said police, quoting witnesses.

"Losing control, Shanto fell on the road and was run over by the bus as the driver sped up the vehicle in an attempt to escape the scene immediately," Abdus Salam, a nearby street vendor told The Daily Star.

"Had the driver stopped right after the first hit, the biker could have survived," Salam said.

Later, the passengers and nearby pedestrians caught

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## HSC EXAMS Coaching centres to be shut for 36 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has imposed a 36-day closure on all coaching centres across the country from April 1, when the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations will begin.

Education Minister Dipu Moni made the announcement yesterday after holding a meeting at her office at the ministry. The measure was taken to prevent question paper leaks.

The HSC exams are to be held across Bangladesh from April 1 till May 11, according to schedule.

Dipu Moni also gave briefing on some general guidelines for the HSC examinees, including instructions for examinees to enter the exam centres

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 26**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-45 6-20 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 5-00 6-25 8-15  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Rigging claims mar Thai election

Pro-Thaksin party threatens legal action as military-backed party projected to retain power; final results delayed until May 9

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's first general election since a military coup five years ago was thrown into disarray yesterday as two opposition parties alleged cheating and the election commission said it could be weeks until the make-up of parliament becomes clear.

Confusion over the outcome of Sunday's election raised the spectre of a protracted struggle to form a government, spoiling hopes of a clear cut result that could have ended 15 years of political turmoil in Southeast Asia's second largest economy.

Both the pro-army party seeking to keep coup leader Prayuth Chan-ocha on as prime minister and the opposition party linked to self-exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, claimed they would command enough parliamentary seats to form a coalition government.

The pro-Thaksin Pheu Thai party said it was considering a legal challenge over what

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**THAILAND VOTE**

Leading contender as of Monday morning, March 25

Prayut Chan-O-Cha  
Current Prime Minister  
**65 YEARS OLD**

His army-linked Phalang Pracharat party, gained more than 7.6 million votes with 93% of ballots tallied, according to the Election Commission

The main Pheu Thai party was trailing by nearly half a million votes on Monday morning

SOURCE: THAILAND MEDIA/THAI ELECTION COMMISSION © AFP

**HOW THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE FORMALLY CHOSEN**

**THE PRIME MINISTER**  
Decided by a simple majority vote in the lower and upper houses of parliament

LOWER HOUSE	UPPER HOUSE
500 Representatives in a system of mixed-member proportional representation	250 Senators
350 directly elected by voters	244 chosen by junta
150 seats for parties of the elected candidates	6 seats reserved for the armed forces leaders

## Dhaka not in a hurry

Says state minister on shifting Rohingyas to Bhasan Char

REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is not in a hurry to relocate Rohingya refugees to a Bay of Bengal island, a minister told Reuters yesterday, after the United Nations sought more details on the government's plan.

Bangladesh wants to move 100,000 of the nearly 1 million Rohingyas sheltered in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar to the remote island, known as Bhasan Char, which it has been developing for the past two years.

The UN is making plans to help Bangladesh with the move, Reuters reported on Saturday.

But in a statement yesterday, the world body called for a thorough assessment to ensure the viability of the move, saying it was discussing "critical protection and operational issues" ahead of any relocation.

"We're also examining the potential operational implications of setting up a humanitarian response on Bhasan Char, including the requirements, time frames and costs involved," it said.

Bangladesh is in talks with UN humanitarian bodies, and working on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## British Airways flight ends up in wrong city

AFP, London

A British Airways plane yesterday flew by mistake from London to Edinburgh instead of Dusseldorf in Germany.

Passengers only found out about the mishap when the pilot said the plane was coming in to land in Edinburgh, which is around 500 miles (800 kilometres) from Dusseldorf.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



## MOSQUE MASSACRE NZ orders top-level probe

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday ordered an independent judicial inquiry into whether police and intelligence services could have prevented the Christchurch mosque attacks on March 15.

Ardern said a royal commission -- the most powerful judicial probe available under New Zealand law -- was needed to find out how a single gunman was able to kill 50 people in an attack

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

## DISPOSAL OF WAR CRIMES APPEALS

# Investigation agency frustrated over delay

It calls for setting up special bench of the SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of International Crimes Tribunal yesterday expressed frustration over the delay in disposal of appeals against the verdicts in war crimes cases.

The agency also called for setting up a special bench of the Appellate Division to deal with the appeals filed with the Supreme Court by convicted war criminals or the government.

Coordinator of the agency Abdul

Hannan Khan and Co-ordinator Sanaul Huq said these at a press conference at their Dhanmondi office yesterday on the ninth anniversary of the formation of ICT and its prosecution and investigation teams.

The agency also revealed the investigation findings in a case filed against nine Gaibandha men over wartime crimes.

The Awami League-led government formed the ICT-1 on March 25, 2010 to try alleged war criminals. A second tribunal,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

**স্বাধীনতা ও জাতীয় দিবস**

আজকের এই মহান দিনে  
সকল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও শহীদের প্রতি  
আমাদের বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

**মুজিব বর্ষ**  
যুগান্তকারী অর্জন এবং উন্নয়নের অব্যাহত অগ্রযাত্রা  
বঙ্গবন্ধুর বাংলাদেশকে নিয়ে যাবে অনন্য এক উচ্চতায়।

**সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড** **জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড** **অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড** **রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**

উদ্ভাবনী ব্যাংকিং এ আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সঙ্গী **www.sonalibank.com.bd**  
উন্নয়নে আপনার বিশ্বস্ত অংশীদার **www.jb.com.bd**  
দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ **www.agranibank.org**  
উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা **www.rupalibank.org**