

Did you know?

The skylines of many important medieval cities had large numbers of high-rise urban towers. The residential Towers of Bologna in the 12th century, for example, numbered between 80 to 100 at a time, the largest of which (known as the "Two Towers") rise to 97.2 meters.



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'Bismillah' and Islam as state religion to stay

PM tells 14-party meet

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The words "Bismillah-Ar-Rahman-Ar-Rahim" in the preamble to the constitution and declaration of Islam as state religion will remain as they are, since they reflect the beliefs of the people, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

She was meeting 14-party leaders at her official residence Jamuna. It was the first such meeting since the Awami League-led grand alliance came to office in January last year.

Hasina, also president of AL and chief of the 14-party combine, however said the spirit of the original constitution would be restored with inclusion of the High Court verdict that declared illegal the fifth amendment, said meeting sources.

On the issue of Bismillah and Islam in the

constitution, she told the leaders they must accept the reality.

The matter came up when an alliance leader suggested that the 1972 constitution be restored to uphold secularism.

The fifth amendment incorporated "Bismillah-Ar-Rahman-Ar-Rahim (In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful) into the preamble and the eighth amendment gave Islam the status of state religion.

The Supreme Court on Sunday vacated its stay on the HC verdict on the fifth amendment, which legitimises the regimes between August 15, 1975, and April 9, 1979.

At yesterday's meeting, the prime minister stressed the need for strengthening the 14-party coalition, formed during the BNP-Jamaat coalition rule.

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Beware of fake ad

Govt not recruiting 1,100 teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday issued a warning regarding a false advertisement claiming to be recruiting 1,100 teachers and lecturers.

The advertisement, which was published in a national daily, was termed "completely false and fake" by the ministry.

It was published on December 28 on behalf of Nurul Islam, senior assistant secretary of the ministry, under a project titled 'Model school and college implementation project.'

The ministry in its clarification said it did not authorise the advertisement adding that

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Andaleeve tops list of absentees in Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Andaleeve Rahman Partho, chief of Bangladesh Jaitya Party (BJP), a component of BNP-led alliance, must join the current parliamentary session for at least one day to save his membership.

Andaleeve has already boycotted 64 consecutive sittings of parliament. The current session has 28 sittings. If he remains absent from the parliament for another 26

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Hasina's India visit awaits beefed up security

REZAUL KARIM

A multi-layer security system will be in place in and around Maurya Sheraton Hotel in New Delhi where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will stay during her three-day state visit to India.

Hasina, who will be on her first visit to India since assuming power in January 2009, is due to reach the Indian capital Sunday evening.

She will be staying at the same suite where world leaders had stayed during their trips to India. Generally reserved for high-profile VIPs, the Chandra Gupta Maurya suite is considered the best from the security standpoint. Former US presidents Bill Clinton and George W Bush too had stayed there. Former prime minister Khaleda Zia also stayed at the same suite during her state visit to India in March, 2006.

Highly placed sources said beefed up security measures will be in place for the Bangladesh prime minister following security threat that resulted in the cancellation of her trip to Visva Bharati University at Santiniketan in West Bengal as well as her meetings with former West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu and incumbent chief minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya on January 13.

Officials, however, said the prime minister dropped the West Bengal visit from her schedule, as she would be busy at home afterwards.

According to our New Delhi correspondent, two separate teams of special security personnel from Bangladesh have already been to India to survey the security arrangements for Sheikh Hasina and her entourage.

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Star India batsman Yuvraj Singh slog-sweeps one for four during his knock of 74 off 84 deliveries in the second match of the Idea Cup tri-series against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Two in two for SL

ATIQUÉ ANAM

India were far more crafty and disciplined than Bangladesh the previous night and they also had a few more runs on the board. But all that failed to have a significant impact as Sri Lanka coasted to their second victory in successive days under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

A top-heavy batting lineup, minus even the highest-rated batsman in one-day cricket, batted with aplomb and guile to overtake India's score of 279 with 5-wickets and 12 balls to spare, albeit with the obvious advantage of batting second.

Kudos then to Kumar Sangakkara, for calling the coin correctly, the second time in a row.

The Indian bowlers bowled pretty well; the three seamers extracted whatever bounce was on offer, Harbhajan Singh used all his experience to make inroads into the Sri Lankan batting lineup, but a very well-compiled hundred from Thilan Samaraweera, a second consecutive fifty from skipper Sangakkara, and a cameo from Thissara Perera meant Sri Lanka reached home with half their batting intact and two overs unused.

Samaraweera remained not out on 105 while Perera blasted a whirlwind 36 off just 15 deliveries; the left-hander dealing in boundaries with his score made up of six fours and ones.

However, Samaraweera and his partners can thank

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PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Poor visibility over the last few days disrupted ferry service at Mawa resulting in long queues of vehicles waiting to cross the Padma.

Fog, cold may wane from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dense fog and mild cold wave that have swept over most parts of the country for the last week are expected to start waning from today, said Met Office sources.

A thick layer of fog disrupted ferry services on Mawa-Kewrakandi route for around eight hours from 1:00am yesterday.

Four ferries carrying 1,500 people were stranded in the Padma River yesterday and vehicles waiting on both the sides of the ferry ghat were forced to endure a long delay before services resumed.

The lowest temperature recorded in the country yesterday was in Dinajpur, where it was 7.7 degrees Celsius.

In Dhaka a low of 10.5 degrees was recorded.

Most districts in Rajshahi

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SHIP-BREAKING POLICY Technical committee asked to prepare draft in 3 weeks

BSS, Dhaka

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday formed a 17-member technical committee in the environment and forest ministry for preparing the draft policy on ship-breaking industry.

The meeting chaired by State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud directed the committee, headed by environment secretary, to submit its report within three weeks.

In a briefing after the meeting, Hasan Mahmud said the prime minister in the light of the High Court order asked the ministry to formulate a new rule for flourishing ship breaking industry without causing any damage to environment.

The HC in an order on March 17, 2009, gave eight directives to the government to make the ship breaking industry environment friendly and make all ships free from dangerous chemicals before import.

In light of the order, the government has taken initiative for making a policy named 'Ship Breaking and Dangerous Waste Management Rule' and amend the existing Environment Conservation Act to allow the ship breaking industry flourish under a conducive atmosphere.

Hasan said the government has already decided to make a separate zone for ship breaking industry at Sitakunda to stop its

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OnlinePoll ✓
Do you think the authorities concerned will follow up on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement that there will be no more unplanned housing in Dhaka?
Yes (21.8%)
No (76.0%)
No Comments (2.2%)
Total votes: 954
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the conditions that BNP placed for its return to the Parliament like withdrawing 'politically motivated' cases against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman are justified?
Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
January 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Environment unit in police proposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior police personnel yesterday proposed to the government formation of a separate environment police unit, conferring of the state award Swadhinata Padak on police personnel, and inclusion of police representatives in the steering committee for Police Reform Programme.

The suggestions were made when police high officials met Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, and Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder in Rajarbagh Police Lines Auditorium on the occasion of the opening of the Police Week.

Superintendent of police of a northern district said, "While the whole world is concerned about the environment, our rivers are becoming narrower and flowing lesser day by day, and other water bodies and

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Iran bans contact with 60 bodies

BBC, HR Watch, VOA on list

AFP, Tehran

Iran has banned its citizens from having contact with 60 organisations including the BBC, Human Rights Watch and opposition website Rahesabz as well as US-funded broadcasters, state media have reported.

The deputy intelligence minister in charge of external affairs said that the 60 blacklisted groups were suspected of being involved in efforts by Western governments to topple the Islamic regime as part of a "soft war" and that it was an offence to communicate with them.

"Any kind of contact by individuals or legal entities with those groups involved in the soft war is illegal and prohibited," state media quoted the deputy minister as saying on Monday without giving his name.

The blacklisted organisations also included US government-funded Voice of America and Radio Farda as well as US-based pro-monarchist satellite channels, Israeli public radio and the outlawed rebel People's Mujahedeen.

The deputy minister also called on the public to avoid "irregular contacts with embassies or foreign nationals or centres linked to them."

"Citizens should be alert to the traps of the enemies and cooperate with the intelligence ministry in protecting the nation and neutralising the plots of foreigners and the conspirators," he said in allusion to opposition sympathisers who have held repeated protests over the past seven months.

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No compromise with powerful land grabbers

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not allow real estate business by grabbing canals, rivers and wetlands, State Minister for Housing & Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said yesterday.

He said the government is no way ready to compromise

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Cop shoots himself dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A policeman shot himself dead while he along with his fellows was guarding the arsenal of Dinajpur Police Lines early yesterday.

Constable Ashraf Islam, 22, hailed from Borogram of Lalmonirhat district.

Sources said hearing the sound of bullets around

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RF World View
Resort Apartment At Kolatoli Cox's Bazar
লক্ষ টাকায় একক মালিকানা 5 Star Hotel সমমানের সম্পূর্ণ সাফকবলায়
কক্সবাজারে পৃথিবীর দীর্ঘতম সমুদ্র সৈকতের অতি কাছে সুদৃশ্য দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী কিস্তিতে World View Resort Apartment
আপনি কি আপনার বিনিয়োগ নিয়ে চিন্তিত?
আমরাই আপনার বিনিয়োগ তাবনা বাস্তবায়নের জন্য পর্যটন বণ্ডারী কক্সবাজারে সম্পূর্ণ সাফকবলায় এবং একক মালিকানা 5 Star Hotel সমমানের রিসোর্ট এপার্টমেন্ট দিচ্ছি। যেখানে আপনি পাবেন বছরে ৩৩৫ দিনই থাকার সুযোগ অথবা তাক্তা হিসেবে অর্জন করতে পারেন বর্তমান সময়ের অধিক মুনাফা এবং তথ্যপ্রত্যয়নের জন্য আর্কাইভ আয়ের পথ।
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