

Govt resolved

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He was speaking at a rally in Kamrangirchar while launching 12 master plans to save the rivers surrounding the capital, including Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakkhya.
These master plans cover about a 52km stretch from Narayanganj's Fatullah to Gaptoli.
The plans include installing 40km embankment, 100 RCC stairs, 105 railings, 19 RCS jetties, 38 spots, 10,820 boundary pillars, 36 signboards, six pontoons, three eco-parks and two tourism parks.
The Home boss said the master plans were aimed at freeing the rivers. "The banks of Buriganga will be turned into tourist spots that will attract even the foreigners," he said.
BIWTA Chairman Commodore M Mahubul Ul Islam presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Traffic officer

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rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added.
Police could not arrest the bus driver as he sped up immediately, Ziauzzaman said, adding that police were analysing CCTV footage to identify the bus and the driver.
Khairul, a father of three, joined Bangladesh Police as a constable in 2001 and was promoted to the post of an ASI two years ago.
The family demanded immediate arrest of the bus driver.

7.1 California

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said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California governor's Office of Emergency Services.
There were "significant reports" of fires caused by gas leaks, as well as breaks to power, water and communications lines in the region, he told a press conference.
California Governor Gavin Newsom said he had requested emergency federal assistance from the White House, and state resources have been activated at their "highest level."
Newsom later declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino County, expanding on an earlier announcement covering Kern County, near the epicenter of both the quakes this week.
The latest quake was 11 times stronger than the 6.4-magnitude quake "foreshock" the previous day, according to the United States Geological Survey.
The two major quakes, along with multiple aftershocks, have revived fears of the "Big One" -- a powerful tremor along the San Andreas Fault that could devastate major cities in Southern California.
"This is an earthquake sequence. These earthquakes are related," said Caltech seismologist Lucy Jones.
There was a 10 percent chance of Friday's quake being followed by another magnitude 7.0 or higher quake in the next week, she added.
In Kern County, where the quake struck near the town of Ridgecrest, some 1,800 residents were without power, fire department chief David Witt said.
"As for injuries reported, nothing but minor injuries and such as cuts and bruises, by the grace of God," he said.
Numerous gas leaks were reported near the epicenter, including the towns of Trona and Argus.
Firefighters have secured leaks where possible and evacuated residents from homes with leaks that cannot be secured," the San Bernardino fire department tweeted.
In Los Angeles, the fire department deployed vehicles and helicopters, and reported fallen power lines and localized electricity outages.
But Mayor Eric Garcetti said there were no reports of serious damage in the city.
Numerous visitors to Disneyland in Anaheim reported on Twitter that rides were shut for safety inspections after the quake.
No damage was reported at Los Angeles International Airport following inspections.
In Las Vegas, 150 miles east of the quake, an NBA summer league game was postponed when the tremor hit, causing the scoreboard and several overhead speakers to sway.
The earthquake was the largest in Southern California since 1999 when a 7.1-magnitude quake struck the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base, according to The Los Angeles Times.
The latest tremor sent Ridgecrest residents fleeing outside for safety as aftershocks continued, with one woman saying she was "not comfortable" about heading back inside for the night.
The shaking stops "for a minute, and then it starts rolling again... It's pretty bizarre. But now at the moment, I'm not comfortable inside," said Jessica Kormelink.
"I was actually in the car with my mom. And it just started bouncing up," Jessica Weston, a journalist at the Ridgecrest Daily Independent, told CNN.



Syrians inspect the damage following reported regime airstrikes on the town of Muhambal, in the northern Idlib province yesterday. Syrian regime bombardment has killed 14 civilians including seven children in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said. Story on page 8. PHOTO: AFP

Thousands protest in Yangon over toddler rape

AFP, Yangon
Thousands of protesters marched in Yangon yesterday as outrage over the rape of a two-year-old spilled onto the streets following a viral online campaign in a case that has left Myanmar society reeling.
The assault took place in May in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw but a public campaign escalated last week after the girl's father spoke to local media, venting his anger about the inquiry's progress.
He gave details of how his daughter had returned from nursery with injuries doctors told him were the result of rape.
Yesterday in Yangon, demonstrators descended on the police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the city's north.
Many dressed in white, carrying banners in Burmese and English, and chanting for "justice" for the girl as well as better security for the nation's children.
"As a mother of a daughter, I came here to call for the truth," 31-year-old Ei Mon Ko told AFP.
One man was arrested Wednesday and charged with the attack, although there is public scepticism over whether the authorities have the right person.
In a press conference Friday, police cited the use of CCTV footage as evidence against the suspect.
The nursery has been closed down and six other private kindergartens in Naypyidaw are temporarily shut.

