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Deadly end to Sydney siege

Two hostages, gunman killed after armed police storm Lindt cafe

AGENCIES

Heavily armed Australian police stormed a Sydney cafe early today and freed a number of hostages being held there at gunpoint, in a dramatic end to a 16-hour siege in which three people were killed and four wounded.

New South Wales police said two men, aged 34 and 50, and a 38-year-old woman died. The attacker was among the fatalities, reports Reuters.

Heavy gunfire and blasts from stun grenades filled the air shortly after 2:00am local time (1500 GMT on Monday).

Moments earlier at least six people believed to have been held captive managed to flee after gunshots were heard coming from the cafe, and police later confirmed that they made their move in response.

So far 17 hostages have been accounted for.

Medics tried to resuscitate at least one person after the raid and took away several wounded people on stretchers, said a Reuters witness at the scene in downtown Sydney.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



People boiling the furnace oil scooped up from the Shela river in the Sundarbans yesterday to get rid of the water in it. They intend to sell the oil. A crocodile, inset, on the bank of the Shela river that has a layer of oil.

PHOTO: STAR

Ban vessel movement, save forest

TIB asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has expressed concern over the recent shipping ministry decision not to impose a permanent ban on plying of commercial vessels through the Sundarbans.

TIB in a press release yesterday demanded a ban on the operation of such vessels in all the routes through the Sundarbans immediately for saving the world's largest mangrove forest and its biodiversity.

Despite repeated pleas by the environment ministry, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan on Sunday said his ministry was not considering "any

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Resting place for war heroes designed

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

It looks like a narrow bed as if it's inviting one to sleep. One end of it, however, is tilted slightly upwards, like the lowered backrest of a chair. The tilted end

with a circle in it symbolises the nation's flag which they achieved through the war and which now will guard them all the time.

This was how Asifur Rahman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The approved design for freedom fighters' graves.

Stolen baby rescued

4 women held for stealing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered a newborn baby girl who they suspect was stolen from a hospital two weeks ago from a house in the capital's Lalbagh area.

They also detained four women from the place for their alleged involvement in stealing and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

CU still tense

BCL men besiege VC office for 4 hrs demanding removal of proctor 'for backing another BCL group'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The agitating faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University unit that besieged the vice-chancellor's office yesterday morning demanding removal of the university proctor postponed the programme in the afternoon upon authorities' assurance of meeting the demand in 24 hours.

"We postponed the programme at 5:00pm as the authorities assured us of removing the proctor within 24 hours,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

10 hurt as BCL, Jubo League men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A clash between the activists of Jubo League and Chhatra League over establishing supremacy at Arambagh in Siddhirganj left 10 people, including a former Jubo League leader, injured yesterday evening.

Locals said Selim Pathan alias Tunda Selim, former

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

3 surrender in Belgium armed siege

'No Islamist link'

AFP, Brussels

Three suspects in an armed hostage-taking incident in the Belgian city of Ghent surrendered to police yesterday, reports said, as officials said there were no indications of terrorism.

Police had earlier surrounded an apartment after four armed men took a captive in a working-class area of the northwestern city.

The three suspects were "taken outside, with their hands in the air" by special

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

মহান বিজয়ের ৪০ বছর

সূচনায় তুমি, রচনায় তুমি
মায়ের মতই মমতাময়ী

হে মাতৃভূমি

আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক
শ্রদ্ধানুধ্যায়ী ও দেশবাসীকে জানাই
মহান বিজয় দিবসের শুভেচ্ছা



স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
ব্যাংকিং সেবায় আনলো নতুন মান

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with UNDP that Bangladesh should impose a complete ban on the movement of all commercial vessels in Sundarbans area?

☒ Yes (88%)
☐ No (12%)

TOTAL VOTES: 225

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan to say that sinking oil tanker would not damage the Sundarbans?

