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# HAZARIBAGH FIRE Hundreds in the open

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ASIF ISLAM SHAON

For some 700 low-income families of Boubazar at Hazaribagh, Sunday's devastating fire was only the beginning of a nightmare. All of them have lost one thing or the other -- some lost their loved ones, others had their belongings burned to the ground.

Having lost everything to the blaze, many of the 3,000 affected people, including women and children, spent their last two days and nights out in the open, in relatives' houses or in the street. Where they will sleep tonight no one knows.

"I lost my daughter and mother-in-law. I lost all my belongings. They [the government] are giving me some money. But where will I stay, what will I do?" asks restaurant worker Abul Kalam.

On Sunday night, the forty-year-old made room for himself at a relative's one-room home at Hazaribagh and was planning the same for last night. But the relative, who has four other members in his family, all living in the one-room house, asked him to find some other place.

Asked where he was thinking of going, he said he did not know. "I may go back to the slum, clean up the ruins and sleep in the open. Or something. I don't know."

He received Tk 40,000 from the district administration for the burial of his daughter and mother-in-law and some relief materials from the prime minister's relief fund. In addition, he got Tk 20,000 in compensation from the city corporation. Still his single big worry is where he would keep his wife and three children when they come back from his village home in Bhola after the burial.

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Though Ruma and her family manage to escape the blaze in Hazaribagh early Sunday, the flames gutted their few earthly possessions. The child gives a blank look at the charred debris of her home. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:  
PALASH KHAN

## Primary education sees more students

Number goes up by 10 lakh in 4 years;  
terminal exams begin tomorrow

WASIM BIN HABIB

Primary education seems to have received a significant boost, with the number of terminal examinees steadily rising each year.

This year around 29.69 lakh class-V students of schools and madrasas have registered to sit for the largest public exam in the country, scheduled to begin tomorrow.

In a span of four years, the number of examinees which was around 19.79 lakh in 2009 has risen by 10 lakh this year, according to the sources of Directorate of Primary Education (DPE).

Officials concerned attributed several reasons behind the rise in numbers, including government's initiative to bring all children to schools.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Labour rights still worry US

Envoy sees cloud over  
garment export privilege

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspension of tariff reductions for Bangladesh's exports to the US will negatively impact the economic and commercial relationship between the two countries, said US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena yesterday.

A review on a petition against the tariff reductions known as generalised system of preferences (GSP) has remained pending in Washington for five years, the longest in US history. The review is now underway, Mozena said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Azmi testifies for his father Ghulam Azam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Ghulam Azam's son Brig Gen (dismissed) Abdullahil Aman Azmi yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 about his role during HM Ershad's regime in 1982.

While testifying for his father at Tribunal-1, Azmi said he was assigned to censor programmes and news items broadcast by

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## Alim-led Razakars killed EPR man

Victim's son-in-law testifies  
at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the order of Abdul Alim, Shanti (Peace) Committee and Razakar men killed a subedar major of East Pakistan Rifles in Joypurhat for fighting against the Pakistani army during the Liberation War, a witness said.

Golam Rasul, a son-in-law of the subedar major Jabbal Hossain, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that they on several occasions had humbly requested Alim to release Jabbal and asked him to tell them about his whereabouts.

Alim refused.

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## ACC to quiz 14 more Sonali, BDBL officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will quiz eight officials of Sonali Bank and six of Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd (BDBL) in connection with loan scams. Letters have been sent

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



A Palestinian walks past a destroyed Hamas security site after an Israeli air strike in Gaza City yesterday. Hostilities between Islamist militants and Israel entered a sixth day yesterday as diplomatic efforts were set to intensify to try to stop rocket fire from the Gaza Strip and Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

PHOTO:  
REUTERS



## Fever can be child's friend

Claims new research

MAIL ONLINE

When the flu season hits, many parents will be reaching for the cold compresses and paracetamol to cool their feverish child.

But it seems a high temperature could actually help children battle an illness.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Gaza death toll passes 100

Media centre hit as Israel keeps up bombardment

AGENCIES

Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip have continued for a sixth day, despite calls for a truce, with the overall death toll reaching 102.

A media centre was targeted for a second time yesterday when Israeli fighter jets hit the Shuruq tower in Gaza City. The building houses Palestinian and

international media outlets, including Britain's Sky News, Saudi-owned Al Arabiya and the official Hamas broadcaster, Al Aqsa TV.

One person was killed in the building. The Islamic Jihad group identified the victim as Ramez Harb and said he was a senior commander in its armed wing, the al-Quds Brigades.

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## Dhaka shocked at Israeli atrocities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has expressed deep shock at the atrocities and violence unleashed by Israel on Gaza and calls to bring it to an immediate end.

"Bangladesh strongly condemns the Israeli action and urges

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul that the government is desperately trying to create anarchy in the country to hang onto power?

Yes (83%)  
No (14%)  
No Comments (3%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 443

TODAY'S POLL  
Do you agree with Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu that Transparency International Bangladesh applied flawed research method for its survey on lawmakers' activities?

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Asr 3-45 4-00  
Maghrib 5-21 5-24  
Esha 7-00 7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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