

Facebook CEO

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can't fall back asleep," Zuckerberg wrote in the caption.

The 34-year-old explained that the wooden box is placed on his wife's nightstand, and emits a faint, glowing light at the bottom between 6:00am and 7:00am.

The light is "visible enough that if she sees it she'll know it's an okay time for one of us to get the kids, but faint enough that the light won't wake her up if she's still sleeping".

As the sleep box doesn't show the time, if Chan wakes up in the middle of the night and sees that there's no light being emitted, she "knows to just go back to sleep without having to worry about what time it is".

So far, Zuckerberg's practical creation has been working successfully, he revealed on Instagram.

"As an engineer, building a device to help my partner sleep better is one of the best ways I can think of to express my love and gratitude," the technology entrepreneur wrote.

Zuckerberg added that a few of his friends have expressed interest in the device, which is why he shared his invention on social media "in case another entrepreneur wants to run with this and build sleep boxes for more people".

Several people have praised the Facebook creator over his practical invention, with his Instagram post garnering almost 450,000 likes in a day.

"Genius," commented entrepreneur Dave Morin. "Oh yeah," remarked America's Next Top Model host Tyra Banks.



Bollywood actor Aamir Khan along with his wife and film director Kiran Rao pose for photographs after casting their vote at a polling station in Mumbai yesterday. Voting began for the fourth phase of India's general parliamentary elections as Indians exercise their franchise in the country's marathon election which started on April 11 and runs through to May 19 with the results to be declared on May 23.

PHOTO: AFP

Violence mars phase-4 voting

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The BJP is in a direct, and sometimes bloody, fight in West Bengal with Trinamool, whose chief, Mamata Banerjee, is one of Modi's biggest critics and a possible prime ministerial candidate.

The BJP holds only two of West Bengal's 42 parliamentary seats.

"We have asked for central forces at all polling booths so that free and fair elections can be held in the state," said Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, a minister in Modi's cabinet, referring to federal paramilitary police.

Modi told a rally in West Bengal that at least 40 Trinamool state lawmakers were in touch with him and would leave the party after votes are counted on May 23.

Trinamool accused Modi of attempting to horse-trade, telling him: "Nobody will go with you".

In disputed Jammu and Kashmir state's Anantnag constituency, which is voting in three phases due to security concerns, paramilitary forces fired teargas and pellets to disperse

youth throwing stones at them, a police officer said.

Four persons suffered pellet injuries, of which two had been hospitalised in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, the officer said, declining to be identified since he was not authorised to speak to the media.

'SOME PROGRESS'
More than 128 million people are eligible to vote in this round of the seven-phase election held across 72 seats in nine states. The election commission said about half of them had voted by mid-afternoon.

Modi's coalition won more than 75 percent of the seats in the nine states in the previous election, in 2014.

Many of the constituencies are in Uttar Pradesh state in the north and western India's Maharashtra, where the financial capital Mumbai is located. Uttar Pradesh elects the most lawmakers, with Maharashtra next and West Bengal third. The two former states are ruled by the BJP and its allies.

However, political analysts say

the BJP may struggle to repeat its strong showing this time due mainly to a jobs shortage and weak farm prices, issues upon which the main opposition Congress party has seized.

First-time voter Anika Bhavke, a college student in Mumbai, said she voted for economic development.

RICH INDIANS VOTE
Billionaires and Bollywood stars urged Indians to go out and vote as they took their turn with Mumbai's millions of slum dwellers yesterday to cast ballots.

At least 40,000 police and security personnel were deployed across the megacity of 20 million people while workers were given a holiday to vote for Mumbai's six lawmakers. Twenty-six of the 10,000 polling stations were staffed by women only.

Media scrums were set up at the stations where India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, Bollywood superstars including Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan, as well as Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar voted, reported AFP.

98-yr-old forced

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According to the case statement, the total amount of land is 1,658 decimals (16.58 acres), and Tk 1.6 crore was cited as the price.

Mukuli Bhattacharjee, a neighbour, said, "It was almost evening on April 10... We saw some 12 to 13 people led by Kamrul Islam Helal enter the house of the teacher, introducing himself as a Juba League man.

