



## CONVERSING WITH MANOJ MITRA

The famous Indian actor and playwright talks about his ideas and the theatre scene in Kolkata

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## VILLAGE OF WIDOWS

Story of Sangrampur devastated by mass death from toxic liquor

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## MESSI-MERIZING BARCA

Messi scored twice as Barcelona thrashed Santos in the final of the World Club Cup

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# Morning chaos rattles Dhaka

1 killed, 14 vehicles set ablaze as opposition launches surprise showdown; another killed in Sylhet; BNP, govt trade blames over violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At daybreak yesterday, a series of crude homemade bombs went off in central Dhaka as hundreds of activists of BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami clashed with police, smashed more than a dozen vehicles and set some of those on fire.

At least one person was killed and several others were injured.

Police said they were investigating whether the rampages so early in the morning were acts of sabotage. The violence in a city still covered with fog stunned many residents, especially the Muslim devotees going to mosques to say Fajr prayers and the morning walkers.

The on-again off-again clashes were

centered mainly in Naya Paltan, Shantinagar, Shahbagh, Karwan Bazar, Jatiya Press Club and Motijheel areas, and continued almost throughout the day causing heavy traffic disruption and panic among commuters.

Police said a 24-year-old man identified as Arifuzzaman Arif was killed when a crude bomb exploded outside a hotel in Motijheel around 10:00am. The blast also injured Jahangir, a restaurant owner of Sayedabad.

Several other people were injured in the violence in the neighbouring areas.

More than 50 homemade cocktails went off in these areas. Fourteen vehicles

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A bus set on fire with a Molotov cocktail by a band of youths on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday around 10:00am.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Death of a youth, a few questions

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Fatema Begum, mother of Arifuzzaman Arif who was killed in an explosion at the capital's Motijheel while opposition activists ran riot yesterday, is confused as to why a late riser like her son went out so early in the morning.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion suspect that Arif was a carrier of a hand-made bomb that exploded around 10:00am near the Shapla Chattar, leaving him dead on the spot and another pedestrian critically injured.

In the morning, the capital erupted into violence as hundreds of BNP-Jamaat activists vandalised

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## One plot, lot of puzzles

STAR REPORT

The plan was to paralyse the capital with a huge gathering of opposition activists at the heart of the city in Ramna area, giving the government no chance to react.

But the opposition itself got a surprise, finding large gatherings of vigilant law enforcers at strategic points at the crack of dawn. The changed scenario forced the opposition activists, most of whom were from Jamaat-e-Islami, to resort to pitched battles and arson attacks.

The plan, kept well under wraps, somehow leaked in the early hours yesterday giving only a little time to the opposition

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Panic-gripped pedestrians flee along a clash-torn road of Bijoynagar in the capital yesterday morning as police shot a teargas canister to disperse rioting activists of BNP.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Help arrest lawbreakers

PM urges people

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the countrymen to remain vigilant against any subversive activities in their respective areas and hand over the lawbreakers to law enforcers.

The anti-liberation forces with the support of their political patrons are again trying to ruin social peace, she said while addressing a function at her Gono Bhaban residence in the evening.

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# Khaleda blames AL for violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has blamed the ruling Awami League for yesterday's widespread violence that left two persons dead in Dhaka and Sylhet.

She alleged that the government actions were aimed at thwarting her party's reception programme for freedom fighters in celebration of the country's 40 years of independence.

The leader of the opposition



has also threatened to launch a tougher movement if the government does not stop "repression" on opposition activists.

"Do not resist our peaceful programmes. Otherwise, we will have no option but to take to the streets," Khaleda said yesterday at a reception for freedom fighters at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Khaleda, the leader of the opposition, said as the

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## NEW ELECTION COMMISSION President's talks with parties from Dec 22

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

President Zillur Rahman will start holding dialogues with political parties from December 22 to appoint a new chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners based on their recommendations.

