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JS goes into New Year session today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into New Year session today -- the day the ninth parliament steps into its fourth year-- amid boycott by lawmakers of the BNP-led opposition.

These legislators belonging to BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party however may join the session any day but not today to press their demand for restoration of the caretaker government system for holding the national elections, BNP sources said.

President Zillur Rahman will address the House today as per constitutional provisions. It will be his third address to the ninth parliament that began its journey on January 25, 2009.

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Weapons wielding activists fight running battles with rivals as a factional feud of Bangladesh Chhatra League erupts at Jagannath University yesterday.
Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP denies link with Hizb-ut-Tahrir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday asserted that his party does not believe in "army coup" and even do not know Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a banned Islamist outfit.

"When the people have started to express their support to Khaleda Zia by making her programmes successful, the government is making the army controversial only to divert their attention," Fakhru told a rally in front of BNP central office in Naya Paltan.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, organised the rally to mark the 76th birth anniversary of party founder late president Ziaur Rahman. The birthday was observed on Thursday.

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CHT destabilised thru' wrong strategy

PM's adviser tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The strategy to push Bengali-speaking people from plain lands to the hilly areas was a 'wrong' and destabilised the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), H T Imam, adviser to the prime minister, said yesterday.

Changing the ratio of population in the hills created tension and conflict in the region which contributed to environmen-

tal damage and also restricted development in the area, he said.

Imam was speaking at the opening session of 'Sustainable Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts: A way forward'; a day-long seminar jointly arranged by the Ministry of CHT Affairs and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

The 1997 CHT Peace Treaty however

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PCJSS man shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Criminals shot dead a former member of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) at his house in Dolubanya village of Baghaichhari upazila Monday night.

Deceased Naba Bikash Chakma alias doctor Nobel, 42, son of Ram

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After war, Sayedee hid in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee went into hiding in Dohakhola village of Bagharpara [Jessore] after the Liberation War.

"After the Liberation War, Delawar Hossain Sayedee saheb was staying in the house of Rawshan Ali in Dohakhola village," said Solaiman Hossain, 60, the 15th

prosecution witness to testify against Sayedee.

He did not mention the district where Bagharpara is in. It is an upazila in Jessore.

"While trying to find out the reason behind his staying there, we, the locals, discovered that he had committed anti-liberation activities in Pirojpur during the war, and he was hiding at the home of Rawshan Ali."

The three-member tribunal headed by

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Miladunnabi on Feb 5

UNB, Dhaka

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM), will be observed on February 5.

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee decided this as the moon of Rabiul Awal month of Hijri 1433 was sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

10-TRUCK ARMS Ex-AC (port) testifies as trial resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The trial in the 10-truck arms haul cases restarted in a Chittagong court yesterday after about two months.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court recorded the depositions of prosecution witness Mahmudur Rahman, former assistant commissioner of police

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COLLAPSE OF PILING FOR HIGH-RISE Building code violated

Anomalies in approval; Rajuk's role dubious

TAWFIQUE ALI

Violation of building code, anomalies in the approval and implementation process and dubious role of Rajuk caused the collapse of the shore piling of 10-storey under-construction building on the capital's Circuit House Road.

The owner and the consulting firm deliberately ignored the required engineering supervision on the building's foundation work, reveals an investigation of The Daily Star.

On January 16, a portion of Circuit House road collapsed as the adjoining

shore piling of the building caved in 32 feet burying an excavator while another excavator was still operating on the road. The boundary wall of a neighbouring plot also collapsed at that time. The incident triggered panic among the residents of the nearby high-rises.

Although it is mandatory to inform the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) two weeks prior to commencing excavation of the foundation as per the Building Construction Rules, 2008, the owner of the under-construction building did not

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Solar storm set to hit Earth today

BBC ONLINE

Our planet is being bombarded by high-energy particles unleashed by the strongest solar storm since 2005, scientists say.

The charged particles are mostly a concern for satellites -- which they can disrupt -- and astronauts.

