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1 killed as hailstorm lashes city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first hailstorm of the season raged over the capital yesterday afternoon triggering a chain of events that claimed the life of a street child.

The hailstorm accompanied by gusty wind and heavy rainfall started at 5:20pm and lasted for about 15 minutes.

According to Dhaka Met office the wind blew at 103 km per hour. A total of 31-millimetre rain was recorded.

During the hailstorm, Mohammad Parvez, 11, who

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PICTURE ON PAGE 2

TAGORE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
India to run train across border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday announced that a special train will run between India and Bangladesh to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore next year and a proposal for passenger train between Agartala and Akhaura has been put forward.

Indian Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee made the announcements while presenting the budget for her ministry for the year 2010-11 in parliament.

The budget proposes no increase in passenger fares and freight rates but cuts the

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BCL men at it again
Woman affairs officer assaulted for not granting loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Chhatra League men beat a woman affairs officer after failing to get government loans meant for the poor and ransacked her office at Durgapur upazila here yesterday.

The victim was identified as Fatema Begum, 40.

Witnesses said, a group of over 30 BCL activists led by

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Prayer Timing
February 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

WARD RE-DEMARCATON
EC wants legal binding to go
Asks LGRD to amend municipality act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has asked the LGRD ministry to amend the municipality act, scrapping the provision for re-demarcation of municipality wards maintaining no more than 10 percent population disparity among them, before their upcoming elections.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think non-implementation of the peace agreement is the main reason behind the CHT violence?

Yes (59.5%) No (37.2%)
No Comments (3.3%)

Total votes: 963

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think regional connectivity with China will have positive impact on our economy and politics?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Violence erupts after eerie calm
12 houses burnt at night; curfew remains in force in Khagrachhari

EMRAN HOSSAIN and JASIM MAJUMDER, from Khagrachhari

Ethnic violence in Khagrachhari resumed late last night after a day long eerie calm in the district town, six days into the start of gory clashes between Bangalee settlers and the adivasi communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Around 10 at night seven houses in adivasi neighbourhood of Golabari, and five houses of Bangalee settlers in Mollah Para and Ganj Para were set on fire.

The flames were licking the night sky while electricity supply in the town was cut off. Screams, yells, wailings, and sirens of rushing fire trucks were filling the air amid a curfew that went into effect at 10:00pm, scheduled to be lifted at 7:00am today.

Although section 144 remains in effect banning any demonstration during the curfew-free hours today as well, Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad, a student organisation of Bangalee settlers, announced a daylong transport strike in all three hill districts for the day.

All through yesterday government joint forces comprising

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Indigenous people return home after receiving aid from Gangaram Mukh area in Rangamati yesterday.

Parliamentary caucus for ethnic rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs was formed with 17 parliamentarians yesterday to protect the rights of indigenous people.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, member of the technical assistance committee of the caucus, expressed concern over the unabated tension at Baghaichhari in Rangamati.

Caucus members said the government should arrest the perpetrators and award them exemplary punishment.

They include Fazle Hossain Badsha, Nawab Ali Abbas Khan, Hasanul Haque Inu, Mahiuddin Khan Badal, Ruby Rahman, Rawshan Jahan Sathi, Rashed Khan Menon and Amina Ahmed.

Various socio-political, human rights and non-governmental organisations

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Unknown Islamist group flexes its muscles in Ctg

It brings in several thousand madrasa students for rally, clashes with cops; 19 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around 19 people including six policemen were injured, one critically, in a violent clash between madrasa students and law enforcers in the port city yesterday.

