

Did you know?

The Lupu Bridge in Shanghai, China, is one of the world's longest arch bridges. The 2.5 US\$ 302 million, 3,900-meter bridge was opened on June 28, 2003.



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HANGED

1. The file photo shows Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman having lunch with his family.
2. Hangmen arrive at Dhaka Central Jail late in the night yesterday.
3. Mother of death row inmate Syed Farooq Rahman visits her son yesterday afternoon.
4. Tight security in place at the jail gate around midnight.
5. People show the victory sign as the news of execution spreads.
6. Ambulances carrying the bodies of the executed five leave for their village homes.

PHOTO: FILE, ANISUR RAHMAN AND SHAFIQU ALAM



Forgery near-perfect

Investigators suspect a section of BB staff's links with making fake currencies

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Gangs involved in making counterfeit currency are so close to perfection that it is almost impossible for the general mass to identify a forged note from the original. These gangs no longer print a particular number on the notes of the same denomination. Investigators concerned suspect that a group of unscrupulous Bangladesh Bank (BB) staff provide the numbers of soon-to-be-released notes to the culprits. The suspicion arose as law enforcers recovered a list of serial numbers of oncoming bank notes from the busted fake note factory last Wednesday. Currency Officer of BB Syed Abu Bakar Siddique, however, brushed aside the allegation saying that it was hard for the note forgery gangs to collect serial numbers from the central bank. Jahirul Islam, who was arrested along with his wife during the raid at the factory in the city's Dakshin Khan, told the inter-



rogators that they could make fake notes so flawless that people having no expertise can hardly recognise those. Rab personnel also recovered phoney money of different denominations worth Tk 2.3 lakh during the raid. "The only way to know whether a note is counterfeit is to sprinkle water on it and then rub it. If it is fake the colour of writings on it might come off," said Jahirul during Rab interrogation. According to the law enforcers the arrests and recoveries made during the

last year suggests that a good number of gangs are active in the easy money business. Rab alone launched 54 successful operations arresting 88 people and seizing fake notes with printed value of crores of taka last year. Some of the drives even resulted in recovery of several printing machines, chemicals and other equipment. Earlier, the counterfeit currency makers used to print Tk 500 notes over original bills of Tk 100 after rubbing off the prints on the notes with chemicals. But the latest busting revealed that the gang members are using a kind of paper available in the market and imprinting serial numbers and watermarks and grafting holographic ribbons using modern technology. The investigators concerned urged more proactive measures from the central bank's Forged Currency Cell so that

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Fake notes seized

3 arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rapid Action Battalion seized fake notes worth Tk 15,000 and arrested three members of the network from a tea stall at Babu bazaar in the capital on Tuesday night. The arrestees were identified as Ashikur Rahman Titu, 35, Uzzal Hossain, 27, and Ridoy Hossain Babu, 20. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-10 raided the tea stall around 8:00pm and arrested the trio with 30 forged notes of Tk 500 denomination, says a Rab press release. During interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they had been working as carriers of the notes to different places from a fake currency note factory for the last two years, Rab sources said. Rab however declined to disclose the location of the factory for the sake of investigation.

Land prices may go down

Govt to re-fix it in a month

UNB, Dhaka

The government is considering reducing land prices, as the recent price hike slowed down land-registration pace. "We are considering reducing the price of land." Finance Minister AMA Muhith said this yesterday after an inter-ministerial meeting at the finance ministry. He also informed that the government would take decision on the fixation of land prices and transfer fees within a month. The new government raised the price of land in September last year while cut down the land transfer fee to 6% for rural areas and 8% for urban areas. But there was not much success in terms of registration, he said. "We earlier formed a committee to review the land price and transfer fee. The committee submitted their final report today and we considered various issues, but yet to reach a decision. "We will take our decision within a month," Muhith told the reporters. The committee, headed by Additional Secretary of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Shahidul Haque, submitted the report. The finance minister informed that the committee put forward their recommendations on all the issues, like the total

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Tigers suffer a sudden death

