



Did you know? Angkor Wat (or Angkor Vat) is a temple complex at Angkor, Cambodia, built for the king Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and capital city. It is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation—first Hindu, dedicated to the god Vishnu, then Buddhist.



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KL stays frosty

Delegation returns with no assurance from Malaysia to withdraw ban on recruitment of Bangladeshi workers

PORIMOL PALMA

Malaysia still keeps mum about lifting the ban on Bangladeshi jobseekers imposing early 2009 following widespread allegations of malpractices in recruitment.

"The Malaysian side did not say yes or no to our requests to open the job market for our workers," said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan who led a delegation during a visit to Malaysia October 3-7.

"We also don't have any breakthrough about regularising immigration status of thousands of Bangladeshis in Malaysia," he added.

Malaysia has formed a taskforce on foreign workers which is now reviewing the recruitment process, he told The Daily Star.

The main objective of the visit was to thaw the Malaysian stance on the ban and ask the authorities to regularise the immigration status of many Bangladeshis, who are allegedly working without necessary papers.

Malaysia, which is home to around five lakh Bangladeshi expatriates, started recruiting labourers from Bangladesh in late 2006. Unofficial estimates suggest there are nearly two lakh irregular Bangladeshi workers, who are mainly victims of the malpractices.

Tenaganita, a migrants' rights organisation in Malaysia, in a study in 2007 found that

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Timber merchants are felling century-old raintrees along the Jessore-Jhenidah Highway at Kaliganj. They claim to have "permission from Roads and Highways Department and a High Court order that clears their way for the plundering". The photo was taken on September 27 this year.

PHOTO: STAR

Logging stopped following protest

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Villagers and civil society members are protesting government-sanctioned felling of age-old trees, which they consider as part of their heritage, along several highways in Jessore.

Over hundred years old and up to 20 feet in diameters, the 49 rain trees were sold to loggers by the executive arborist of Roads and Highways Department (R&HD), Rajshahi between 2002 and 2003 after classifying those as "hazardous". The sale was

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2 'pirates' killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Barisal and Patuakhali

Two pirates were killed in a 'shootout' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the Baleshwar river of Patharghata upazila in

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Prayer Timing		
October 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

SARIMA MURDER 'Killer' arrested


STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested the prime accused in the Sarima killing case from a Chittagong-bound bus at Bhatiari under Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee was SM Toha alias Sohrab alias Sourav, 26, son of Mohammad Lokman of Kulgaon area under the city's Bayezid Police Station.

Acting on a tip off, a joint team of police and Detective Branch arrested Sourav around 1:30am.

At a press briefing in the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters yesterday, Sourav confessed to killing Sarima with a knife that he brought from his house. The motive behind the killing, he said, was Sarima's denial to continue relationship with him.



SM Toha

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Cyclone Giri weakens

UNB, Dhaka

Latest meteorological observation, model product, radar and meteorological satellite imageries indicate that the severe cyclonic storm 'Giri' over Akyab in Myanmar and adjoining land areas moved northeastwards and weaken gradually.

Under its influence steep pressure gradient persists over North Bay, said a special bulletin of Met office yesterday.

Squally weather may continue over North Bay and coastal areas of Bangladesh.

Maritime ports of Cox's

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Four lakh secret Iraq war logs leaked

REUTERS, BBC ONLINE

Whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks on Friday released nearly 400,000 classified US military files chronicling the Iraq war from 2004 through 2009, the largest leak of its kind in US military history.

The documents themselves are known at the Pentagon as 'Sigacts,' raw field reports as seen by US forces on the ground in Iraq.

The released documents suggests that US commanders ignored evidence of torture by the Iraqi authorities.

The documents also suggest "hundreds" of civilians were killed at US military checkpoints after the invasion in 2003.

The US criticised the largest leak of classified documents in its history.

A US Department of Defense spokesman dismissed the documents published by the whistleblowing website as raw observations by tactical units, which were only snapshots of tragic, mundane events.

On allegations of abuse, he said it was policy always to report "potentially illegal abusive behaviour" so action could be taken.

At a news conference in London, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange said that those snapshots of everyday events offered a glimpse at the "human scale" of the conflict.

The deaths of one or two individuals made up the "overwhelming number" of people

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hosain that the government is in plotting to oust Khaleda Zia from the country to implement the agenda by foreign forces?

Yes (39.8%)

No (59.6%)

No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 2525

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia should vacate her cantonment house instead of challenging the High Court judgment in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court?


Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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