Scientists to open

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sound like science fiction from the Stranger Things series, but it has been repeatedly suggested by physicists as a tempting means of explaining anomalous results. However, as yet, hard evidence such a realm exists has refused to manifest itself.
One set of anomalous results, and the ones which inspired the research, date back to the 1990s, when particle physicists were measuring the time it took for neutron particles to break down into protons once they were removed from an atom's nucleus.
Two separate experiments saw the neutrons broke down at differing rates, instead of decaying and becoming protons at exactly the same rate, as was expected.
In one, the free neutrons were captured by magnetic fields and herded into laboratory bottle traps, and in the other they were detected by the subsequent appearance of proton particles from a nuclear reactor stream.
Those particles fired out in the stream from the nuclear reactor lived on average for 14 minutes and 48 seconds -- nine seconds longer than those from the bottle traps.
It may sound like a small difference, but it has troubled scientists.
But the existence of a mirror world offers a credible explanation: That there are two separate neutron lifetimes, and it could be that around 1 per cent of neutrons could be crossing the divide between our reality and the mirror world before crossing back and then emitting a detectable proton.
The new experiment will fire a beam of neutrons at an impenetrable wall. On the other side of the wall,

a neutron detector will be set up, which normally would expect to detect nothing.
But if the detector does register the presence of neutrons, the theory is that they may have gone through the wall by "oscillating" into the mirror world -- becoming mirror neutrons -- and reappearing in this universe, and more specifically the lab in Tennessee.
"Only the ones that can oscillate and then come back into our universe can be detected," Ms Broussard told the New Scientist in June.
Furthermore, the team will set up magnetic fields on either side of the wall, which they can alter in strength. It is hoped certain strengths may assist the oscillation of the particles.
Despite the tidy theory, the team is playing down the chances of revealing reality's shadowy twin.
"I fully expect to measure zero," Ms Broussard said of the initial tests.
But if they do detect a neutron on the far side of the wall, it could have profound implications.
"If you discover something new like that, the game totally changes," Ms Broussard told NBC.
The existence of a mirror world could also explain our universe's lack of the isotope Lithium 7, which physicists believe doesn't match the quantities the Big Bang would have created.
The detection of high-energy cosmic rays which come from beyond our galaxy could also be explained by the existence of the mirror world.
They are too powerful to have travelled only through the observed universe, but if they had oscillated into the mirror realm and then back out again, it could explain why that is the case.

2 held for rape

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home after sitting for an examination at her school. Sujan asked her to visit his home on the way. Sujan raped her in his empty home.
Sujan's parents found the girl there after returning home. They tried to drive her away but could not. They beat her up and then took her to her home, said the police officer.
The accused's family threatened of dire consequences if they told police of the matter.
The victim's family took her to the local health complex.
Later that night, the victim's father filed a case accusing five people including Sujan and his parents.
Police arrested Sujan's mother Joriman Begum, 45, and his sister Yasmin Akhter, 19, on Friday. A court sent them to jail on Friday afternoon, said SI Amzad.
In Bogura, police arrested a man yesterday on charges of raping a mother of four.
Arrestee Zihad Hossain is a resident of Sayedpur Purbopara in Shibganj upazila.
Six men ambushed the women's auto-rickshaw around 9:30pm on Friday when she was returning home in Shibganj upazila from her son's workplace in Sonatola upazila. They took her to a nearby field where they raped her, said police.
Hearing her screams, locals rescued her. But the six managed to flee, said Mizanur Rahman, OC of Shibganj Police Station.
The family of the victim filed the case yesterday, he said.

Police arrested Zihad but did not disclose the names of the other accused.
In Netrakona, a court yesterday sent a madrasa principal, arrested on Friday on charge of attempting to rape a second-grader in Kendua upazila, to jail.
Our Kushtia, Thakurgaon, Patuakhali, Bogura, and Netrakona correspondents contributed to the report.

