

Did you know?
The CN Tower in Toronto, Canada, is a communications and observation tower standing 553 meters tall. While still under construction in 1975 it became the tallest free-standing structure on land in the world. On September 12, 2007, after holding the record for 31 years, the CN Tower was surpassed in height by the still-under-construction Burj Dubai.

The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by.

BSRM
the ultimate steel

PHILIPS
Buy specific models of Philips Domestic Appliances. Get attractive discount up to 8%*

TRANSKOM
DIGITAL
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer
For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 865463

Pilkhana to hold 10 trials in February

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KAILASH SARKAR
Departmental trial of the accused mutineers of Bangladesh Rifles is expected to start at 10 separate points of the Pilkhana headquarters in less than a month. The authorities have already started readying the 10 points at five battalions and five units inside the HQ by February 25, say insiders. The ten points where the trial will be held are Rifles headquarters battalion and BDR 24, 36, 13, and 44 battalions, Dhaka sector headquarters, BDR hospital, Rifle Security Unit (RSU), Signal Sector and Rifles Sports Board. Arrangements are being made to hold

the trial at 10 points as the number of accused is huge. The 10 locations saw 74 people including 57 army officers killed during the 33-hour carnage on February 25-26 last year. The sources however could not give the total number of the accused in the bloody mutiny. They hinted that almost all who have been arrested in the criminal case now being probed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will stand accused. So far 2,183 people including 30 civilians have been arrested in the capital and 2,148 of them were placed on remand on various terms, while 521 of them made confessional statements under section

164 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In the aftermath of the mutiny, 40 cases were filed in 28 districts outside the capital and 1,721 BDR soldiers were arrested on charges of mutiny outside the HQ. The BDR authorities have already started trial of mutiny cases at three places outside the capital in Rangamati, Satkhira and Feni. "We've already started trial in different places outside the capital and hope to hold trial in the Pilkhana mutiny case as soon as possible," BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A mentally ill patient at National Institute of Mental Health in Shyamoli roams the almost empty hallways. The cost of care at the institute is too expensive for most and forces many to leave before the treatment is over. PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

Construction worker shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A construction worker was shot dead yesterday evening at Uttar Moishundi in the city's Sutrapur. The victim, identified as Humayun Kabir, 30, was a resident of Malitola in the Old Dhaka. Sub-Inspector of Sutrapur Police Station Selim Reza said a group of three criminals shot Humayun in the forehead at Mondir lane around 7:30pm. He died on the spot. Police later recovered his body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for autopsy. A cartridge was recovered from the spot after the incident. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Outlaw held at Islamic University

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya
Police arrested an operative of the outlawed Gono Bahini from the campus of Islamic University Friday evening and recovered three bullets and three bombs from his possession. The arrestee was identified as Billal Hossain, 30. He is a cousin of Gono Bahini top cadre Ali Ehsan Kalu who is now hiding up in India, police said. The arrest was made two days after police had arrested his younger brother Ali Murtoza Khasru, a student of SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Serena wins her 12th Slam

AFP, Melbourne
An ecstatic Serena Williams fulfilled a long-held goal on Saturday when she drew level with her idol Billie-Jean King by winning a 12th Grand Slam. Williams ended the remarkable comeback run of Justine Henin with a pulsating 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory in the SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

BNP moves to hold talks at 6 divisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP, the main opposition in parliament, will hold view-exchange meetings with its grassroots level leaders as part of its plan to reorganise the party across the country. According to the plan, at least ten meetings will be held with field level leaders in six divisional cities starting from Sylhet on February 6. The programme is aimed at boosting the field level activists and restoring the image of Tarique Rahman arrested on charges of corruption during the military-backed caretaker government, party insiders said. Pro-BNP intellectuals and BNP leaders will discuss the party strategies in relation to the

latest political situation and "Tarique's contribution to the politics and development" to help regain his image among common people, they added. Party leaders said a documentary on the previous activities of Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of the party, would be screened at each of the meetings. The meetings will be organised the way Tarique had done it while conducting the union representative conference. At a news briefing at BNP's central office at Nayapalton yesterday, Selima Rahman, vice-chairman of the party, said they would hold meetings with field level leaders of the party in different cities to reorganise the party and SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

China freezes military ties with US

AFP, Beijing
China said yesterday it was suspending military exchanges and security talks with Washington and would impose sanctions on US firms involved in a 6.4 billion-dollar deal to sell arms to Taiwan. A statement from the foreign ministry a day after Washington approved the sale said Beijing would also halt high level talks on arms control and non-proliferation. "Cooperation between China and the US on key international and regional issues will also inevitably be affected," the ministry said. "China will also implement relevant sanctions on US companies involved in the arms sales to Taiwan," it added. The measures were announced a day after Washington approved the sale of an arms package that includes Patriot missiles, Black Hawk helicopters, and communications equipment for Taiwan's F-16 fleet. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Gandhi ashes scattered on sea in South Africa

AFP, Durban
Ashes of Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, kept for decades by a family friend after his assassination, were scattered Saturday off South Africa's coast, his family said. "About 200 people attended. Everything went well, it was a beautiful ceremony," said Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of the apostle of non-violence. An AFP photographer said the pre-dawn ceremony was "dignified." "Before the immersion took place, the Hindu priest recited hymns. Gandhi's great grandson poured the ashes into the sea and afterwards people threw flowers as a sign SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Little care for mental health

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT
Around 10 percent of mentally ill patients at the National Institute of Mental Health are discharged before completing their course of treatment because they cannot afford the inflated costs of hospital beds. In the last two years, the charge for a hospital bed has almost tripled. In 2008, the cost of a hospital bed per night was Tk 80. Later it increased to Tk 125 and now it costs Tk 225. For a month long stay in hospital, patients now pay Tk 6750 whereas two years ago it cost Tk 2400. In September last year the government decided that fees at all public hospitals would increase. Mentally ill patients, however, are feeling the effects the most because they often require hospitalisation for several months at a time. The director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Prof Dr Mohammad Golam Rabbani acknowledged that the number of patients being admitted to hospital has decreased after the price hike. "Patient admissions reduced by around 15 per cent and many patients are now opting to stay for two weeks rather than a month because they cannot afford the extra cost," he said. However the director said that it is not causing a great inconvenience to patients because when discharged they are given prescriptions and later return to the hospital for a follow-up. SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

DMP on court summons to Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka
Police did not wrong by delivering court summons to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her residence on Tuesday night, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said yesterday. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief made the remark in response to Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque's criticism of the late-night delivery of the court summons in Zia Orphanage Trust case. Police on Tuesday night received the summons asking Khaleda to appear before the court the next morning. "As per rules, we were bound to deliver the court order that night," Shahidul noted. Police just obeyed court SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the government will be successful in bringing back the six remaining Bangabandhu killers absconding abroad?

Yes (60.1%)
No (35.3%)
No Comments (4.6%)

Total votes: 1135
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP's delay in giving any reaction to the executions of the five Bangabandhu killers is tarnishing its image?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
January 31

	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



Bangladesh midfielder Mamunul Islam takes a somersault after scoring the first goal against Nepal as his teammates rush to congratulate him during their opening match of the 11th South Asian Games at the at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: ANSUR RAHMAN

Good start for hosts

INDIA TAKES THE FIRST GOLD
SPORTS REPORTER
After a stunning opening ceremony the other night, Bangladesh made a sound start in their quest for a football gold in the 11th SA Games with a 3-0 win over Nepal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The first gold of the regional sporting extravaganza however went to India as their women cyclists won the 30-kilometre time trial race in Khulna. On a day when Pakistan and Sri Lanka also put their names on the medals table by winning the silver and bronze respectively in that event at the southern headquarters of the country, the capital was abuzz with success of Bangladesh football and hockey teams. At the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium, Bangladesh hockey team avenged their defeat against Sri Lanka in Colombo 2006 with a comprehensive 3-1 success. It was also a day when the local men and women shuttlers made sure of at least a medal by making it into the last four. Playing in front of a boisterous home crowd at the newly built Wooden Floor Gymnasium, Bangladesh men's team crushed Maldives 5-0 while the women's team beat Pakistan 3-2 in a closely fought contest. It was however a real disappointment for the hosts at squash court with both Swapan and Masud making exit from the quarterfinals after crossing the first round barrier against Nepal. The spikers also lost their opening match in volleyball against Maldives 3-2. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8