But they can also

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

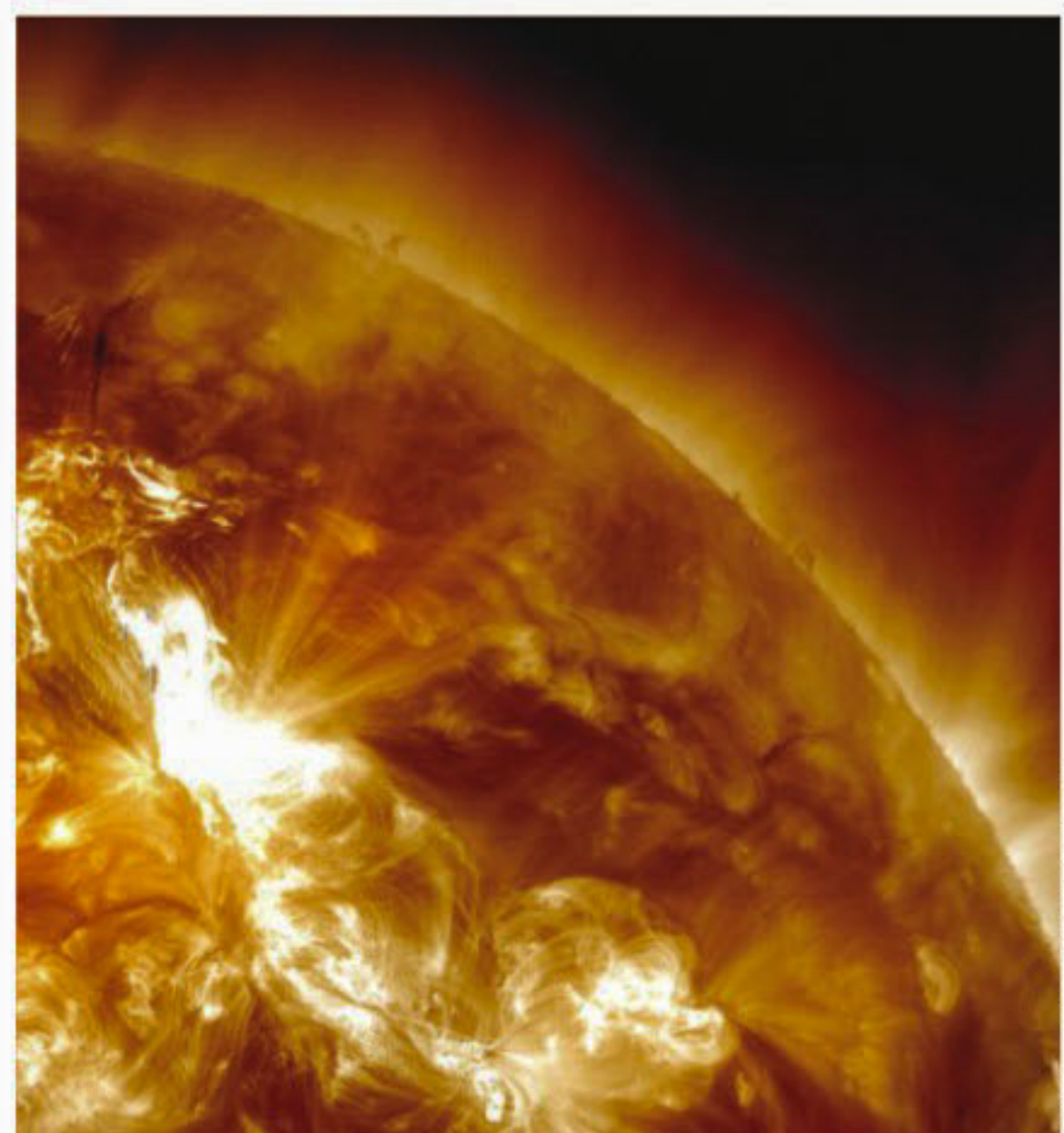


PHOTO: AFP/NASA/SDO

SECRET KILLINGS Shahara denies role of law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Shahara Khatun yesterday outright rejected the Human Rights Watch's allegation of law enforcers' involvement in extrajudicial killings.

Shahara's denial came following a meeting of the National Committee for preventing smuggling held at her secretariat office.

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Goods vessels lie idle in the port city during a strike called by workers of jetties and warehouses yesterday to press home their demands, including a pay rise. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think prime minister's remarks that BNP does not believe in people's power is justified?

Yes (41.3%)
No (57.1%)
No Comments (1.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 1012

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that constituting a search committee to find out right people for the next Election Commission is meaningless if the caretaker government system is not restored?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING January 25

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-30	6-05
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-15	4-30
Maghrib 5-43	5-47
Esha 7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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web: www.iuc.ac.bd

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