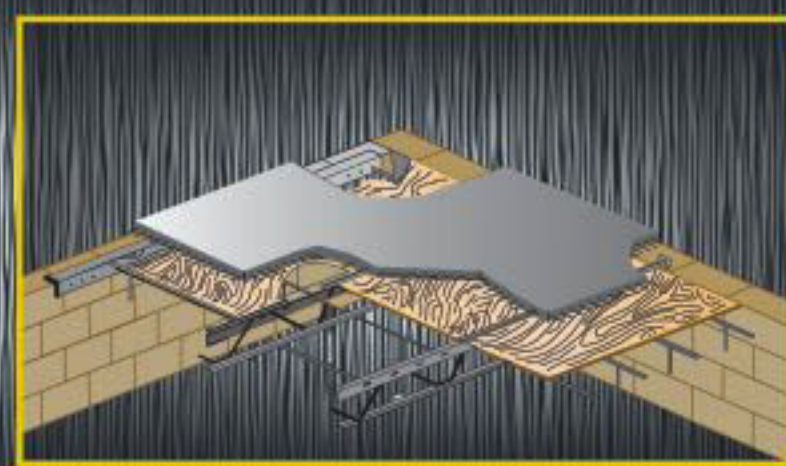


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Time for winter cakes

The rich aroma of rice cakes, especially *chitai pitha* and *bhapa pitha*, tells you winter has set in. But unlike in the villages, where winter cakes are made at home in a gesture of camaraderie, in cities they are made in roadside stalls. Pagla Pitha Ghar is one such stall on the city's Green Road where these cakes are offered with 35 different kinds of chutneys and spicy mashed items.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Deal chance higher, ambition lower

At halfway, US star-power injected into struggling talks

AGENCIES

Near the halfway mark of a UN climate change conference in Paris, hopes for a deal are far higher than at the last, failed summit in Copenhagen, even if the agreement on offer is less ambitious this time.

Back in 2009, many had hoped for a sweeping treaty to cut the greenhouse gas emissions that are changing the climate. This time, nearly 200 countries will choose their own policies in the hope of binding both rich and poor into the effort to combat global warming.

With seven days of negotiations left before the conference closes on Dec 11, two alternative draft



PARIS2015
COP21-CMP11

texts are circulating, which all nations agreed on Friday to accept as the basis for talks.

At 38 and 48 pages long, they have shrunk from above 50 at the start of the week. At the same stage of Copenhagen, the drafts ran to 300 pages.

"I'm optimistic," said Robert Stavins, director of Harvard University's Environmental Economics Program. "It's drastically different from Copenhagen."

But the text still has hundreds of brackets, marking points of disagreement on everything from finance for developing nations beyond 2020 to where to set the long-term goal for cutting or

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Police identify 86 human traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police yesterday claimed to have identified 86 human traffickers who are reportedly active in 18 districts across the country.

Ferdous Ali, additional superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar, said the criminals were identified following interrogation of 48 trafficking victims who were brought back from Myanmar through a border in Bandarban on Wednesday.

He said cases would be filed against the traffickers with their respective police stations.

The 18 districts are Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi, Kushtia, Tangail, Narayanganj,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Fake currency gang busted in city

Pakistani national among 6 held; foreign currencies, passports seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday claimed to have busted six members, including a Bangladesh-born Pakistani national, of a fake currency smuggling and human trafficking gang near the Shahjalal International Airport in the city.

Members of Rab also seized fake Indian currencies worth Rs 1 crore, Tk 6.24 lakh, large amounts of US dollar, Pakistani rupee, UAE dirham, Saudi riyal, 28 Bangladeshi and Pakistani passports and a large number

of fake seals from them.

Major Maksudul Alam, deputy director of the Rab's Legal and Media Wing, told The Daily Star that they conducted drives in the airport area between 8:00pm on Thursday and early yesterday and rounded up the six.

The detainees are Abdullah Selim, 42, Md Jahangir, 45, Abdul Khalek, 55, Kamrul Islam, 28, Abu Sufian, 48, and Mamun Ur Rashid, 45. Of them, Selim is a Pakistani.

They were paraded before the media during a press briefing at the Rab headquarters in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



People attend a candlelit vigil at the San Manuel Stadium in San Bernardino, California on Thursday for victims of Wednesday's shooting in San Bernardino that left 14 people dead and at least 21 injured.