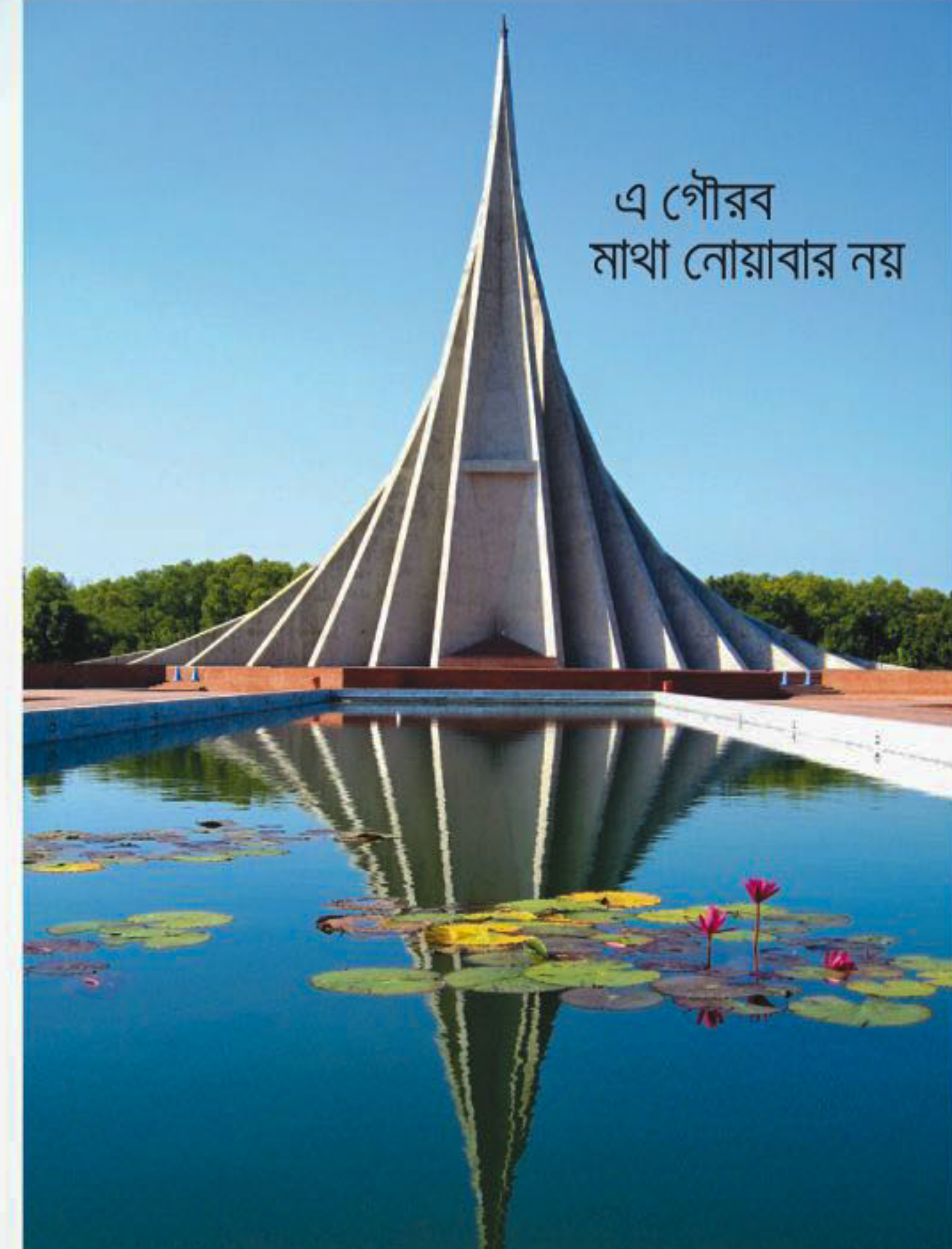
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 16

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Azan | Jamaat |
| Fazr 5-20 | 5-55 |
| Zohr 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr 3-45 | 4-00 |
| Maghrib 5-22 | 5-25 |
| Esha 7-00 | 7-30 |


Source: Islamic Foundation

এক সাগর রক্তের বিনিময়ে বাংলার স্বাধীনতা আনলে যারা
আমরা তোমাদের ভুলব না



এ গৌরব
মাথা নোয়াবার নয়

বরেণ্য স্থপতি সৈয়দ মাইনুল হোসেন প্রণীত নকশা অনুযায়ী
মহান জাতীয় স্মৃতিসৌধ নির্মাণের দায়িত্ব
আমাদের উপর অর্পিত হওয়ায় আমরা জাতির কাছে কৃতজ্ঞ



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