

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
STAR WEEKEND

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'IS attacks' Jakarta

Believed to be first Islamic State strike at Indonesia; 5 attackers among 7 killed

REUTERS, Jakarta
Islamic State said it was behind an attack by suicide bombers and gunmen in the heart of Jakarta yesterday that brought the radical group's violence to the world's most populous Muslim country for the first time.
Just seven people were killed despite multiple blasts and a gunfight, and five of them were the attackers themselves, but the brazenness of their siege suggested a new brand of militancy in a country where low-level strikes on police are common.
It took security forces about three hours to end the attack near a Starbucks cafe and Sarinah's, Jakarta's oldest department store, after a team of seven militants traded gunfire with police and blew themselves up.
An Indonesian and a Canadian were killed in the attack. Twenty people, including an Algerian, Austrian, German and Dutchman, were wounded.
"A group of soldiers of the caliphate in Indonesia targeted a gathering from the crusader alliance that fights the Islamic State in Jakarta," the group said in a statement. It added that 15 people were killed.
Jakarta's police chief told reporters: "ISIS is behind this attack definitely," using a common acronym for Islamic State, and he named an Indonesian



Indonesian police take position behind a vehicle as they pursue suspects after a series of blasts hit the Indonesia capital Jakarta yesterday.

IS, Qaeda distorting Islam

Say Arab Muslim youths in poll
AFP, Abu Dhabi
A majority of Arab Muslim youths see the actions of extremists such as the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda as a perversion of Islam's teachings, according to a new poll.
The Zogby Research Services poll of 5,374 young Muslim men and women from the Middle East and North Africa also found that many millennials blame corruption and repressive governments for the rise of jihadist groups.
"At least three-quarters of millennial respondents in all countries surveyed" said movements like IS and al-Qaeda "are either a complete perversion of Islam's teachings or mostly wrong," the polling firm said.
The survey was conducted in October and

KEY ISLAMIC STATE ATTACKS THIS JANUARY

- JAN 3** Iraqi military base attacked; 15 Iraqi military and police personnel killed
- JAN 4** Fight to capture oil port along Libya's coast leaves 7 dead
- JAN 7** Attack on a police training centre in the Libyan city of Zliten kills 65
- JAN 9** Two militants storm a hotel in the Egyptian resort town of Hurghada, stab and injure two foreign tourists
- JAN 11** A spate of attacks in Iraq leave 30 dead
- JAN 12** 10 killed in suicide bombing in Istanbul
- JAN 13** 15 killed in blast near Quetta, Pakistan; 7 killed in four-hour siege near Pakistani consulate in Jalalabad, Afghanistan

RMG supply chain plagued by graft

Global apparel buyers also responsible for irregularities, says TIB
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The supply chain of the garment industry, the country's biggest export earner, is plagued by irregularities and corruption for which global apparel buyers are also responsible, according to a report of Transparency International Bangladesh.
The anti-corruption watchdog detected anomalies at 16 stages -- from order placement to shipment -- in the apparel supply chain.
According to the TIB, irregularities and corruption at different stages of the chain have become almost a custom in some cases. And various stakeholders, including factory owners, buyers, auditors and inspectors, are involved in it.
The TIB yesterday released the report that exposed corruption in the supply chain of the garment industry.
"We are habituated to blaming our factory owners, exporters and government employees. But buyers, who are buying and making profits, are no less responsible for irregularities," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said at a press conference at the TIB head office in the capital.
The TIB prepared the report based on information gathered from November 2014 to April last year through interviews of

Train fare to rise by 7.8pc next month

Says railway minister
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Railway ministry wants to increase fares for passengers and freight by 7.8 percent from next month to cut down losses.
"We have recently sent a proposal to the prime minister. The new fares will come into effect following the prime minister's approval," said Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque.
He was talking to reporters after inaugurating Wi-Fi connectivity at the Railway Bhaban in the capital.
The fare hike will be applicable for all routes.

Only rate cuts won't boost investment

Analysts stress the need for improving business environment, cutting cost of business
SAJJADUR RAHMAN
Only policy interest rate cuts are not enough to boost investment, as there are other factors such as business environment, investment certainty and cost of doing business, which analysts say need to be addressed for a higher growth.
However, they hope that the sluggish investment situation prevailing for the past few years will improve if the cost of bank loan comes down after the key policy rate cut.
Bangladesh Bank yesterday lowered the key policy rate or repo and reverse repo by 0.5 percent to 6.75 percent and 4.75 percent respectively.
Repo rate, at which the BB lends to com-

No sign of solution

Public university teachers continue strike for 4th day
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Public university teachers observed work stoppage for the fourth consecutive day yesterday protesting against "disparity in the new pay scale" but no solution is in sight yet.
Though teachers' leaders and the education minister repeatedly assured that the problem would soon be solved, neither side could say how.
The crisis, meanwhile, paralysed the country's higher education sector.
Almost all the public

For Tigers, 2016 begins today

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh will take on Zimbabwe in the first of their four-match T20I series at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna today. The Tigers had a brilliant run throughout 2015, but the shortest format of the game is still relatively foreign territory, but one that they will have to conquer once their T20 challenge begins today. Once this series concludes, Bangladesh will be off to the Asia Cup T20, after which they will take part in the ICC World T20 in India.
The Tigers have already said that this series will be one where they will be looking to experiment with the line-up in order to decide on their best combination for the looming events, so they may blood some youngsters like Abu Haider and Nurul Hasan,



Abdus Sattar Hiru, second from right, founder of "Long Man Society", with other members of the club that works to help underprivileged village men and women in Rasulpur of Tangail. The photo was taken recently.

Tall men's higher calling

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Tangail
They call it "Long Man Society" and it is literally so. All the men in the club are at least six feet tall. Care to know why they formed it?
"As tall-figured men, we have sort of an influence over others. We try to make use of it to help the oppressed in society," explains Abdus Sattar Hiru, 43, of Kazla village at Rasulpur of Ghatail in Tangail.
With a height of six feet three inches and a sturdy body, Hiru is the founder of the society. After feeling strongly for the poor who are deprived of justice, he thought may be he, along with other tall men from neighbouring villages, could play a role in helping underprivileged men and women get justice.
He shared the idea with people of more or less similar heights. Abdul Hamid alias Khoru Mia, 65, of neighbouring Basabaidd village was the first person in whom he found a kindred spirit. Khoru Mia instantly appreciated the idea and agreed to work with him.
It was some time in March 2014. Sitting by a roadside teashop at Basabaidd, the duo were discussing how they could work. Suddenly, Khoru noticed some boys returning homes from school. One of them threw fistfuls of dust towards another boy who was from a poor family.
As the poor boy protested, Hiru remembers, the other one responded with a blow, provoking a tussle between two groups of boys. In minutes, a crowd gathered there for settling the dispute.
"We two were watching the incident. Interestingly, some people from the crowd blamed the poor boy and asked him why he had to protest as it was just a game," he says.