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# The Daily Star

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**Dhaka Day by Day**



Those Nosy Parkers Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

- Property worth Tk 1 cr gutted**  
 From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Feb 2: Property worth over one crore was gutted in a fire that broke out at Kaliganj Bazar of Jakiganj thana last night. The fire reportedly originated from a shop at about 8-30 pm due to electric short circuit and soon spread to the adjacent shops. As many as 50 shops were burnt to ashes in the fire. Fire service personnel from Sylhet reached the market at about 10 pm, however, there was no report of any casualty.
- 37 arms seized**  
 Law enforcing agencies recovered 37 different types of firearms and 30 ammunition yesterday the 44th day of the country-wide arms recovery operation. During the period, they also arrested 335 people on various charges including illegal possession of arms, according to the Law and Order Coordination Cell of the Election Commission, reports UNB.
- 15 killed in Indian road accident**  
 NEW DELHI, Feb 2: At least 15 people were killed and as many injured in a road accident in the eastern state of Orissa today, the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted local police as saying. Police said the victims died on the spot when the truck in which they were travelling overturned after its driver lost control near the coal town of Talehar. PTI said, reports Reuter.
- 8 rockets fired at Kabul: 2 die**  
 ISLAMABAD, Feb 2: Rebel forces fired eight rockets at the Afghan capital Kabul overnight and today, killing two people and wounding three, the official Kabul radio said.

## 9 killed as bus plunges into DND canal

By Staff Correspondent

At least 12 people were killed and nine injured in four road accidents near the capital and in Natore and Sylhet yesterday.

Nine persons including two women and a minor girl were killed and seven injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Demra plunged into the DND canal at Katherpool near Konapara, three km off Demra police station, at about six in the morning.

Local people put the death toll at 11. But police and fire brigade sources confirmed nine deaths.

Witnesses said the bus with capacity-passengers on board fell into the nearly 15-foot deep canal as the driver lost control due to morning hour thick fog. The bus (Dhaka-Cha-1658) skidded off the road breaking the road protection wall.

Demra police said, they along with fire brigade personnel and local people immediately rescued five persons in an unconscious state. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead. Two of the five were identified as Mujibur Rahman, 40, and Haider Ali, 45, reports our DMCH Correspondent.

The bodies of four others were recovered later. They were identified as Abul Kalam, 40, Mini, 18, Masuda, 4 and Shariat Bibi, 40. Relatives took away the four bodies before those were sent to the DMCH for autopsy, police said.

Of the injured, five were identified as Abul Kalam, 16, Tajul Islam, 30, Monir Husain Monu, 28, Abdur Rahman, 22 and Rahim.

Police said the injured passengers told them that the bus was in high speed. Reckless driving might have caused the accident, they said.

Police could not confirm See Page 12 col 6



A view of the audience at a discussion meeting at the Bangia Academy premises yesterday. Star photo

## Half-day hartal in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Three mainstream opposition political parties have called a half-day hartal in the capital today to protest Wednesday's police action on the students of the Dhaka University.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami jointly called the 6 am-2 pm hartal, also to press for resignation of the Prime Minister, cancellation of the February 15 elections and fresh polls under a neutral caretaker government.

At least 200 students were See Page 12 col 8

## Intra-party rivalry Many BNP candidates in Ctg may not see easy sail

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Feb 2: Although the major opposition parties are not in the February 15 election race, some BNP candidates in Chittagong are unlikely to have an easy sail, according to political observers.

Those BNP nominees will have to fight intra-party rivals (those expelled for defying nomination) first and then face other opponents, backed by the major opposition parties from behind the scene, the observers said.

A tough contest is likely in Chittagong-8 (Doublemooring) constituency between Freedom Party leader Col. (Retd) Faruk Rahman and BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury. Khosru has already intensified his campaign while Faruk's supporters have also become active. If the election is held peacefully, the BNP candidates may face tough contest in Chittagong-7 (Rangunia), Chittagong-15 (Banskhali), Chittagong-12 (Anwara) and Chittagong-4 (Fatikchhari) constituencies also.

In Rangunia, BNP nominee Adil Hossain will have to face Nurul Alam who was expelled from BNP for contesting as an independent candidate. Nurul Alam was the Rangunia unit president of BNP and after his expulsion about 2500 party leaders and workers resigned en masse protesting Adil's nomination and expulsion of Alam.

Earlier, supporters of Nurul Alam enforced a hartal and put up road barricades in See Page 12 col 7

## Pre-polls violence Two candidates assaulted

By Staff Correspondent

Two candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary election were assaulted and at least 25 supporters injured in clashes with anti-election activists in Pabna, Comilla, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat yesterday and the night before.

Rival activists of BNP and Awami League ransacked and damaged each others' party offices in Pabna.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: Chatmohor thana BNP election camp was burnt by Awami League activists and in retaliation the BNP activists ransacked and damaged the AL office in the thana Thursday night. The acts of violence followed an attack on BNP candidate from Pabna-3 constituency Gr. Cap. (ret'd) Saiful Azam Suja and six of his followers while they were doing election campaign riding on motor-cycles.

Three motor cycles of Suja's supporters were set ablaze Suja along with his supporters took shelter in nearby police station. Suja, also a former MP, returned home at around 10 pm with police escort. At least 15 people were injured in the clashes.

Both BNP and AL later lodged cases against each other with Chatmohor thana.

