

## Landslide kills 30 in Yemen

### Scores missing

AFP, Sanaa

At least 30 Yemenis were killed in an overnight landslide which hit a village on a rocky slope near the capital Sanaa with 100 people still missing, an interior ministry official said yesterday.

Thirty corpses had been recovered from the rubble after a landslide hit the small village of Al-Dhafeer, 40km west of Sanaa, while dozens were injured, he said requesting anonymity.

Yemen's Saba official news agency said that 25 out of the village's 31 houses were destroyed and were buried under huge piles of rocks.

The number of death is expected to rise as some 100 residents, out of the village's total population of some 270 people, are still missing and believed to be under the mud and rubble.

"Twenty-three bodies were recovered from one house only. They belonged to the same family," a witness told AFP.

Three people have been recovered alive from under the rubble, Saba reported.

It was not immediately clear what caused the landslide. Yemen's seismology centre had no word of an earthquake and there were no reports of severe weather.

Despite its proximity to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, Yemen is one of the world's poorest countries with a per capita gross domestic product of just 800 dollars.

## BSF pushes in 13 Indians thru' Satkhira border

UNB, Satkhira

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday pushed 13 Bengali-speaking people into the Bangladesh territory from Koikhal frontier near the Sundarbans area, BDR sources said.

BDR personnel at the site detained the Indians at Durmuskhali after the BSF forced them to cross the river Kalinder on a boat.

The BSF victims told the BDR that they were residents of South 24 Pargona district of West Bengal. The BSF personnel rounded them up a few days ago, brought them to the border before forced them to cross the border early in the morning.

Captain Golam Hossain Sarker of the BDR battalion at Nildumur they were taking necessary measures in this connection.

| Prayer Timing              |       |        |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| December 30                |       |        |
|                            | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr                       | 5-30  | 6-05   |
| Juma                       | 12-30 | 1-15   |
| Asr                        | 4-00  | 4-15   |
| Maghrib                    | 5-27  | 5-30   |
| Esha                       | 7-00  | 7-30   |
| Source: Islamic Foundation |       |        |

## ECONOMY IN NEW YEAR

# Militancy, political volatility main bars

## Says BB governor

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Salehuddin Ahmed sees the recent rise of Islamist militants, and subsequent law and order slide and political volatility as the main challenges to the country's economic progress in the new year.

"Things are happening in the country that are beyond our control. These may injure the economy," he told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview yesterday.



Salehuddin Ahmed

"People don't support the terrorist activities that have been going on in the name of Islam," Ahmed said, adding, "No-one wants these to go on and the government, too, has taken the issue very seriously."

Besides, he said, there are many other encouraging signs, as the people – businessmen, industrialists, bankers, farmers – have not been sitting idle. Despite the adversity, they have achieved much this

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PHOTO: STAR

Another whale shark caught in the fishermen's net in the Bay of Bengal near Cox's Bazar coast yesterday. This is the third shark caught in this month.

## Outlaws target more police bases

## 6 PBCP men held for killing ansars in Natore

STAR REPORT

Communist outlaws have prepared a hit list of 'weak' police stations and outposts in Notore, Sirajganj and Bogra to launch attacks like the Wednesday's one on Bamihai outpost that left three ansars dead, reports our Bogra correspondent.

Meanwhile, law enforcers early yesterday arrested six suspected operatives of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Tarash

upazila of Sirajganj in connection with the Wednesday's attack and looting of 10 firearms and ammunitions from the police outpost in Singra upazila of Natore, adds our Sirajganj correspondent.

Of the detainees, Shaibur Rahman, 30, Shaiful Islam, 26, and Shahidul Islam, 28, of Shihot and Ashanur, 32, and Faridul, 30, of Manikchapor under Singra upazila were held at Kolamula village, and

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## Govt to promote over 300 asst secys in January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to promote over 300 assistant secretaries to the post of deputy secretary early next month.

The Superior Service Board (SSB) at a meeting chaired by Cabinet Secretary ASM Abdul Halim yesterday started scrutinising a list of the officials awaiting promotion.

The SSB has 550 officials on the list, which includes 122 officials previously deprived of promotion or ignored.

Sources said the list would be finalised after another SSB meeting.

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## DU teacher gets JMB threat letter

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) through three letters yesterday threatened to kill a Dhaka University professor along with his son and daughters within 15 days.

Prof Gias Uddin Mollah of the department of political science received the letter at his faculty office.

In the computer-printed letters one Mohammad Abdus Salam, claiming to be a JMB commander, told Gias to get ready for death.

"We are giving you 15 days. If you understand your faults; come to our path, if not, prepare for death," the letters read.

The letters said his research was making JMB's life difficult, "We are going to make Bangladesh an Islamic republic. You are making

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## Another whale shark killed in 12 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

Bazar

Local fishermen yesterday netted a whale shark, the third since December 17, in the Bay of Bengal.

The 23 feet by 13 feet sea giant became entangled in a drift net of the FB Al-Rashid Mia, a fishing trawler owned by Mohammed Salim Mazhi. The fish, with a five-foot wide snout, weighed around four to five tonnes.

Indiscriminate killing of these sharks, a part and parcel of the sea, will obviously harm the bio-diversity and environment of the

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PHOTO: STAR

A few of the non-government primary schoolteachers observing fast unto death to realise their demand at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. They however withdrew the strike last night.

## NON-GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

# Teachers end fast on govt talk offer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The non-government primary school teachers yesterday withdrew their fast unto death programme on the government assurance for talks within 15 days to meet their demand.

Coming over to the Jatiya Shaheed Minar at 8:30pm, Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Harris Chowdhury yesterday assured the teachers that the government will sit with their representatives in order to find out a solution.

They teachers ended their hunger strike since Tuesday evening with fruitjuice offered by Haris.

The teachers expressing their satisfaction in the response of said,

"We are happy with the decision of the Prime Minister Office and hope that the government will sit with us within the stipulated time," said Akkas Ali, secretary general of the Bangladesh Non-government Primary School Teachers' Association.

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## Mobile courts fine over Tk 10 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18 government mobile courts raiding various areas in the city yesterday charged fines of Tk 10,14,700 and filed 112 cases under different laws.

They also sentenced 55 offenders to different jail terms.

The mobile courts conducted the raids in Demra, Shyampur, Motijheel, Kakrail, Khilgaon, Badda, Lalbagh and Tejgaon areas of the capital under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, BSTI Act, Pure Food Act, D M P Act and

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