The five-year tenure of the CEC ATM Shamsul Huda, and election commissioner M Sohul Hussain will expire on February 4, while the other commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Sakhawat Hossain will retire on February 14.

Political parties having representatives in the Jatiya Sangsad and other major parties registered with the Election Commission (EC) will be invited to the dialogue, president's Press Secretary AKM Nesar Uddin Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Jatiya Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) have

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## ILLEGAL LAND, HOUSING PROJECTS Rajuk suspends 21 firms' registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk yesterday suspended registration of 21 listed housing companies, including many prominent ones, for undertaking illegal land projects and selling plots at the ongoing Rehab fair in the capital.

It also served notices on around 20 other companies at the fair venue that are not listed with Rajuk, asking them to stop development of their unapproved land projects immediately.

The capital's housing authority took the measure in the wake of repeated media reports that it allowed display and sale of unapproved land projects in the fair, violating a High Court directive.

The High Court on December 7 ordered the government to stop advertisement and flat-selling of unapproved housing projects.

The housing companies, whose registrations were suspended, include East West Properties Ltd, Ashyan Lands Development Ltd, Amin Mohammad Lands Development Ltd, Nobodoy Housing Ltd, MA Wahab and Sons Ltd, Shatabdi Housing Ltd, Biswas Builders Ltd, Metro Properties Ltd, Bhulua Royal City Private Ltd, New Vision Lands Development Ltd.

Of the well-known companies, which were served notice include BDDL,

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## McKinsey paints buoyant future for RMG exports

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's apparel exports could triple by 2020 as European and US buyers plan to strengthen their presence in the country and new players enter the market seen as 'next China', according to a prestigious study.

McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm and trusted adviser to the world's leading businesses, governments and institutions, said Bangladesh's high growth at the readymade garment sector would continue for a decade.

The country's sourcing market will get crowded amid incumbents buyers' plan to stay for long and new markets are increasingly becoming important customers for Bangladesh, said the US-based company.

"Depending on how well the most severe issues can be managed, the market will realistically develop at an annual rate of 7-9 percent within the next ten years, resulting in an export value of

FULL REPORT IN STAR BUSINESS SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

EXPORTS TO REACH  
**\$36b to \$42b**  
in 10 years

EARNINGS LAST YEAR  
**\$12.59b**

CURRENT NUMBER OF FACTORIES  
**5,000**

## KILLINGS ON BORDER Dhaka lodges protests, BSF regrets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday regretted the deaths of four Bangladeshi nationals along the borders on Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh lodged a strong protest with the Indian authorities condemning the killings and called for an inquiry.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Director General Maj Gen Anwar Hossain yesterday told The Daily Star. "In the morning (yesterday), when I contacted the BSF chief over the phone he expressed his sorrow and said it is unexpected."

He added that the BSF chief had also sent a high profile team to the spots in Indian territory to investigate the incidents.

The killings took place in the border areas of

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## DIST COUNCILS Appointment of administrators challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday, challenging the appointment of 61 district council administrators.

Supreme Court lawyer Redwan Ahmed Runjib and Javed Islam, a lecturer of London School of Legal Studies, filed the petition as public interest litigation.

The petitioners said any unelected representative could not run local government institution of

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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Quader Molla charged

Seven charges submitted to tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution submitted formal war crimes charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Molla to the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday.

The charges include killing, looting and arson in the city's Mirpur and Mohammadpur areas and Keraniganj during the country's Liberation War in 1971, prosecutor Mohammad Ali said at a press briefing.

"Quader Molla committed hundreds of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We've brought seven specific charges against him," he said,

adding that they have enough evidence to prove the charges.

Quader, an assistant secretary general of Jamaat, was involved in the killing and burial of hundreds of people at several killing grounds in Mirpur and its adjacent areas, he told reporters at the tribunal.

The International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, has provision for death sentence for such offences.

During the war, Quader was widely known as a "butcher" for his direct involvement in massacring Bangladeshis. In league with the Biharis and non-

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