

Did you know? According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania, is the world's largest civilian administrative building, most expensive administrative building, and heaviest building. It measures 270m by 240m, 86m in height, plus another 92m under ground.



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Amazingly Attractive Offer During February

28 Bangladeshi detainees to return from Thailand today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thailand today repatriates 28 Bangladeshis detained along with some 200 Rohingyas from the sea by Thai authorities over a year ago.

"When the Thai authorities came to know there were some Bangladeshis they approached the Bangladesh mission in Bangkok. The embassy visited them and sent a list of their names and identities to the foreign ministry. Our police then verified the identities. And now they are returning," said Saida Muna Tasneem, director general for external publicity of the foreign ministry.

The 28 Bangladeshis are scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal (R) International Airport by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 5:20pm today, she told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Malaysia to hire 1 lakh workers from Nepal

Keeps mum about visa cancellation of 55,000 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Putting aside 55,000 Bangladeshi workers whose visas were cancelled in March last year, Malaysia is hiring one lakh Nepalese workers after more than a year of ban on recruiting foreign workers.

Malaysia banned hiring foreign workers in manufacturing and service sectors after a report forecast that 45,000 Malaysians were at risk of losing their jobs.

Early March the same year the Malaysian government imposed a freeze on hiring 55,000 Bangladeshi workers citing global meltdown.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth summit in Trinidad and Tobago in November last year, told his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina that they would maintain the freeze on hiring Bangladeshi workers. The decision came as a smack for Bangladesh.

Malaysian government has already approved around 100,000

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Large flocks of endangered panikata birds can be found in the Hatiya Island. Birdlife International estimates their numbers have dropped to between 6,000 and 10,000 across the world. In Bangladesh there is a population of around 1,200. This photograph was taken in late January. PHOTO: ALI REZA KHAN

Jubo League men snatch tender box

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

In presence of police, Jubo League men yesterday allegedly snatched a tender box from Jhenidah Municipality Office and damaged the tender schedules dropped for taking lease of four haats (village markets).

At least 20 persons riding on about 15 motorbikes came to the office premises at noon and took away the tender box on the last day of the submission, said the municipality sources.

Municipality Mayor Abdul Malek said 23 tender schedules have been sold since February 6 for giving lease of the haat of banana, betel leaf, cattle and kitchen items.

However, police later recovered the broken tender box.

Central Jubo League member Enamul Haque Milon alleged that leaders and workers of rival Russell Group was involved in the snatching incident.

He said upazila unit Jubo League Secretary Russell, district Jubo League Secretary Nazrul and activist Alam led the

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ADMISSION TRADE BCL activities at Kushtia Govt College suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Organisational activities of Kushtia Government College unit Chhatra League have been suspended for an indefinite period in the wake of disruption in admission process and clashes on the campus.

Meanwhile, Kushtia district unit Chhatra League has suspended four activists for beating up journalists and creating unstable situation on the college campus. The

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Rice OMS to reach upazila level soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon extend open market sales of rice to upazila level.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said, "We are working to operate the OMS of rice at upazila level massively."

The minister made the remark yesterday after a seminar on Canadian Agricultural Products organised by the Canadian High Commission at the city's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

He revealed the government's decision amid spiralling price of rice that continued for last couple of months.

Price of fine and medium rice varieties ranged between Tk 36 and Tk 45 per kilogram yesterday, while it was Tk 35 and Tk 44 last week

and Tk 32 and Tk 44 a month back, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

However, prices of coarse rice remained stable at Tk 26 to Tk 28 after the introduction of OMS at Tk 22 per kilogram in Dhaka, Narsingdi, Narayanganj and Gazipur on January 20.

The government on February 2 decided to expand OMS of rice since prices of fine and medium rice varieties kept soaring.

On February 8, the Food Monitoring and Planning Unit decided to introduce fair price cards and distribute those among 25 lakh ultra poor families in Dhaka and all divisional and district headquarters that would enable them to buy rice at Tk 22 a kilogram from late February.

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Bangladesh stun Tajikistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team got off to a stunning start in the AFC Challenge Cup finals when they handed a 2-1 defeat to their mighty opponents Tajikistan in the opener at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Sri Lanka yesterday.

Striker Enamul Haque and defender Atiqur Rahman Mishu struck for Bangladesh while Yusuf Rabiev pulled one goal back for the last year's runners-up.