Alaska heat wave shatters record

AFP, Los Angeles
Temperatures in Alaska's largest city Anchorage have soared to a sweltering all-time record of 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 centigrade) as a heat wave grips the US state which straddles the Arctic Circle.
Fourth of July fireworks were canceled due to risk of wildfires caused by "extreme dry weather conditions," as temperatures matching those in Miami highlighted rapid warming in a region considered particularly vulnerable to climate change.
"At 5pm this afternoon, Anchorage International Airport officially hit 90 degrees for the first time on record," tweeted the National Weather Service (NWS) late Thursday.
The previous record was 85 degrees, set in June 1969.
The average high temperature for July 4 in Anchorage, located in southern Alaska, is a far cooler 65 degrees.

Dhaka wants stronger role

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and charging high recruitment fees by a syndicate of 10 Bangladeshi recruiting agencies and their lobbies in Kuala Lumpur.
Foreign Minister Momen said, "We have to focus on two crucial issues -- the Rohingya crisis and reopening of Malaysia's labour market."
He said he would urge Malaysia, which has been vocal in seeking justice for Rohingyas and their repatriation, to play a stronger role in this regard.
Saifuddin arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit, first since assuming office last year. The two foreign ministers will hold the meeting at the State Guesthouse Padma.
The Malaysian foreign ministry in a press statement yesterday said Saifuddin is scheduled to visit a Malaysian field hospital and several Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.
About one million Rohingyas, including around 741,000 who fled to Bangladesh since August 2017 escaping a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state, are living in squalid refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.
Though Myanmar signed a bilateral deal with Bangladesh in November 2017, and a tripartite repatriation deal with the UNDP and UN Refugee Agency in June last year, the repatriation could not be started as Rohingyas say there is no guarantee of safety, citizenship and other basic rights in Rakhine yet.
Meantime, clashes between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, an ethnic rebel group, have escalated in Rakhine and Chin states since late last year, creating further worries for the repatriation.
Against such a backdrop, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad recently proposed formation of an independent international body to monitor repatriation to ensure that Rohingyas are not punished.
Speaking at the 34th Asean Summit in Bangkok on June 23, Mahathir also said the refugees' opinions

must be taken into consideration on the matter of repatriation because they are scared of going back.
Rohingya activist Tun Khin said Malaysia is the "lone champion" on the Rohingya case in the Asean, a regional bloc of Southeast Asian countries.
"Malaysia can play a key role in convincing the other Asean members. It should help take the issue to the International Court of Justice and create conducive conditions in Rakhine for the return of Rohingyas," the UK-based Rohingya activist told The Daily Star over the phone recently.
Otherwise, the Asean would face trouble in future, he said. "Already, Rohingyas are taking risky sea journeys to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia from the camps in Rakhine because they are living in conditions akin to open prisons."
Tun Khin said Malaysia should take steps to put pressure on Myanmar. If Myanmar does not comply, the Asean should expel it from the bloc, he observed.
The Asean, which maintains the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of its member states, faced criticism for not speaking strong enough for the Rohingyas.
LABOUR MARKET
According to sources at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, an estimated eight lakh Bangladeshis are now living in Malaysia.
Rights groups say a large number of the undocumented foreign workers in Malaysia are victims of fraudulence and abuses either by Malaysian employers or companies and their brokers that were in charge of registering the undocumented workers in the previous years. Some of them are also victims of human trafficking.
Bangladesh had requested the Malaysian authorities to give a fresh chance for the undocumented Bangladeshis to get regularised, but they didn't agree.

Risky rail bridges lie unrepaired

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others. Five of them have been made "dead stop points", where trains pass at 5-10kmph.
Boromchal, Bhatiari- Kumira (up-down line), Bhatrabazar- Majigaon, Sorabchor- Manikkhali, and Mohanganj-Dewanganj bazar are the "dead stop points".
Railway documents showed that the speed limits result in a delay of about 20 minutes.
Seeking anonymity, a railway official said there might be more such places in the east zone and that authorities had not done a proper survey.
The official said the authorities were not even repairing or maintaining the lines to make them risk-free.

GM Faruk told The Daily Star that it was true that they selected several points after unfortunate accidents, but the rest were selected following the railway's scheduled monitoring.
Maintenance of these lines is being delayed for some official formalities, added Faruk. "There are a lot of on-going new projects. This is delaying the maintenance work."
Kazi Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, director general of BR, told The Daily Star, "They cannot undertake all the renovation work due to budget constraints. The speed limit is also creating some problems. We are taking the necessary measures to solve the problems soon."



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