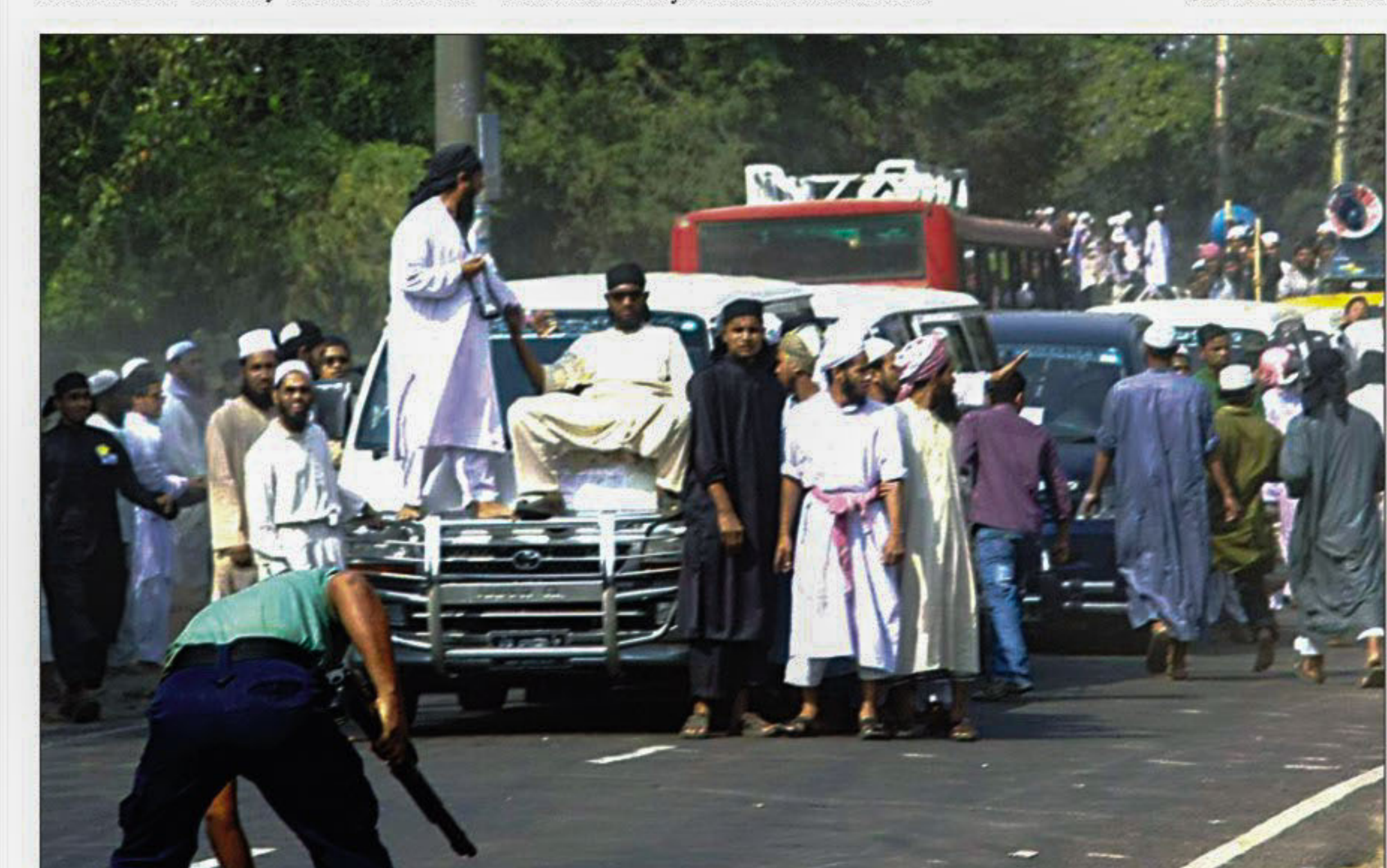
The clash erupted after police barred members of recently formed Islamist group Hefazate Islam Bangladesh from erecting podium for a rally at Laldighi Maidan in the morning and intercepted the rally-bound madrasa students in Baluchkhara around 2:15pm, sources say.

Several thousand students on around 40 vehicles were heading towards the rally from different Kawmi madrasas in Hathazari and Fatikhkhari. They used bricks and blasted several cocktails during the clash.

Police fired blank shots and charged baton to disperse the students and picked up around 40 from the spot, the sources add.

Of the 13 injured students, seven

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Madrasa students clash with police at Baluchkhara in the port city yesterday after being obstructed to join a rally at Lal Dighi Maidan. The law enforcers earlier in the morning barred an Islamist group called Hefazate Islam Bangladesh from setting up a podium for the rally. More photos on page 5.

Muggers on rampage

Explode bombs, spray bullets to loot Tk 30 lakh from grocery shop; Tk 10 lakh robbed from Basila house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three persons were injured by gunshots while Tk 30 lakh in cash and valuables worth Tk 10 lakh were looted in separate incidents of robbery yesterday in the capital.

The injured are Abul Khayer, 48, owner of a wholesale grocery shop on Shaheed Faruque Road near Jatrabari intersection, his nephew Arshad Hossain, 28, and Makbul Hossain, 50, an employee of the shop.

They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds and recovering there, hospital sources said.

Witness Mohammad Alam, another staff at the shop, said, "Around 2:15pm, four youths posing as customers showed up on the shop door and soon another four entered the shop and pulled out their firearms."

The gang held hostage all of the eight staff at gunpoint and started grabbing the money from the cash box.

Arshad said there was around Tk 25 lakh in the cashbox to be deposited to the Jatrabari branch of National Bank after lunch break at 3:00pm. And they had another Tk 5 lakh from their sales.

The robbers shot several rounds indiscriminately injuring the three, exploded a few handmade bombs and decamped, said the victims at DCMH.

Locals said they saw a covered van standing in front of the trading centre obstructing its view and therefore they could not see what was happening inside the shop at the moment.

The muggers firing shots and exploding bombs left the scene, they added.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Moniruzzaman of Jatrabari Police Station said the robbers exploded three handmade bombs but failed to ascertain how many rounds were fired.

Meanwhile, another robbery took place at Basila in the city's Hazaribagh area early yesterday.

Police said some eight to ten robbers broke

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Shibir embroiled itself in conflicts

Mojaheed's RU role, Shibir president's alleged graft led to mass resignation

RASHIDUL HASAN and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

A large number of Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders of different tiers are actively considering resigning following internal conflicts between top leaders of Shibir and its parent organisation Jamaat-e-Islami.

A Shibir leader, who resigned on Monday, told The Daily Star, "Frustrated with the internal conflicts and countrywide onslaught against Shibir, many leaders of different units are at the point of resigning from the party."

Top Jamaat leaders' inference in making decisions including

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2 'robbers' killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged robbers were killed during a "shootout" between Rapid Action Battalion personnel and their cohorts at Rustompur Beribadh in city's Pallabi last night.

The dead, however, could not be identified, Rab sources said, adding the bodies were taken to Pallabi Police Station.

Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Mizanur

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