On paper Tajikistan, inaugural meet champions, were the favourites against Bangladesh, who were humiliated by the same side 6-1 and 5-0 in the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup in Bangladesh in 2006 and a World Cup pre-qualifier in 2007 respectively before going down by identical 2-0 scoreline in home and away matches of the 2003 World Cup pre-qualifying matches.

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Young writers getting good response

DU CORRESPONDENT

Like every year, the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela has warmly welcomed the young writers and poets on the Bangla Academy premises to display their literary works before the readers.

The new writers and poets said they are getting good responses from readers of all ages and the attitude of publishers is getting changed towards them.

"Like other new writers, I have eagerly waited for this fair to publish my new book as it is the occasion of Bangalees' heart," said Afroza Soma, a new writer whose new title--Andha Ghor--has been

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This recent photo shows one of Ekushey Book Fair's littlest customers. He tries to keep up with his mother while carrying a large bag for books. PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

35 more Shibir men arrested 16 remanded

STAR REPORT

Police arrested 35 more members of Islami Chhatra Shibir across the country yesterday as part of the ongoing drive after the killing of two students at Rajshahi and Chittagong universities.

With yesterday's arrests, the police have so far arrested around 435 Jamaat-Shibir men in the last five days.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed 16 Shibir men on two-day remand in connection with a case filed on charge of militant activities. Around 100 Shibir men have so far been detained from different parts of the capital.

Police picked up 14 Shibir men from different places of Daulatpur, Khalishpur and Khulna Sadar, reports our Staff Correspondent in Khulna.

Among the detained 21 Shibir activists, RU student Abdul Halim reportedly escaped from Rajshahi to evade arrest.

Assistant Commissioner Anisur Rahman of Khulna Metropolitan Police said they picked up the Shibir men as part of the ongoing countrywide combing operations.

Mothar police detained 10 more Shibir men from different parts of the city and seven of them were produced before a court seeking remand, says our Staff Correspondent in Rajshahi.

Two Shibir cadres, who are also the student of Government

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4-party mulls over united movement Says Nizami

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Matiur Rahman Nizami yesterday said that launching united movement against the failures of the government and repression on the opposition is an inevitable demand of the people.

Talking to UNB at his office, Nizami gave a broad hint that the four-party alliance would be expanded with like-minded parties, but he would not elaborate on this point.

"There is no doubt about the united movement... four-party alliance is already on the street and time will say who else will be in the movement," he said.

The Jamaat Ameer alleged that the Awami League-led

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Ansar man held for mutiny threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday remanded for two days an Ansar man on charges of threatening to stage a mutiny like that in the BDR Pilkhana headquarters.

Khilgaon police said they arrested Ansar member Azim Uddin at the Ansar headquarters at Khilgaon on Monday night.

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US-Pakistan raid 'nets Taliban chief'

Pak interior minister denies report

AFF, Washington

US and Pakistani spies have captured the Taliban's top military commander, US media reported, but the militia yesterday denied his arrest and said he was still leading the fight in Afghanistan.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar was arrested in Pakistan's sprawling port city of Karachi "several days ago" by US and Pakistani intelligence services, the New York Times and other US media said, citing unnamed US government officials.

Islamabad's ties with the United States are controversial in Pakistan, where Interior Minister Rehman Malik stopped short of confirming or denying that Baradar was in custody, but criticised the report as "propaganda".

If confirmed, the arrest would be a huge blow for the Taliban, who have been fighting to bring down the Afghan government and evict Western troops since the 2001 US-led invasion removed them from power for sheltering al-Qaeda.

The report emerged as 15,000 US, Nato and Afghan troops press on with a major assault to capture the Taliban bastion of Marjah in southern Afghanistan, key to Washington's new strategy for turning around the costly war.

The New York Times billed Afghan-born Baradar as top lieutenant of the Taliban's one-eyed and elusive leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, and said he was currently being interrogated by Pakistani and US officials.

But the Taliban denied Baradar's capture and accused US officials of trying to deflect attention from resistance they are facing in Marjah.

"We strongly reject the reports of his arrest,"

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OnlinePoll

Govt decided to change the names of over 50 establishments including Zia Int'l Airport. Do you support the culture of renaming by every new government?

No (74.5%)
 Yes (24.4%)
 No Comments (1.1%)

Total votes: 1670

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the way parliamentarians are debating over late president Zia's body and grave is acceptable?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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