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USA send Swiss packing
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'ONWARDS, LIONS OF SYRIA'

Al-Qaeda leader voices support for Syrian uprising as crisis deepens

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END OF A LEGEND

Singer and actress Whitney Houston is found dead in Los Angeles

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Minister pulls for extortion

Shahjahan Khan asks JS body to recommend legalising the crime to stop rampant corruption in transport sector

STAR REPORT

It was none but a minister who before a parliamentary sub-committee yesterday demanded that extortion be made legal to stop rampant corruption in the transport sector.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, who heads the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, made the mind-boggling demand before the committee yesterday. Transport leaders led by him did not stop there; they placed a 17-



point demand before the committee, in which they chalked out ways of how the "legal toll collection" would be made from buses, trucks, auto-rickshaws and labourers working in the sector.

In defence of their demands, Shahjahan Khan and Khandaker Enayet Ullah, a top transport owners' leader, yesterday said illegal money collection would stop on the country's roads once "toll collection" was legalised.

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JOURNALIST COUPLE MURDER PROBE

Cops claim progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday claimed that they had made headway in the probe into the gruesome murders of the journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi. They, however, refused to divulge any details before arresting the culprits.

The law enforcers could not arrest anyone in connection with the murder till last night. Earlier on Saturday afternoon, the home minister directed them to put the perpetrators behind bars within 48 hours.

Meanwhile, Nawsher Alam Roman, younger

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Agony, anxiety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicians, teachers, doctors, bankers, lawyers, journalists and other professionals are suffering from a sense of insecurity after the gruesome killings of the

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Little Megh cries over his parents' graves at Azimpur Graveyard in the capital last night.

Megh reeling from trauma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Are you a policeman?" a traumatised Megh asked this correspondent.

The five-year-old looked hesitant when he saw this reporter, an unknown person, yesterday. His relatives were reluctant to allow him to talk to journalists, but Megh himself started a conversation with this correspondent.

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Journos give 24-hr ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issuing an ultimatum, journalists yesterday warned of a tougher movement for the resignation of the home minister if the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi are not arrested within 24 hours.

Sagar, a news editor at private TV

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Students, politicians in alliance

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Following Khwaja Nazimuddin's remarks on the language question on January 27, 1952, protests erupted all over the province, especially among intellectuals and students. The Youth League made

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BNP, diplomats talk over tea

Top envoys briefed about opposition's political stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday briefed foreign diplomats on the party's stance regarding the major political issues in the country and the purpose behind its March 12 rally, sources have said.

Leading figures of the party had tea with top diplomats at a restaurant in Gulshan in the capital.

A BNP delegation led by its acting Secretary General

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EC meeting on DCC polls soon: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said he and his colleagues will discuss holding split Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) polls in a couple of days.

"We will sit in a day or two to discuss holding polls to DCC," Rakibuddin told reporters while

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The dance of a grasshopper or the colour of a flower is all part of the ceremony to welcome the queen of seasons. Nature seems to proclaim loudly: it is festival time -- Basanta arrives today.



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Basanta: when dreams blossom

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The seasons have come full circle once again. With the earth having gone through its revolution and all its rotations all the year round, it is time for the

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