Our Comilla Correspondent reports: A police man and nine other persons were injured in a clash between police and Opposition activists over while BNP candidate from Comilla-9 constituency, Aminur Rashid Yasin, was trying to open his election office at Shyaganj in Sadar thana yesterday after See Page 12 Col 2

## 12 more expelled from BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday expelled 12 district and thana level leaders with immediate effect on charges of disobeying party decision and engaging in activities contrary to party discipline, a party press release said last night, reports BSS.

The expelled leaders are: Ahsan Ahmed, president, Nilphamari district committee, Altaf Hossain, vice president, Satkhira district committee and general secretary Tala Thana committee, Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, vice president, Satkhira district committee and general secretary Kaliganj thana committee, Mokbul Hossain, general secretary, Shyannagar Thana committee, Khalrul Alam, vice president, Kurigram district committee, Rafiqul Islam Roni, member, Chandpur district committee.

See Page 12 col 8

## PM's tour : Hartal in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

tals were taken today at a meeting of the local liaison committee of the three parties with Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Rajshahi city unit president of AL.

The meeting also decided to form liaison committees at thana levels to intensify the anti-government agitations.

UNB adds from Jhalakathi: The three major opposition parties have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rajapur thana here on Sunday to protest a planned visit of the Prime Minister.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami gave the hartal call following announcement of the Prime Minister's visit to Rajapur on Sunday by the local BNP through making this afternoon.

Awami League and Jatiya Party brought out separate protest processions in the thana headquarters in the evening.

Jatiya Party will hold a rally at Rajapur bypass crossing on Sunday at 10 am.

## 13 DU teachers cancel Bangla Academy programmes

By DU Correspondent

Some 13 teachers of the Dhaka University have cancelled their programmes during the Bangla Academy book fair protesting the police attack on the Jagannath Hall students on Wednesday last.

The teachers yesterday sent a letter to the Director See Page 12 col 7

## Bangabazar fire Unidentified outsiders delayed fire fighting

Star Report

The main entrance of the fire brigade headquarters near the Bangabazar was deliberately blocked by some unidentified people soon after the first batch of the fire fighters left with their vehicles to put out the fire at the market on Monday last, some witnesses have alleged.

Those who came to help the fire fighters were actually making every attempt to delay the fire fighting operation, one of the fire fighters claimed.

A group of people came on the plea of helping the fire-fighters but they creating obstacles by pulling the water pipes and throwing the CI sheets towards the fire-fighters, pointed out some fire-fighters.

Some people came with gunnysacks and were seen looting shops when the fire fighting was on, said some shopowners. These people had identified themselves as relatives of shopowners, said some leader of the shop owners union in the Bangabazar market.

Monday's fire was the second incident in about two months. All the 2400 shops in the market complex was gutted in a devastating fire on November 24 last year the cause of which is still a mystery. See Page 12 col 7

## Greeting card dispute!

NEW DELHI, Feb 2: When relations are strained between two countries, even a holiday greeting card can cause problems, as was evident in New Delhi today, reports AP.

Salman Haider, India's foreign secretary, summoned Pakistan's envoy, Riaz Khokhar, to his office to complain about New Year's cards that Pakistani President Farooq Leghari had sent Haider and Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

They contained a photograph showing the part of the northern Himalayan Kashmir region that is administered by Islamabad, said a Foreign Ministry statement.

Haider conveyed India's strong resentment at the discourtesy shown to the See Page 12 Col 2

## JCD ransacks 25 rooms of BCL activists

By DU Correspondent

About 25 rooms in different halls of the Dhaka University, belonging to the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, were ransacked allegedly by the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The act is a sequel to the last two days' police-BCL clash over the Prime Minister's visit to the Bangla Academy for inaugurating the Ekushey book fair on February 1, campus sources said.

The rooms damaged are: 41, 2011, 2005, 2014, 107 ka, 612, 806, 2810, 2017, 1007 ka, 2023, 408, 409 of Shahidullah Hall, 110, 322, 323 of Bangabandhu Hall, 122, 128 of Fazlul Haq Hall, 308, 209, 210, 206 and 101 of AP Rahman Hall and 568 of Mahsin Hall.

## Dynamite blast kills 115 in China

BEIJING, Feb 2: About 10 tonnes of dynamite exploded in the basement of an apartment building in central China on Wednesday, killing at least 115 people and injuring 400, officials said today, reports Reuter.

The whole building was turned into rubble, a reporter of the official Xinhua news agency said by telephone from the scene of the blast in Shaoyang City, Hunan Province.

Several adjacent buildings were destroyed or badly damaged and many casualties were passers-by, officials said by telephone.

Rescuers reported that 77 bodies had been recovered and about 400 people had been injured, with many of those in hospital in serious condition, an official of the local people's hospital said.

The injured were taken to four hospitals, officials said. Earlier reports had put the death toll closer to 100.

"The entire street has been levelled," an official of a See Page 12 col 8

## Election manifesto BNP may keep mum on Friendship Treaty

By Nazmul Ashraf

The BNP manifesto which is still under preparation, is unlikely to state in clear terms if the party would renew the controversial agreement or cancel it, said the source, a policy planner of the party and a minister.

The minister, preferring See Page 12 Col 2

## Schoolboy murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A schoolboy was murdered reportedly by his friends at South Badda in the city yesterday.

The body of Sohel Pathan, 14, student of class nine of Ayetunnesa High School, was recovered by the police from a ditch in the area and was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Marks of injury were found all over his body, police said.

Relatives alleged that six of his friends called Sohel out of his residence at 172/3 South Badda on Monday night and since then he was missing. See Page 12 Col 2

**Star Fashion '96**

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