



Traffic jam is a common sight in urban life and turns severe during rush hours. The authorities took measures to streamline the traffic system in the capital, making major thoroughfares off-limits to rickshaws or marking several as one-way. Still, hundreds of vehicles snarl up on the Topkhana Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### 30 hurt, houses vandalised in post-polls violence

ANWAR ALI, Naogaon

At least 30 people were injured and 15 houses ransacked in post-polls violence between supporters of two Union Parishad chairmen candidates at Narayanpur and Palpara villages in Manda upazilla in the district.

Two shops were also set on fire. In the election held on January 29, local Awami League leader Saidur Rahman Bakul was elected chairman of Tetulia UP, defeating BNP leader Nazmul Haque Nazu.

Angered by the defeat, about 200 BNP activists attack houses of minority families in Palpara on Friday.

In retaliation, about 100 AL activists attacked BNP activists in Narayanpur village and looted some houses.

At night, the BNP activists attacked eight shops belonging to AL supporters at Sabaihat Bazar and torched two of those.

On the following morning, BNP

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### Correction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on January 26 issued a rule upon the government to show cause why compensation would not be awarded to writer Shahriar Kabir.

Based on the information given by the lawyer of the case, The Daily Star ran a story in its January 27 issue "that the court had issued a rule on the government as to why a compensation of Tk 5 crore would not be given to writer Shahriar Kabir."

Later, it was learnt from the bench officer that there was no mention of the amount of money in the rule issued upon the government. The bench of Justice Hamidul Haque and Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury issued the rule.

The Daily Star stands corrected and regrets the inadvertent mistake.

## 30 hurt as cops, JCD activists clash at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 JCD men including the Chittagong University unit president and general secretary, and seven policemen were injured in a series of clashes on the campus yesterday.

During the clashes agitated JCD men damaged the office-room of the vice-chancellor and ransacked several other rooms of the administrative building.

The CU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, also called an indefinite strike on the campus from today (Tuesday) demanding immediate resignation of VC Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, Pro-VC Professor Dr. Mohammad Shamsuddin and Proctor Professor Muzibur Rahman.

However, the day (February 4) coincides with the first day of the scheduled 15-day Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

Witnesses said the clashes occurred when police intercepted a JCD procession towards the VC office at around 12 noon.

The JCD brought out the procession from CUCSU building to protest

an alleged physical assault on a JCD activist, Ismail Hossain Shahed, by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres at the central library premises on the night before.

Ismail was under treatment at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for serious head injuries, they said.

The JCD procession was going to submit a memorandum to the VC demanding trial and punishment of Shibir cadres involved in the attack.

When police intercepted the procession, the agitated JCD men went on the rampage, damaging many rooms of the administrative building and the office of the VC.

Police resorted to baton-charge to disperse the JCD men trying to force their way into the VC office.

The JCD activists again clashed with the police when they tried to bring out another procession.

Some of the injured JCD activists were identified as president Md. Selim, general secretary MR Milton Chowdhury, and activists Rashedul Huq, Atiqur Rahman Bipu, Ahmed Mehedi, Hasan, Ramzan Ali, Shahed, Sagor, Hafizuddin, Md. Quamrul, Runa, Babil, Firoz, Selim,

Nazmul and Wasim.

Besides, the injured policemen were identified as OC of Hathazari thana Md. Khaled, Habilder Badiul Alam, constables Abu Musa, Amal Chandra Karmakar, Md. Mohsin, Khosru Mia and Ayub Ali.

The critically injured were admitted to the CMCH, while many others were admitted to the CU medical centre.

The JCD men went for a counter attack that left seven cops injured, claimed police.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Hathazari thana Md. Khaled alleged that the JCD men even tried to snatch rifles from police during the clashes. Two extra platoons of police were deployed on the campus to prevent further clashes.

Following the incident, the university authorities formed a six-member probe committee.

While talking to this correspondent Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury said that the JCD men did not inform the university authorities of any incident on the previous night.

### Travel agents accused of swindling pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-eight Hajj pilgrims yesterday alleged that a travel agency had swindled them in the name of making arrangements for performing Hajj.

Having paid TK 55 lakh to a Dhaka based travel agency this year, they were scheduled to fly for Mecca on February 2, said the Hajj pilgrims at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

But on the afternoon of February 2, they learnt from an agency official that the flight had been postponed due to unavoidable reasons. The agency did not mention any rescheduling regarding the flight.

The pilgrims were concerned as the last flight for Hajj takes off on February 5.

The pilgrims appealed to the prime minister to take steps so that they could perform Hajj and demanded legal actions against the agency.

Of those swindled, some are aged between 80 to 90 years.

### Aussies ready to pay out of WC matches in Zimbabwe

AFP, Sydney

The Australian government yesterday stepped up its pressure for a boycott of World Cup matches in Zimbabwe, offering to consider financial compensation for cancelled matches.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Australian diplomats would give updated information about the risks of playing games in Bulawayo to the Australian Cricket

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## Cabbies demand fare hike, too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taxicab owners in the city have demanded 50-to-100 per cent fair hike, depending on the type of cabs and the distance covered.

They want raising the fare at Tk 40 for yellow cabs and Tk 30 for black cabs from Tk 20 and Tk 15 for the first two kilometres (km).

The fare for each km, after the first two km, must be raised to Tk 12 for yellow cabs and Tk 10 for black cabs, instead of Tk 8 and Tk 6 now, they say.

Sources said the Association of

Taxicab Owners has applied to the communication ministry to increase the fare as per its demand because of the price hike of fuel. The ministry has referred the matter to the relevant committee of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). Secretary of the association Md. Tarek said they hoped the fare rate would be refixed.

Meanwhile, many of the cab drivers have already been charging fare much higher than the government-fixed rate, showing the fuel price hike.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Feb 4		5-47 pm
Feb 5	6-38 am	

Prayer Timings		
Feb 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-45	6-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-58
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Term jumping to delay BTTB cell phone project

STAR REPORT

Non-compliance with a government condition has cast doubt over timely implementation of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) cellular phone project, according to sources.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on August 16 last year approved the Tk 594 crore project on condition that it would be imple-

mented and operated through a separate company.

Within a week of the ECNEC approval, the BTTB floated tender without fulfilling the condition. Eight companies bid for the project. A nine-member BTTB committee is now evaluating the proposals.

Angered by the BTTB step, ECNEC recently asked the telecommunications ministry to implement the project as per the conditions. In

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## JS dances to PM's tune, AL alleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has alleged that the Jatiya Sangsad is functioning at the 'whims and dictates' of Prime Minister and Leader of the House Khaleda Zia.

Referring to Sunday's sitting of the Sangsad, the main opposition party said it was very unfortunate that the House leader interfered in its proceeding when the Speaker already gave the floor to Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina.

The issue came up at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at the party

central office in the city yesterday. Hasina chaired the meeting, which also reviewed the political situation and organisational matters.

"It (BNP-led alliance) is now politicising the parliament. The House leader's dictates even made the Speaker helpless," said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the ALCWC meeting.

Jalil said, "We have long been complaining that they (treasury bench) do not allow us to speak (in the House). Khaleda Zia's interference in our right to speak clearly proved this."

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