ATIQUA ANAM

India won the second and final Test against Bangladesh by 10 wickets and clinched the two-match series 2-0 but not before the 'inglorious uncertainty' about the Tigers' batting was once again cruelly exposed on the fourth morning at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. From a seemingly healthy position of 290 for three, Bangladesh capitulated to 312 all out in space of just 13 overs, courtesy of an old ball doing a bit of movement and a lot of unjustifiable shots. To their credit, Bangladesh managed to make the Indians bat once again after taking a token one-run lead. However, the two Indian openers had

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Kibria killed by 4-party criminals

PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance were involved in the assassination of former finance minister

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53 waterways to be dredged

PM tells JS policy underway to stop river pollution, illegal sand extraction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament unveiled her government's master plans to dredge 53 waterways and dying rivers to restore their navigability at a cost of over Tk 12,170 crore. The government is also working to prepare projects worth about Tk 5,000 crore for capital dredging of the rivers, she said. The prime minister, however, did not elaborate on the master plans. On January 19, the water resources minister informed the House that the pilot projects include the first phase of capital dredging of the river system at Tk 1,445.51 crore, the Buriganga recovery project worth Tk 1,514.95 crore, and purchasing dredgers and ancillary equipment for dredging at a cost of Tk 1,593.68 crore. While replying to lawmakers' queries, the PM yesterday said removal of wastes from the Buriganga riverbed has begun and removal of wastes from the Turag will start in the second phase. Hasina warned of taking stern actions

against those who are involved in destroying the natural balance by felling trees, cutting hills, extracting sand from riverbeds and creating obstacle to rivers' flow. The PM said besides the activities of the ministries of water, land and shipping, from now on she would also oversee activities to prevent people from creating obstacle to the normal flow of rivers. She said steps were taken to stop dumping of industrial wastes into rivers and formulate a policy to stop mindless extraction of sand from rivers. Hasina informed the House that the government is also taking measures to produce fertiliser and electricity from other wastes produced in the capital. Speaker Abdul Hamid drew Hasina's attention to the issue of bamboo fencing in rivers. He said he had several times drawn the attention of the land minister to the matter. "The land ministry sent a circular across the country, asking the administration to stop leasing flowing rivers. But such rivers are being

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Sri Lankan president re-elected

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa won a resounding re-election victory yesterday, beating back a challenge from his former army chief, who rejected the official results and said he feared arrest as troops surrounded his hotel. The capital was tense even as people hit the streets in celebration, setting off fireworks, waving Sri Lankan flags and holding up posters of a smiling Rajapaksa. Policemen at intersections smiled and waved at the revellers.

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Santu escapes gun attack

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Khagrachhari and Rangamati

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, narrowly escaped a gun attack yesterday. The attack on a motor convoy, taking him to Khagrachhari District Circuit House to join a meeting of the CHT Land Commission, was carried out at Lemuchhari of Mohalchhari upazila in Khagrachhari. Santu Larma, also the president of Parbatya Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), and four of his aides sustained minor injuries as shards of glass from a car windowpane, broken by the attack, struck them, according to a PCJSS news release. The convoy also came under two brick attacks before and after the gun attack -- at Betchhari of Naniarchar upazila, and at Maischhari of Mahalchhari upazila. PCJSS blamed rival United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) for the attacks. The injured others are Tarjen Khisa, Santu's private armed bodyguard, Jinopal Khisa, his personal staff, Barun Kumar Chakma, a member of PCJSS, and Udayan Tripura, president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad aligned with PCJSS. Around 10:00am the attackers fired several gun shots at the convoy prompting Tarzen Khisha to retaliate with three rounds. The perpetrators managed to flee the scene immediately. The



Santu Larma

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Sohel Taj returns as 'minister of state'

Receives state minister's protocol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, who resigned as state minister for home in June last year and was staying in the United States, returned home yesterday. He arrived at Zia International Airport around 10:00am and went straight to his mother's Banani residence. A state protocol was arranged for him, and he was received at the airport by the home secretary and two joint secretaries. A good number of people from his parliamentary constituency in Gazipur also went

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Prayer Timing		
January 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation