



**HOLIDAY NOTICE**  
 The office of The Daily Star will remain closed from February 11-13 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper from February 12-14.

## Two former BCL men shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader with a criminal profile and his friend who had lived abroad were murdered at Dhanmondi last night.

Monjurul Islam Ashru, 35, former city unit president of the Awami League-backed BCL, and Tanveer Sinha Bappi, 35, an American green card holder, were returning home to Rayerbazar when they were ambushed.

Tanveer, also a former BCL activist, landed in Dhaka on a one-month Eid vacation.

Police and other agencies

launched a manhunt although they could not immediately confirm the motive behind the killing. High police officials visited the spot.

Locals said Ashru was killed over a row with the infamous Imon group of Dhanmondi. The same gang fired on Ashru three months ago.

Eight gunmen obstructed the victims' microbus at Agajhora Lane in Dhanmondi and shot Tanveer inside. The attackers then dragged Ashru out and pumped bullets into him.

They were declared dead on arrival at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The bodies were kept at the morgue for postmortem today.

Yasmeen Sinha, wife of Tanveer, said her husband left home at 5:00pm. She was waiting for him to join a wedding party.

"We came to Bangladesh with our only child to observe the Eid," Yasmeen sobbed. "Look, what I got."

Uncle Humayun Kabir said Tanveer returned home after a long stay in America. He had no enemy in Bangladesh.

Tanveer's friend Ashru was arrested and released on bail a few days back.

Dhanmondi police recovered the bullet-riddled microbus.

## FM to meet Vajpayee

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan is expected to call on Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee during his three-day visit to India from February 13 to hold talks on bilateral ties.

"While bilateral discussions will be held with the external affairs minister on February 14, other meetings are scheduled for the next day," a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said.

Morshed would visit Ajmer Sharif on February 13.

The spokesman said important bilateral issues, including that of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, would come up for discussion.

The government yesterday confirmed Morshed's visit to India February 13 to 16, says the UNB.

"The planned visit of the foreign minister of Bangladesh will be an important event in the continuum of ongoing consultations between the two neighbouring countries aimed at promoting friendship and encouraging initiatives beneficial to the peoples of the countries," said an official announcement.

During the forthcoming visit, the foreign minister will also meet a cross-section of important personalities from the Indian media, academia and other professional groups from trade and industry.

## Jayasuriya-fired SL sink Kiwis



AFP, Bloemfontein

Skipper Sanath Jayasuriya cracked a masterly century to lead Sri Lanka to an important 47-run victory over New Zealand in the World Cup group B match here on Monday.

The dashing left-hander smashed 120 off 125 balls, his 16th one-day century, as Sri Lanka piled up an imposing 272-7 from 50 overs after being sent to bat at the Goodyear Park.

The Kiwis managed only 225 in reply despite a brilliant 141 from Scott Styris which came after openers Stephen Fleming and Nathan Astle fell in the first two overs and half the side was back in the pavilion for 95.

For the latest on cricket, please log on to our website at [www.dailystarnews.com](http://www.dailystarnews.com)

Styris hit three boundaries and six sixes in his 125-ball knock but could not prevent Sri Lanka from running away with an emphatic win.

With New Zealand set to forfeit points to Kenya for refusing to play in Nairobi on February 21 due to security reasons, the defeat leaves Fleming's men in further trouble in the race for the super six round.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, can look forward to the rest of the preliminary league with confidence after enjoying a slice of luck at the start.

Jayasuriya's match-winning knock happened only because English umpire Neil Mallender turned down a confident appeal for a catch at the wicket early in the innings.

Television replays showed the delivery from Daryl Tuffey had taken

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Boarded with a refrigerator, where they are destined to anyway before ending up on the dish, two goats are being carried on a rickshaw-van in the city yesterday.

## Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Eid-ul-Azha, the second greatest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated in the country tomorrow with due religious solemnity and fervour.

In the morning, Eid prayers will be offered at eidgahs, mosques and specified open places across the country.

Well-off Muslims will then sacrifice animals in the name of Allah and share the sacrificial meat with the poor.

In the city, the main Eid congregation will be held at the National Eidgah at 8:00am. President Iajuddin Ahmed along with the members of the cabinet and high government and military officials would join the congregation.

In case of inclement weather, the main congregation will be held at the Baitul Mukarram mosque with the timing unchanged. Four congregations will be at the Baitul Mukarram at 7:15am, 8:00am, 9:00am and 9:45am.

City streets would be decorated on the day with flags and festoons inscribed with the word Eid Mubarak in Bangla and Arabic. Important public and private buildings will be illuminated at night.

A three-day public holiday on the occasion of Eid begins today.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate Eid messages felicitated the heads of state and heads of government of Muslim countries.

They expressed their confidence that fraternity and solidarity of Muslim countries would further strengthen.

The president and the prime minister wished continued peace progress and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

They also received Eid greetings from a number of heads of state and heads of government.

In their messages, the leaders wished continued peace, prosperity and progress of Bangladesh.

The heads of state and heads of government include King of Jordan Abdullah 11, Amir of Qatar Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Sultan of Brunei Haji Hasan Al Balkhia, Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Said, President of UAE Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of Syria Bashar Al Assad and President of Sudan Omar Hassan Ahmed Albashir.

US President George W Bush has sent a message of greetings to President Iajuddin Ahmed.

Khaleda and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in separate messages wished the countrymen Eid Mubarak.

## Bangabazar extortion More fingers pointed at captain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman yesterday backed a claim that an army captain and two soldiers extorted tolls during the Operation Clean Heart.

Dinesh, the businessman, was arrested from Shariatpur on Saturday for his alleged involvement in toll collection. He told the court yesterday that Captain Atiq and two soldiers are part of a gang that extorted Tk 3 lakh from an Indian hundi trader.

Captain Atiq was withdrawn from duty on Sunday after a police source gave a similar confession at the court. Army also formed a high powered committee to probe the matter.

The businessman was later sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

The activities of the gang came to light when eight detectives with a police informant were caught at the Bangabazar after they had tried to extort money from a businessman.

## Over 2m perform Hajj, seek divine blessing

AFP, Arafat

More than two million Muslim pilgrims began pouring into the plains of Arafat yesterday for the climax of the annual Hajj, praying for forgiveness and for Iraq to be saved from a threatened US attack.

They arrived from Mina, some seven kilometres away from Makkah, by foot, in buses and in small vehicles and pick-ups, to the pilgrimage's most significant site.

Many pilgrims made the journey to Arafat overnight. Night temperatures dropped below 20 degrees Celsius (68 F) but the thermometer was forecast to soar above 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) during the day.

"Here I am Allah, answering your call; there is no God but you," the

sea of humanity, all dressed in white, chanted as they approached Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammad (SM) delivered his last sermon 14 centuries ago.

Standing on Mount Arafat before sunset yesterday is the high point of the Hajj, and pilgrims who fail to make it here on time must repeat their pilgrimage in future.

The faithful -- men clad in a two-piece seamless white cloth, the women covered except for the hands and face -- spend the day praying for forgiveness and beseeching Allah for success in a symbolic enactment of the Final Judgement at the scene of the Prophet's last sermon.

Many pilgrims prayed for peace and for Iraq to be saved and emerge

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP

Pilgrims sit on the Mount of Mercy (Jabal al-Rahma) yesterday as more than two million Muslims began pouring into the plains of Arafat for the climax of the Hajj pilgrimage. They arrived from Mina, some seven kilometres away from Makkah by foot, in buses, small vehicle and pick-ups to the pilgrimage's most significant site.

## Tigers eye a winning start

AL-AMIN, From Durban

Bangladesh may be one of the minnows of the World Cup but they will definitely start as favourites against Canada in their first match at Kingsmead in Durban on Tuesday.

Khaled Mashud's men are also perfectly aware of the fact that the day-night game against a multi-

national Canadian team would give them the perfect opportunity to end an ignominious 26-match losing streak.

The Bangladesh team can take inspiration from their five-wicket victory in their second lead-up match against KwaZulu-Natal on this very ground last week.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7