

Did you know? The tallest building in ancient times was the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, which was 480ft tall and was built in the 26th century BC. Its height was not surpassed for thousands of years until the 14th century AD with the construction of Lincoln Cathedral in England.



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Amazing New Year Offer for an exciting Trade Fair

JMB deserters to get security

Govt plans to protect them from reprisals for quitting militancy

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government plans to ensure security for the JMB operatives who are deserting the militant outfit and trying to return to normal life.

The authorities have taken the matter seriously after the recent murder of Rashidul Islam, former JMB full-timer and student of Darul Ihsan University.

On Monday morning, three men waylaid Rashidul in Uttara section-6 and knifed him to death. Rashidul's family and police said he was murdered for leaving Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said they are considering giving protection to those who sincerely try to work a way out of militancy.

"We'll soon hold a meeting with all concerned to discuss ways to protect those who would inform police that they are trying to quit JMB, but [they] fear reprisals," he told The Daily Star.

Jamal, another JMB full-timer and

Rashidul's friend, who claims to have left the outfit in 2003, has sought shelter from the police as he fears same fate as his friend's.

"Around a dozen former JMB men who know the ins and outs of the banned organisation are on its hit list," Jamal said on Tuesday.

He was talking to reporters while under custody of Uttara police.

Hassan Mahmood Khandkar, director general of Rapid Action Battalion, yesterday said, "I can say, on the basis of our intelligence, that many JMB operatives are willing to quit the militant group."

The law enforcement and intelligence agencies will ensure that former JMB men get security like all other citizens if they part company with the militant organisation, added the Rab chief.

He, however, stressed the need for a campaign to encourage people to support the youths determined to break free from the militant web they are ensnared in.

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SUPERSUB: Bangladesh substitute Tawhidul Alam Sabuz goes on a celebratory lap after scoring the all-important goal against India in the men's football semifinal of the 11th SA Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



Huge crowd at book fair

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela drew a large crowd yesterday, the first weekend after the fair began, and it saw high sale of books.

A large number of children and youths visited the fair yesterday. On an average, five out of every 10 visitors standing in the long queues at the entrances to the fair were young people and children.

Children with their parents started thronging the fair since the gates were opened at 11:00am. In the evening, long

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All-out steps to bring killers back

PM pledges after visiting Bangabandhu Mausoleum at Tungipara

UNB, Tungipara

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would take all the initiatives to bring back rest of the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and execute the court verdict.

"Our government is quite sincere about executing the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case for establishing the rule of law at levels of the society."

Hasina, also the Awami League president, made the remarks while exchanging views with

the leaders and workers of AL and its associated bodies after offering Munajat at the Mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman here in the morning.

Hasina visited Tungipara for the first time after the execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder case as five of the convicted killers were hanged soon after the midnight of January 27.

The PM said the main objective of her government is to bring smile on the face of the distressed humanity by building a "Sonar

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Kiwis kill Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

A superb all-round display by Jacob Oram helped New Zealand crush Bangladesh by 146 runs in the opening one-day international of the three-match series at the McLean Park in Napier on Friday.

Oram smashed a rapid 83 off only 40 balls to lift the Kiwis from a precarious 135-5 to an imperious 336-9 taking full advantage of some wayward bowling from the Tigers in the last overs.

He then took two wickets to win the man-of-the-match award in a contest where Bangladesh started brightly with Tamim Iqbal (62 off 69

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INDIA RULE THE POOL

Bangladesh in football final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh fired blank when it came to winning a gold on the eighth day of the 11th South Asian Games yesterday.

However the men's football team of the hosts went one step closer to ending a long gold drought after scoring a 1-0 win against India in the first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. An 85th minute strike from substitute Tawhidul Alam Sabuz separated the two teams much to the delight of a strong 20,000 home crowd at the Big Bowl.

Bangladesh will take on Afghanistan, who stunned Maldives 1-0 in the other semi, in the final billed for Monday.

