

Did you know?

Hagia Sophia is a former Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later a mosque, now a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. From the date of its dedication in 360 until 1453, it served as the cathedral of Constantinople except between 1204 and 1261.



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GRAFT SURVEY

SC asks for documents from TIB

Watchdog to respond today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday asked the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to submit relevant documents and its household survey report that said most service seekers fell victim to corruption at the judiciary.

The TIB said it would submit the survey report and a detailed explanation of the survey methodology before the SC today.

"Yes, we have received the letter this afternoon. We would send our report along with a detailed description of the methodology we've applied during the survey to the Supreme Court

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A snow covered road of Boston, Massachusetts on Monday. The northeastern US was trying to get back to normal yesterday after blizzards left tens of thousands of air passengers stranded and many without power.

PHOTO: ZOAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

11 killed as 2 buses collide in Comilla

STAR REPORT

At least 11 people were killed and 40 others injured when two buses collided on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Kather Pool of Chandina upazila in Comilla yesterday.

Witnesses said six people, including a woman, died on the spot and five others soon after being taken to hospital.

The victims were identified as Siddiqur Rahman, 35, a motorcyclist, of Shrimantapur village under Chandina upazila; bus driver Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, 45, of Nolia village under Kochua upazila, Chandpur; bus helper Ramjan Ali, 23, and passenger Samrat, 38, of Shaharasti, Chandpur; Rafique, 25, of Chandpur sadar and Palash, 30, a sales representative of a pharmaceutical company, of Debipur village under Sudharam upazila, Noakhali.

The identity of five others could not be known immediately. All the injured were rushed to Comilla Medical College

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Cop found dead in city hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable and a filling station employee were found dead at a hotel in the capital's Ashkonayesterday.

The policeman, Abdur Rahman, 25, was posted at public order management section in Mirpur. The other deceased, Shahid, 34, was an

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| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| December 29   |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 5-30  | 6-05   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 4-00  | 4-15   |
| Maghrib       | 5-27  | 5-30   |
| Esha          | 7-00  | 7-30   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Murder, robbery charges dropped

Court terms charges against five "politically motivated"

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka yesterday withdrew dacoity and murder charges against five persons, including two fugitives, considering it "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment".

Kaniz Akhter Nasrina Khanam, judge (in charge) of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2, Dhaka passed the order following an application filed by the special public prosecutor of the court.

The accused are Joynal Abedin Mollah, Ikbal Hossain, Shahin, Sharif and Humayun Kabir Reaz. Of them, Shahin and Humayun are on the run.

Following the withdrawal order, plaintiff's brother Mohammad Afzal Hossain broke down in tears and expressed his dissatisfaction over the verdict.

He also said they would file a revision prayer with the High Court challenging the legality of the trial court order.

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UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES

JMB men guided by manual

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The instruction manual recovered by crime busters from a JMB den compiles a set of guidelines for underground militants reorganising the terror outfit.

Police raiding a hideout of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh in Alipur Hospital Gate Area of the district's Hathazari upazila found the document along with some jihadi books.

Meanwhile, a Chittagong court yesterday placed JMB militant Shamim Hossain, arrested during the raid, on a

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Memories of horror

Witnesses go back to '71 as war crimes trial prosecutors visit spots

DU CORRESPONDENT

Mohsin Ali had kept things to himself since the country's independence, but yesterday when prosecutors of the International Crimes Tribunal visited Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University he could not resist describing his wartime experience to them.

He was 10 years old and was living in Rokeya Hall employees' quarters with his family on March 25, 1971 when the Pakistani army unleashed their killing spree on unsuspected Bangalees in Dhaka city.

"I was scared when the Pakistani army knocked on our door. I just managed to hide under a bed. The army men entered the room breaking the door, and shot my parents dead. I was lucky enough that they did not look under the bed," said Mohsin, who now works as an office help in Rokeya Hall at the age of 51.

That night the marauding Pakistani army killed about 45 to 50 people inside Rokeya Hall. Chief Prosecutor Golam Arif Tipu; and prosecutors Zead-Al-Malum, Syed Haider Ali, and Altaf Hossain listened to Mohsin's experience of

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DCs getting authority to transfer UNOs

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Divisional commissioners are set to get the authority to transfer upazil nirbahi officers (UNO) in their jurisdictions.

The move came as a part of the government's efforts to decentralise the civil administration, and ease pressure on the establishment ministry, sources in the establishment ministry said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina already approved an

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Sonar Bangla Insurance Ltd.** heartily congratulates **Mr. Jahangir Alamin, Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group, Managing Director, Fuad Spinning Mills Ltd.** and our Great Patron & Valued client for his election as **PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION (BTMA).**

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Which party do you think will win the January 27 by-polls in Habiganj-1 and Brammanbaia-3 constitutions?

- AL-led grand alliance (23.8%)
- BNP-led coalition (70.0%)
- No Comments (6.2%)

**Total votes: 800**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think BNP's demand of deploying army in all municipalities to ensure fair polls is justified?

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**ইংলিশ ভার্সনে (PG - IX) ভর্তি চলছে**

আমাদের অনন্য বৈশিষ্ট্য

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- ক্লাসের পড়া ক্লাসেই তৈরী
- সহনীয় মাত্রায় বাড়ির কাজ
- সুসজ্জিত ক্লাস রুম
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- ৫ম ও ৮ম শ্রেণীর বিশেষ কোর্সিং
- অমনোযোগী শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য বিশেষ কাউন্সিলিং
- নিয়মিত শিক্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ
- শিক্ষক-অভিভাবক মতবিনিময় সভা
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