"They shut the door and windows of the house and threatened us not to come close to the house," she said. "They threatened to burn our houses if we let anyone know."

After the news spread, the residents of Joy Kali Bazar area where the house is located started protesting including on social media. "As we started the protest, the grabbers threatened to kill us and burn our houses with gunpowder," said Jony Dey, a local farmer. "We have to keep watch at night fearing attacks."

Papia Chakraborty, daughter of Pranab Chakraborty, said they live in the city. Her grandfather and aunt Ratna used to live in the house in Anwara. "Helal and his cohorts forcibly took my father to Anwara from the city at gunpoint," she said.

that time, the grabbers forced them to sign the deed transferring the land ownership.

The Daily Star called Helal by phone several times but his phone was switched off.

Asim Kumar Deb, chairman of Union No. 7 of Anwara, said, "We informed the matter to our lawmaker, who is also the land minister. He instructed the police to take action against the grabbers."

Mahbub Milki, inspector (investigation) of Anwara Police Station, said they were trying to arrest the accused. "We will investigate whether the stamp was signed forcibly."

Contacted, Land Minister Saifujaman Chowdhury Javed said he was aware of this matter. "I can assure you that the perpetrators would not be spared," he said.

"I've asked the leaders of the Hindu community and local public representatives to work on it, and they would give me a feedback soon."

He denied that Helal was involved in Juba League.

ROHINGYA CRISIS EU extends ban on arms sales to Myanmar

AFP, Brussels
The EU yesterday extended a ban on selling arms to Myanmar and prolonged sanctions against high-ranking officials over their role in the Rohingya crisis.

The measures, which include an embargo on weapons and other equipment that could be used for repression, will stay in place until at least April 30, 2020.

Some 14 top military and border officials are under individual EU sanctions -- barring them from travelling to or through the European bloc and freezing any assets they hold in Europe -- over alleged human rights violations, including killings and sexual violence.

In August 2017, some 740,000 Rohingya refugees fled a military crackdown in northern Myanmar to cross into Bangladesh, where 300,000 members of the persecuted Muslim minority were already in camps.

Cyclone Fani

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further and move in a northwesterly direction, according to a special weather bulletin of the Met Office.

Maximum sustained wind speed within 54 kms of the cyclone centre was about 62 kph, which was rising to 88 kph in gusts/squalls. The sea will remain very rough near the cyclone centre.

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal number 2.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the North Bay and deep sea have been advised to proceed with caution till further notice.

Clarification

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study through the nationally and internationally recognised Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) for the same purpose.

Further, GPH has also engaged a consultant to prepare the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report in line with IWM suggestion to secure the water demand of the plant. Once the EIA report is approved by the Department of Environment (DoE), the dam or rain water harvesting project will be taken up.

Any dam, if built on the basis of approval of the EIA report, will have no negative impact on the forest, environment and neighborhood.

Currently we gathered some sand bags in our own land as a preparatory work of the rain water

harvesting project, which is plain area inside the hill.

The most important fact is that GPH did not dig any canal, nor constructed yet any makeshift dam in the reported area to divert water of the streams that may jeopardise the neighbouring environment as well as indigenous people of Tripura Palli.

The people of Tripura Palli use water of the "ChotoKumiraChara" which has natural resources of water flow round the year. The drain owned by the GPH has been linked with this Chara which is not a canal and no natural waterfall, simply a water flow measure from hilly area to facilitate during rainy season.

If the dam or rainwater harvesting project is constructed in this area, it

would be beneficial for the Tripura Palli and other surrounding areas to protect them from the flood in the rainy season.

Besides, the director general of the Water Development Board (BWDB) has constituted a seven-member feasibility study committee on April 21, 2019 on the construction of the environment friendly water reservoir to use the unused rainwater springing from the hills in Sitakunda and its adjacent areas.

It was referred in the news report that the forest department has filed a case with Sitakunda Police Station against the GPH. Actually a complaint has been lodged by the forest department in the Judicial Magistrate Forest Court and the complaint number is 56/2019.

However, we are yet to receive any notice in this regard.

The fact is that the forest department is claiming a piece of land owned by GPH Ispat. So, we have lodged an application with the Sitakundazilaniirbahii officer to solve the issue by measuring the land by government surveyors.

Our Additional Managing Director Almas Shimul, who has been quoted in the story, elaborated on all the above facts to reporter Mostafa Yousuf when he met him in Chattogram earlier.

Unfortunately, in our views, Shimul's comments were not reflected properly in the report. That's why we are trying to explain through this communication actually what is happening in the reported area.

5 cops try

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and started searching the shop for drugs. But they did not get any drug there.

All of a sudden, ASI Anwar cried out from outside the shop that there were drugs in a bundle of electric cable, keeping one of his hands on the bundle.

Police recovered 10-12 yaba tablets from the bundle, said Faruk Mia, another shopkeeper in the Bazar, alleging that police had kept the pills there.

Shibul added that when Khokon was locked in an altercation with police over their bid to frame him in a case, policemen handcuffed Khokon and one of them punched him. He fell on the ground and became unconscious.

Hearing the news, locals rushed to the spot and confined the policemen to the traders' association office and chanted slogans against the policemen, he said.

Khokon then took first aid at a private hospital, he added.

On information, ASP Shaker and Officer-in-Charge of Gouripur Police Station Abdullah Al Mamun rushed to the spot and heard locals' allegations against the policemen.

The police officials assured the locals that they would investigate the incident to bring the perpetrators to book.

The five policemen were rescued from the spot around 2:00am, three hours after their confinement.

"Now we are investigating whether the policemen were misguided by their sources, or Khokon is involved in yaba trading, or the policemen had any vested interest," said OC Abdullah.

The agitated locals also blocked Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road for two hours, protesting the incident.

Hearing the incident, Ramgopalpur Union Parishad Chairman Abdullah Al Amin Jhony went to the spot and urged the agitated locals to calm down.

Talking to this correspondent, the chairman said there was no allegation of criminal activities against Khokon.

"My six-member family depends on the income from this shop. But the incident has humiliated me socially and I want proper investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment of those involved," said Khokon.

Rape accused killed in 'shootout'

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The Rab team also recovered two firearms and 24 rounds of bullet from the spot, said Mashkur.

FIVE RAPE ACCUSED ARRESTED
In the last three days, five men were arrested in four districts on different charges, including rape, attempted rape and instigating victims to die by suicide.

In Chattogram, police on Saturday arrested Md Badsha, 26, a driver who allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl in a

private car on April 23.

On the following day, the girl, who was a garment worker, took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her room, said Ashikur Rahman, assistant commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

In Rangpur, Detective Branch of police on Sunday arrested Hajrat Ali, 21. He was accused in a case filed over gang-raping two indigenous girls, who were cousins, in Pirgachha upazila on April 18, said Mizanur

Rahman, superintendent of police (SP) in Rangpur.

One of the girls committed suicide on the following day, SP Mizan said, adding that the victim's sister filed a case with Mithapukur Police Station accusing three people.

Police earlier arrested two other accused Ratan Minjee, 30 and Mamun Minjee, 25, the police official added.

In Lalmonirhat, police on Sunday held a man on charge of raping his step-daughter in Patgram upazila

about a year ago.

The girl died by suicide following the incident, said Mansur Ali, officer-in-charge of Patgram Police Station.

In Feni, police the same day arrested two people allegedly for attempting to rape two girls in Chhagalnaiya upazila. The arrestees are Robiul Haque, 25, and Saddam Hossain, 24.

Our Chattogram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat and Feni correspondents contributed to this report.

Trekking

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Members of the local indigenous community are suffering this way every day.

They used to depend on natural sources of water like springs and streams for drinking water and their daily activities, including washing and bathing, but many of these have dried up in the last 3-5 years.

Previously, there were at least five springs flowing near their homes, villagers told The Daily Star recently.

Now, jeeps, auto-rickshaws and motorbikes ply these dried up streams, they added.

Several springs across the district, including in areas like Debaotachari, Champa Tuli, Morong Chari, Boro Pagli, Choto Pagli, Naraichari, Sakra Chhari and Junu Maa Chara, have all dried up.

The water flow in many streams was disrupted and stones dislodged after a massive landslide occurred in Rangamati on 13 June, 2017.

Besides, Muhammad Ali, executive director at Shining Hill, an environment-based local organisation, said many trees have been felled while stones were extracted from the streams. So, the streams have dried up, he added.

Experts say the streams in the hills are drying up due to stone extraction as the tributaries are unable to hold the water without stone beddings.

"The local administration should take steps against those involved in such acts."

Fulo Mala Tanchangya, a housewife at Debotachari village of Kawkhali upazila, said she now brings water from a faraway well, but it will dry up soon as the dry season began.

Porimal Tanchangya, a villager of Choto Pagli under Ghagra union, tried several times to set up a tube well near his home. But he did not get water, even after digging 100-150 feet down.

Priyo Lal Chakma, karbari (village head) of Badol Chhrai area, said as the forests are shrinking, their water sources are depleting.

Jogodish Chakma, chairman of Ghagra Union Parishad, said the situation is the same in his area as well. There is an acute shortage of water and the tube wells are unable to draw water up, he added.

Anupam Dey, executive engineer of Public Health Department in Rangamati, said the water levels were going down as the temperatures are shooting up. "Moisture in the soil is decreasing as commercial farming is rising."

"We are trying to run a project on water for people in the hills soon," he added. The project is in its initial stages.

Sri Lanka on alert

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using a van could be involved in the attacks."

There were no attacks on Sunday and security across Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka has been ramped up, with scores of suspected Islamists arrested since the April 21 attacks on hotels and churches that killed more than 250 people, including 40 foreign nationals.

The government has also banned women from wearing face veils under an emergency law that was put in place after the attacks.

There were concerns within the Muslim community that the ban could fuel tensions in the multi-ethnic nation. But government officials said it would help security forces identify people as a hunt for any remaining attackers and their support network continues across the Indian Ocean island, which was gripped by civil war for decades until 2009.

The Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Ranjith, said that security

had not been sufficiently stepped up around churches.

"We are not satisfied with the security arrangements and urge authorities to ensure our safety," he told reporters.

Authorities suspect members of two little known groups - National Thawheedh Jamaath (NTJ) and Jammiyathul Millathu Ibrahim - of carrying out the Easter attacks, though Islamic State has claimed responsibility.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said a tight-knit group of people was involved, mostly close friends and families. They spoke face-to-face, possibly to evade electronic surveillance.

"They were small enough that they were not using normal communications, instead meeting each other," Wickremesinghe told Reuters.

He added the coordinated bombings, the type of explosives used and the tightly guarded plot suggested

the bombers had guidance.

"ISIS has claimed, we also felt there has to be some international links," he said, referring to Islamic State.

Authorities believe Zahran Hashim, the founder of NTJ, was the mastermind and one of the nine suicide bombers.

ROW OVER POLICE CHIEF
Many Sri Lankans believe a deep rift between President Maithripala Sirisena and Wickremesinghe has undermined national security.

Sirisena fired Wickremesinghe last year, after months of tension, only to be forced to reinstate him under pressure from the Supreme Court.

Since then their relationship has deteriorated further to the point where their factions actively try to undermine each other, including not sharing security information, defence sources say.

Sirisena said yesterday he had appointed Chandana Wickramaratne, the second in command at the police,

as acting police chief.

Over the weekend, two sources at the president's office told Reuters that Pujith Jayasundara, the police chief who was appointed by Wickremesinghe, was refusing the president's request to step down for not sharing information about the attacks.

"Since there is an investigation into his possible failure in preventing the attacks, Jayasundara has been sent on compulsory leave," a source close to the president told Reuters.

It was not immediately possible to contact Jayasundara yesterday.

The president has also appointed General Shantha Kottegoda as the new defence secretary, replacing Hemasiri Fernando who resigned after the bombings, saying that some institutions under him had failed.

Kottegoda, 69, army commander between 2004 and 2005, was instrumental in weakening Tamil Tiger rebels by breaking away an allied group.