It was a day when Bangladesh men's hockey team came tantalisingly close to pulling off a famous win against India. After leading the first half 2-0, the home side eventually finished the match on 3-3 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

The draw deprived Bangladesh of a place in the final.

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5 Hizb ut-Tahrir men held with leaflets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three operatives of banned Hizb-ut Tahrir Bangladesh in front of three mosques in the city yesterday while they were distributing leaflets containing provocative statement against the government and the prime minister.

The arrestees are Nader Zamel Chowdhury, a first year student of statistics at Dhaka University and a resident of Mirpur-10, Reazul Hasan, 22, a resident of Azimpur, and Wahidul Hoque, 24, a student of Dhaka College.

Nader was arrested at the

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A joint excavation team of France and Bangladesh have discovered an ancient city gate on the southwestern side of Mahasthangarh archaeological site in Bogra.

PHOTO: STAR

1,500-yr old city gate discovered

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Archaeologists in Mahasthangarh archaeological site have recently discovered an ancient city gate, used as the city's entrance at least 1,500 years ago.

A joint archaeological excavation team of France and Bangladesh found the ancient city gate on February 1 on the southwestern side of the site.

After the discovery, the team claimed that the age of the gate considering the earth and area is at least 1,500 years as they made a similar archaeological discovery at the location last year.

French archaeologist Ernelle Berliet said that several types of stone

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Suicide bombers hit hospital, bus

23 killed in Karachi

AFP, Karachi

Two suicide bombers on motorcycles struck a bus and hospital in Karachi yesterday, killing 23 people in the second attack in as many months targeting Shia Muslims in Pakistan's financial capital.

The attacks in a city largely isolated from Islamist attacks highlighted the terrorist threat in Pakistan, which is on the frontline of the US war on al-Qaeda and where militants have killed more than 3,000 people since 2007.

Women and children were among 12 people

killed when a motorcycle rigged with explosives rammmed into a bus of Shias travelling on one of Karachi's busiest roads to join a procession at the end of the holy Muslim month of Muharram.

A second bomb attack near the emergency ward at Jinnah Hospital, where the dead and wounded were being rushed, killed another 11 people.

Witnesses and officials said the bus was packed with Shia Muslims heading to a religious procession to mark the last day of

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1 wounded in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A boatman received bullet injuries in a gunfight between police and pirates in Chandpai range of East Sundarbans Forest Division Thursday afternoon.

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Prayer Timing		
February 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mortar attack kills 31 Shia pilgrims in Iraq

AFP, Karbala

A mortar bomb attack on the last day of a major mourning ceremony in Iraq killed 31 Shia pilgrims and wounded dozens more yesterday in an atrocity blamed on al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein loyalists.

The bomb struck pilgrims who were leaving the holy shrine city of Karbala, 110km south of Baghdad, where more than a million devotees had gathered to mark the festival of Arbaeen.

It was the third major attack this week on worshippers who have for weeks been travelling there on foot for the climax of the event earlier on Friday.

A provincial health ministry official gave the death toll and said 150 others were wounded.

"A mortar round was launched from fields northeast of the city," provincial governor Amalheddin al-Hir told AFP.

"I accuse al-Qaeda who are being supported by the Baath party," he said, referring to Saddam's outlawed political movement.

Arbaeen marks 40 days after the Ashura anniversary commemorating the slaying of Imam Hussein, one of Shia Islam's most revered figures, by the armies of the Sunni caliph Yazid in 680 AD.

A series of suicide attacks have seen dozens of pilgrims killed in recent days.

Hir said earlier that 10 million worshippers had visited the Imam Hussein shrine in the past two weeks, walking as a sign of piety, with the

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OnlinePoll

Do you think online admission process for Dhaka College and Suhrawardi College will stop Chhatra League's interference?

- Yes (49.0%)
- No (48.3%)
- No Comments (2.7%)

Total votes: 960
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think only drivers are responsible for the road accidents in city?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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