PHOTO: AFP

IS link uncovered in California shooting

Say reports; US Muslims fear backlash

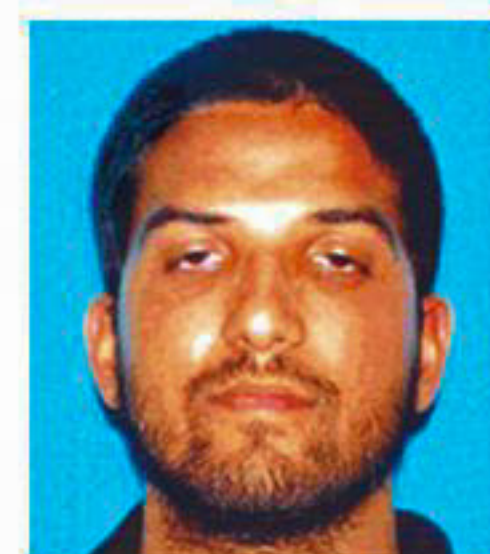
AGENCIES

Investigators believe the female shooter in California, Tashfeen Malik, pledged allegiance to Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Facebook, US media reported yesterday, as the probe into the deadly attack intensified.

The report comes two days after the carnage at an office year-end party in San Bernardino that left 14 people dead and 21 others wounded -- the deadliest mass shooting in the United States since the Newtown school massacre in 2012.

While authorities have publicly cautioned it is too soon to call Wednesday's carnage a terror attack, reports suggested Syed Farook, a 28-year-old US-born Muslim, and his 27-year-old Pakistani wife Malik may have been radicalized.

Reports suggested the couple may have been motivated by the IS group, which



Syed Farook

declared the creation of an Islamic "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria after seizing large swaths of territory there -- but not specifically directed to act.

"At this point we believe they were more self-radicalized and inspired by the group than actually told to do the shooting," one federal law enforcement official told The New York Times.

One US official familiar with the investigation said Malik had posted her allegiance to Baghdadi on Facebook under an account with a different name during the attack, CNN reported. MSNBC quoted another official saying the post came "just before the attack."

Officials did not explain to CNN how they knew Malik was responsible for the post. The post has since been deleted from Facebook, the Times said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Man stabbed to death in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong early yesterday. The dead, Nurul Amin, 45, was the son of Nurul Islam in Chittagong city's North Pahartali Noapara. He was a driver of Confidence Cement factory in Sitakunda's Madambibir Hat area.

Victim's younger brother Tajul Islam said Amin went to his workplace from their house on Thursday evening.

After his duty, Amin left for home around 3:30am, said Tajul, quoting one of his brother's colleagues.

In the morning, locals found the body of Amin beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Baro Awlia Highway Police Station.

The body bore multiple stab wounds in his head, face, hands, abdomen and back.

Police suspected it was not an incident of mere mugging as his wallet and mobile phone were not snatched.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

10 hurt as BCL factions clash

Comilla University teacher 'assaulted'

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

At least 10 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured in a factional clash at Comilla University yesterday. A teacher of the university was also assaulted by some BCL men, as he along with his colleagues tried to stop the clash.

The clash ensued when two factions, backed by the president and the general secretary of the BCL university chapter, came face to face in separate processions in front of Comilla Polytechnic Institute around 10:00am.

Mehedy Hasan, the injured teacher, said, "Usually, students' organisations march in processions to welcome the freshmen."

"But, I have never heard of a procession taken out to welcome admission seekers," added Mehedy, also the vice-president of the university's teachers' association.

Around 44,000 students sat for yesterday's admission tests held in at least 30 schools and colleges as the university could not accommodate them on its own campus.

Witnesses said Mehedy intervened when the BCL factions were about to lock in a second round of clash at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

4.20 lakh die a year from tainted food

Children constitute one-third of victims, says WHO study

AFP, Geneva

Some 600 million people get sick from eating contaminated food each year, and around 420,000 die, according to the World Health Organization.

Young children account for nearly one third of the deaths, the UN health agency said in its first-ever estimate of the impact of foodborne diseases.

It found that almost one in 10 people globally get sick each year from food contaminated with a range of bacteria, viruses, parasites, toxins and chemicals.

Kazuaki Miyagishima, head of WHO's food safety division, stressed the importance of getting clear data on the problem.

"Until now, we have been combatting an invisible enemy, an invisible ghost," he told reporters in Geneva on Thursday.

He hoped that quantifying the toll of contaminated food would help mobilise

countries to significantly boost food safety.

The report, which is based on analysis of data up to 2010, identified 31 different agents contaminating food and making hundreds of millions of people either acutely ill or injecting them with serious illnesses like cancer that may not surface until years later.

In addition to killing nearly half a million people each year, foodborne diseases are taking a significant toll on the quality of life of those who survive, said the report.

Each year, the global population as a whole loses a full 33 million so-called Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), or healthy years of life, it said.

Miyagishima said the numbers were "very conservative," representing the "minimum damage caused to humanity by contaminated foods."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Delhi moves to cut vehicular pollution

NDTV ONLINE

Under fire over rising pollution in Delhi and the lack of a concrete plan to tackle it, the Arvind Kejriwal government has announced that private vehicles with odd and even registration numbers will be allowed on the roads of the national capital only on alternate days starting next month.

This means that from January 1, 2016, if vehicles with number plates ending with an odd number can be driven one day, only those ending with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



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PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 5

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JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION