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# Rakhine land grabbed in Barguna

## Agricultural land taken from 20 for building power plant

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, back from Barguna

Around 70 acres of agricultural land of some 20 Rakhine people have allegedly been grabbed by a private company for setting up a coal-fired power plant in Barguna's Taltali upazila.

The landowners said their complaints with the district administration were in vain.

The allegations came at a press conference at Barguna Press Club on February 1.

Speaking at the programme, Mr. Ang Mog of Pawapara village said, "I have around 7.5 acres of land near the Chhoto Nishanbaria Mouja. But they [people from the power plant] have grabbed it all and dug the ground without my permission."

His land's *khatian* (land record) number is 274 and *dag* (plot) numbers are 502 and 503.

He also said he submitted a written complaint to the Barguna deputy commissioner, but no action was taken yet.

Montaja Mog of Ankujana Para in the

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From left, a parcel of land being prepared to set up a power plant in Barguna's Taltali upazila. Top right, a signboard, put up by Iso Tech Power Plant, says the plant was approved by the government, but locals claim around 70 acres of Rakhine land was allegedly grabbed for its construction. A Rakhine man shows a deed as proof of ownership of part of the land grabbed.



PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



# Dreams incomplete

## Rana Plaza hero Himu dies by suicide

FAHMIM FERDOUS

From a young age, he believed in helping people in whatever way he could. Whether it was staging protests for the causes he believed in, saving lives of people trapped in building collapses, or rescuing stray animals in distress, he believed in acting upon his beliefs.

But such a life dedicated to the service of others came to a tragic end on Wednesday in a suspected suicide. He was 28.

Nawshad Hossain Himu, fondly called Himaloy Himu by his friends, was found on fire by

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# Another young life lost on road

## Brac University student run over by pickup in capital, seven others killed in two dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was on track to be an engineer and make her family's dream come true. But her life was cut short by a road crash yesterday.

Fahmida Haque Labannya, 21, a third-year student of computer science and engineering department at Brac University, was killed after a pickup hit the motorcycle she was riding on from behind and ran over her, witnesses said.

The incident took place in front of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area around 11:15am while she was on the way to her university as the pillion passenger of a motorbike hired from the ride-sharing platform Uber.

Police identified the driver as one Suman, 23, who also got hurt in the incident and took primary treatment at the emergency section of nearby Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. But police could not find him there as he left the hospital before they arrived.

The tragic accident left the family in shock. Farhanul Haque Mridul, younger brother of Fahmida, said her sister left their Shyamoli residence around 10:30am.

"She had a dream. She was going to be a computer engineer soon," said the lamenting mother of Fahmida.

Sohel Rana, an eyewitness of the incident, said the bike was on the middle of the street around 11:15am when a lorry hit the motorcycle.



Fahmida Haque

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# DEATH OF ABRAR Suprobhat owner charge-sheeted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday submitted two charge sheets against Suprobhat Paribahan owner and three of its staffers in a case filed over the killing of university student Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury in a road accident last month.

They were charge-sheeted in two charges -- one for murder of Abrar and the other for attempted murder of college girl Synthia Islam Mukta.

Inspector of Detective Branch of police Kazi Shariful Islam, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The accused are owner of Suprobhat Paribahan Noni Gopal Sarker, its bus driver Sirajul Islam, conductor Yasin Arafat and

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# Speak your mind

## Brain implant translates thought to speech

AFP, Paris



People unable to communicate due to injury or brain damage may one day speak again, after scientists on Wednesday unveiled a revolutionary implant that decodes words directly from a person's thoughts.

Several neurological conditions can ruin a patient's ability to articulate, and many currently rely on communication devices that use head or eye movements to spell out words one painstaking letter at a time.

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, said they had successfully reconstructed "synthetic" speech using an implant to scan the brain signals of volunteers as they read several

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# US-led blitz killed 1,600 civilians

AFP, Beirut

Intensive US-led coalition bombardment on the Syrian city of Raqa killed more than 1,600 civilians over four months in 2017, according to a report released yesterday.

The findings were compiled after months of field research and extensive data analysis, including via a project that saw 3,000 digital activists scan satellite imagery online.

In mid-2017, Raqa had

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**PRAYER TIMING APRIL 26**  
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-20 12-30 4-45 6-29 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 2 housewives, 10-year-old girl raped

STAR REPORT

Two housewives and a third grader were allegedly raped in Patuakhali, Mymensingh and Panchagarh on Wednesday.

The same day, a college teacher was arrested on charges of sexually harassing an HSC examinee in Sirajganj.

In Patuakhali, a woman and her husband went to visit a relative's house in a village under Kalapara upazila. Around 9:00pm, four youths came to that house and asked the couple to show their marriage documents.

At one stage, they forcibly took the woman to a nearby field and one of them raped her, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalapara Police Station, quoting the victim's family.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed there, but the culprits managed to flee the scene.

Following the incident, the husband filed a case, accusing the four -- Rasel,

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# Welcoming a winged newcomer

MOSTAFA SHABUIJ, Bogura

Birdwatchers across Bangladesh already have an abundance of bird species to watch, photograph and marvel at. However, every now and then, one will get lucky enough to find a new addition to our already blossoming flora and fauna.

One such lucky birdwatcher was Nayem Islam, a 19-year old birdwatcher, when he spotted the Rusty-tailed flycatcher in Bogura's Gandagram village recently.

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# Panic grips Sri Lanka

## Country on edge with security scares; death toll revised down to 253 from 359; defence secy quits

AGENCIES

Sri Lankan authorities yesterday locked down the central bank and shut the road leading to the jittery capital's airport because of a bomb scare as more people were swept up in the search for those behind Easter Sunday bombings.

Two bank officials told Reuters the street outside the building near the World Trade Centre in the capital, Colombo, was blocked to traffic before the security alert was lifted.

Underscoring the nervous atmosphere in the Indian Ocean nation, authorities also shut the entry road to Colombo's main airport after a suspicious vehicle was spotted at a car park. The road was reopened when the alert was declared a false alarm.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan authorities yesterday lowered the death toll in the Easter bombings by more than 100 to 253, admitting some of the badly mutilated bodies had been erroneously double-counted.

Catholic church also suspended all public services over security fears yesterday, as thousands of troops joined the hunt for suspects.

A senior Catholic priest told AFP that all public services were being suspended "on the advice of security forces". Private burials will still be carried out.

A police spokesman said there was an explosion in a

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