

"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

SHAH CEMENT

ACHIEVED
Superbrands
AWARD

AWARDED
Superbrands
BANGLADESH'S CHOICE
2018

Impose arms embargo on Myanmar

European Parliament urges UNSC; calls for targeted sanctions

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Parliament has called on the UN Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Myanmar and to adopt targeted sanctions against those responsible for human rights violations against the Rohingyas.

It also called on the Council to refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC). So far, the UN Security Council has been divided over any concrete action against Myanmar for opposition of veto powers -- China and Russia.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution with 546 votes in favour, 12 against and 94 abstentions on Thursday on "Myanmar, notably the situation of the Rohingyas".

Over 730,000 Rohingyas fled brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 2017, which according to the UN independent investigators, amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity. The Rohingyas took shelter in Bangladesh, and two attempts of repatriation failed as the refugees said the guarantee of citizenship and safety was not ensured.

The remaining 600,000 Rohingyas in Rakhine still face the threats of genocide, according to the UN investigators. They are subjected to ongoing discriminatory policies and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



With placards and banners in their hand, children join a rally on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday expressing solidarity with the **Global Climate Strike**, a climate crisis protest demanding swift actions against climate change. The rally was jointly organised by Save the Children and Green Saver Association. Related story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Youths strike for planet

Hundreds of thousands of young people join climate demos

AFP, Paris

Crowds of children skipped school yesterday to join a global strike against climate change, heeding the rallying cry of teen activist Greta Thunberg and demanding adults act to stop environmental disaster.

It was expected to be the biggest protest ever against the threat posed to the planet by climate change.

Yelling slogans and waving placards, children and adults across Asia and the Pacific kicked off the protest, which spread later to Africa and Europe with crowds filling the streets in Paris, London and Berlin.

"We are the future," said Vihaan Agarwal, 15, protesting in Delhi.

"We believe there is no point in going to school if we are not going to have a future to live in."

Organisers forecast one million participants overall. In Australia alone, they said more than 300,000 children, parents and supporters rallied.

"I'd like to ask you not to cut down forests, and reduce garbage production, and not to use so many petrol-fuelled cars," five-year-old Teo, told a crowd of 500 in Slovakia.

"Stop climate change now" and "There is no planet B" read some of the signs brandished by demonstrators in a trendy central shopping district of Tokyo.

"We adults caused this planet emergency," said one of them, Chika Maruta, 32, marching with her colleagues from a cosmetics company.

"We should take our responsibilities for the next generation."

Swedish schoolgirl Thunberg, 16, has accused leaders of not doing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

EXTORTION DEMAND

BCL men stops construction of model mosque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A group of Chhatra League men have allegedly stopped construction works of a model mosque-cum-Islamic cultural centre for not getting extortion from the contractor in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh.

Nazmul Haque, one of the directors of Northern Techno Trade, told The Daily Star that Mashfiqur Rahman Sakib, general secretary of Tetulia BCL, had been demanding Tk 20 lakh as "extortion" from him as his firm was awarded the Tk 12 crore project.

The construction works of the three-storey mosque, which is being built in Sahebjoth Dangibosti area as part of the government's initiative to set up some 560 model mosques across the country, was started in July 20, said Nazmul.

On Thursday, a group of some 15 to 20 BCL leaders led by Sakib stormed into the project site and vandalised a number of makeshift residences of the staffers, Nazmul said, adding that they warned him not to begin the works until their demand was not met.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Where saving water is key to survival



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA, back from Mali

If you leave the tap running as you brush your teeth in the morning, you probably waste more than half of the water a peacekeeper in Mali's Kidal gets to use in a day.

Deep in the Sahara, water is extremely precious as natural sources are scarce. The UN peacekeepers have their buckets labelled with their names to keep others from using their water.

They queue up early in the morning to collect water at a designated point. "The officers and soldiers get the same amount of water," Lt Col Ahmed Sharif Manee, contingent commander of BANENGR-6 of Kidal Super Camp, told The Daily Star.

Situated in the deep interior of Mali and hundreds of miles away from the capital Bamako, water is a luxury in Kidal.

Each peacekeeper gets six litres of drinking water and another 10 litres for bathing, washing clothes, toilets and everything else.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Four held for chopping off man's wrists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police have arrested four men, including a union parishad chairman, for their alleged involvement in chopping off wrists of a man in Chapainawabganj.

The four -- Foyezuddin, chairman of Ujirpur Union Parishad; Jahangir Alam, 35, Mohammad Alauddin, 35, and Tarek Ali, 35, of the district's Shibganj upazila -- were held in different parts of the district, said Atik Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station.

The 24-year-old victim Rubel Hossain's mother filed a case with Shibganj Police Station against 21 people on Wednesday, the OC said.

According to the case statement, a group of 21 men, armed with iron sticks and sharp weapons, attacked Rubel on his way back home on the same day. They then forcibly took him to a nearby Char

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

China's new mega-airport ready to open



CNN ONLINE

China is poised to open a new mega-airport to the south of Beijing, already home to the world's second-busiest aviation hub, ahead of the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic.

Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX) will see its first commercial flight take off around September 20, according to Chinese state media, with main tenant China Southern planning to deploy an Airbus A380, the world's biggest airliner, for the maiden journey.

The greatly anticipated airport ushers in a new era for air travel to and from the Chinese capital, which has been in desperate need of a second global gateway.

The existing Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) is hitting full capacity, making it

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Bangladeshi beaten to death 'by BSF'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was beaten to death allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force along Kathaldangi border in Thakurgaon's Haripur upazila early yesterday.

Md Kamal, 32, was the son of Abdul Hakim of Geruadangi village in the upazila.

Quoting locals, police said some five to six cattle traders went to Kathaldangi border to bring cattle from India around 2:00am. BSF members of Nargaon camp chased them when they reached near the zero line and caught Kamal. The others managed to flee, locals said.

They beat Kamal mercilessly and left him near the zero line with a critical state. Later, his fellows took him from the border and he died on the way to home.

Md Amiruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Haripur Police Station, said they heard that Kamal was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Loading and unloading of sand from trucks along the three-km-long Sylhet airport-Badaghat bypass road has left it riddled with potholes. Locals said the road is now almost inaccessible as some 40 traders sell sand in the area without caring much about the condition of the road. The photo was taken in Sylhet's Chamaurakandi area on Thursday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Under pressure, India slashes corporate taxes

AFP, Mumbai

India yesterday slashed corporate taxes to among the lowest in Asia as part of its drive to kickstart the stuttering economy, sending stock surging as analysts predicted a renewal of interest in the subcontinent.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the main rate for domestic firms would fall to 22 percent from 30 percent as New Delhi aims to attract companies spooked by the China-US trade war that has hammered global supply chains.

The move looks to give a lift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who faces increasing pressure to right once-stellar economy after five consecutive quarters of slowing growth saw India this year lose its status as the fastest-expanding major economy to China.

Modi tweeted that the announcements "clearly demonstrate that our government is leaving no stone unturned to make India a better place to do business, improve opportunities for all sections of society and increase prosperity to make India a \$5 Trillion economy."

Sitharaman said that to "attract fresh investment in manufacturing and boost Make In India" the tax rate for new companies would be cut to 15 percent from 25 percent, the Press Trust of India news agency (PTI) said.

She told reporters the new rates would be "comparable with the lowest tax rates in South Asian region and in South East Asia".

The announcement sent shares soaring more than five percent in Mumbai -- the biggest jump in 10 years -- while the rupee and firmed against the dollar.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1