



Selina Akhter

### Stray bullet kills Bangladeshi woman in US

BBC ONLINE

A Bangladeshi woman who emigrated to the US was killed by a stray bullet shot through her window near midnight on Wednesday.

Selina Akhter was shot in the head and died instantly at the window of her fifth-floor apartment in the Queens borough of New York.

Police arrested a US soldier who they said was on leave and had

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### FRESH VOTER LIST Lawyers blast CEC's move

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leading Supreme Court lawyers yesterday said the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice MA Aziz's carrying on with the work for making fresh voter list with the hearing of the writ petitions pending in the High Court is a proof of his "no-confidence" in the country's judiciary.

While the hearing on the petitions filed challenging the unilateral

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### Procession protests militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social, cultural and human rights organisations under the banner of Bikhubdha Deshbasi (aggrieved countrymen) yesterday brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar protesting extreme communalism and country-wide bomb blasts.

Parading some city streets, the procession ended at Muktangan in the city at 10:30am.

The participants vowed to protect the dignity of the national flag and resist "the defeated forces in the Liberation War of 1971" who are "today's bomb attackers".

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# Rab captures JMB's top Khulna leader

## 2,000 bombs could be made from seized explosives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a Khulna divisional second-in-command of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Thursday night and seized huge amount of explosives and bomb-making materials from a den early yesterday following leads from him.

Ziaur Rahman Shagor alias Sabbir, 27, one of the two JMB second-in-commands for Khulna division, was arrested in the city's Tootpara area at about 11:30pm on Thursday.

On his information, the Rab men busted the Jessore Students' Hostel at Daulatpur in the city and recovered three live bombs, 37kg potassium nitrate, 250gm gun powder, 100kg silver powder, three detonators, 18 integrated circuit boards, 16

capacitors, 60 resistors, 11 fuses, electric switches and eight pencil batteries, said a Rab press release.

The elite force recovered those from a room at the hostel that Sabbir, son of Gedu Molla of Shaikona village in Bagatipara upazila, Natore, had rented in guise of a puffed-rice vendor a week before August 17.

Director of Rab-6 in Khulna Lt Col Shams said around 2,000 bombs could be manufactured by the seized potassium nitrate. Sabbir and some other JMB men used to stay in the hostel where five-six students of Government BL College are now staying, he added.

The Rab release also said Sabbir has admitted that he gave the directives on the August 17 bomb attacks in Khulna, Bagerhat, Sathkira and Gopalganj, and distrib-

uted 34 bombs among the JMB cadres for the purpose.

Apart from Sabbir, also an ehshar of the banned Islamist militant outfit, the other second-in-command for JMB Khulna division is one Enam while one Hafez Mahmud is the commander. Rab sources said Sabbir has given the names of around 25 leaders and activists of different tiers of the outfit.

The repeated raids on JMB dens and arrest of some top leaders have disorganised their network, a Rab official quoted Sabbir as saying. The militant also told the interrogators that the top JMB leaders asked him not to contact them, who would rather contact him, if necessary.

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### Tourists throng Cox's Bazar to hail 2006

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Thousands of tourists are thronging the Cox's Bazar beach, eager to see off the last sun of 2005 and hail New Year.

For the last two days, all the hotels, motels and tourist lodges have been jam-packed with visitors from home and abroad, with some innkeepers making hefty sums by charging three to four times the regular fares.

The posh hotels have arranged musical concerts and other shows to celebrate New Year's Eve today with their guests, starting right after seeing the last sun of 2005 off.

The local administration, Parjatan office and the beach management committee think if nothing extremely untoward happens, the world's largest sea beach will brim with life and colours today and tomorrow, with festivities continuing uninterrupted over the night.

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PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of tourists have gathered on the Cox's Bazar beach to see off the last sun of 2005 and hail New Year. The photo was snapped yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of different social, cultural and human rights organisations take out a procession with the national flag against extreme communalism and country-wide bomb blasts from the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMISSION 41,050 applicants for 8,726 seats

ASHIQR RAHMAN

About five students compete for a seat in classes I to IX this year as admission tests are held at 24 government schools in the city in the first week of January.

A total of 41,050 applications were submitted against 8,726 seats in these schools. The distribution of admission forms concluded last Tuesday, sources in the Directorate

of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education said.

For conducting the admission tests on January 1, 3 and 5 smoothly, the 24 government schools have been divided into three categories this year.

The schools under category-A are Govt Laboratory High School, Mirpur Govt High School, Motijheel Govt Girls' High School.

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### NSU student rescued after his abduction by driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gulshan police on Thursday rescued a BBA student of North South University (NSU), who was abducted by their car driver on December

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### Tata willing to manage Mongla Port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Indian industrial giant Tata Group has reportedly proposed to take up a lease on Mongla Port in a bid to improve its performance so that foreign ships don't shy away from using the port.

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### Mob beats up 6 cops in Ctg for extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Agitated locals beat up six cops and a police informant while the seven were reportedly collecting tolls from hawkers in Baluchhara area of the city yesterday.

They also staged a demonstration on the Hathazari road, demanding punishment to the policemen involved in the incident.

The locals alleged that the police

from the neighbouring Battali outpost and Bayezid Bostami Police Station recently raised the amount of tolls they illegally collect from the hawkers at the Baluchhara Bazar from Tk 50 to Tk 100 per head.

Yesterday's incident took place when the law enforcers, led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Mostaq Ahmad, and

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Prayer Timing		
December 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation