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FUTURE IN FRAMES

The Sixth Children's Festival will begin in Dhaka on Jan 19

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RAPE, POWER & DOMINATION

Praful Bidwai looks for the way to get rid of the scourge of masculinity

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'THE BURNING MUST END'

Breaking taboo, Beijing artist portrays Tibetan self-immolators

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BAHRAIN LABOUR CAMP

Blaze kills 11 Bangladeshis

Poor safety condemned

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Eleven Bangladeshi workers were among the 13 killed in a fire that gutted a labour camp in Manama of Bahrain on Friday afternoon. The other two were yet to be identified. Two more Bangladeshis were among the injured.

The roof of the three-storey building caved in, as the deadly blaze swept through the camp, situated in the crowded Mukharga neighbourhood in the Bahraini capital. It took the fire-fighters around six hours to tame the flames at the 26-room unauthorised structure.

The origin of the fire was yet to be known.

Most of the occupants of the building were Bangladeshis, living in cramped conditions.

The deceased hailed from Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chittagong and Noakhali, said Mehdi Hasan, counsellor and head of chancery of

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Smoke billows from a burning building that houses Asian workers, mostly Bangladeshis, in the Bahraini capital Manama on Friday. Inset, migrant workers stand behind a police cordon as firemen and rescue workers inspect the building.

PHOTO: BAHRAINI NEWS AGENCY/AFP



3 Rohingyas arrested with Bangladeshi passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Rohingyas were arrested yesterday when trying to go abroad with fake papers at Sylhet's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The arrestees are Ziaur Rahman, 23, Mohammad Aiyub, 29, and Mohammad Ali, 32.

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) arrested the Rohingyas around 10:00am, when their

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People still wary of paying online

Security crucial to building trust, experts tell Star-BASIS roundtable on e-commerce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People still do not feel encouraged to use e-commerce-based payment systems due to higher charges and a lack of security, trust and awareness, analysts said yesterday.

Trust can be built by ensuring proper security and service delivery, they said, putting emphasis on further development of mobile financial services.

They spoke at a roundtable --

e-commerce in Bangladesh: how ready we are -- co-organised by Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services and The Daily Star, as part of the ongoing e-commerce week, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

The e-commerce week kicked off on January 5 under the auspices of Bangladesh Bank and BASIS.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8 RELATED STORY ON B1

Digital dream comes half true

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The ruling Awami League rode to power on the pledge for a Digital Bangladesh and it delivered -- to a great extent in the last four years.

A number of government institutions, payment gateway, Chittagong port activities, much of the banking and education sectors and mobile-led services have been brought under automated systems.

Mustafa Jabbar, an ICT expert, said the foremost achievement of the government was to be able to create digitisation aware-



ness among people.

"In future, no government of the country will be able to abolish this spirit," he said adding that much more could be done.

The AL government that assumed power in 2009 pledged to digitise the country by 2021, aiming to give the economy a boost and ensure transparency and accountability in public services.

At the end of last year, the government launched the National Payment Switch (NPS), which paved the way for

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Reform-initiator passes away

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Former chief election commissioner MA Syed died yesterday at his Gulshan residence. He leaves behind, as his legacy, many examples of groundbreaking reforms in crucial sectors of the electoral system and the capital market.



MA Syed

Aged 76, he had been suffering from old age complications, said a press release issued by the EC Secretariat. His namaz-e-janaza will

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A Chhatra League activist is banging on the door of the teachers' lounge at Islamic University in Kushtia around 3:00pm yesterday. Taken by surprise, inset, some teachers hold up their belongings while some try to hide under the table.



PHOTO: STAR

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY CHAOS 30 teachers hurt in BCL attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 30 teachers of Islamic University sustained injuries when a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists attacked a meeting of the teachers on the campus at Shantidanga, 24 kilometres off the town, yesterday.

The teachers have been agitating for immediate removal of IU treasurer Shahjahan Ali, sacking of officials loyal to immediate past VC and pro-VC and probe into the November 19 attack on a teachers' sit-in by some BCL men.

On September 8 last year, the teachers went on work abstention demanding removal of the VC, pro-VC and treasurer over the alleged

irregularities in the recruitment of 132 teachers, employees and staff against 76 posts. Since then the academic activities at the university remained suspended.

Giving in to the demands, the authorities concerned late last month relieved vice-chancellor Prof M Alauddin and pro-vice chancellor Prof M Kamal Uddin of their duties, while the treasurer remained in post.

Some students under the banner of "General Students" blocked Kushtia-Khulna highway for at least five hours since yesterday morning, demanding immediate resumption of academic activities.

Witnesses said a group of BCL

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Sit for a solution Barrister Rafiq urges AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent lawyer Barrister Rafiq-ul Huq yesterday stressed the need for a dialogue and compromise between the heads of ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP to determine the polls-time government system.

If the chiefs of AL and BNP don't agree to sit in the dialogue, their general secretary and secretary general respectively can hold it for the sake of a free and fair election, he observed.

The veteran lawyer said this while addressing a

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(1923-2013)

AL-HAJJ SALEHA BEGUM

respected mother of Haji Md. Salim former Member of Parliament of Dhaka - 7 constituency and Managing Director of Madina Group passed away on January 12, 2013 early morning (Innalillahi... Rajiun). All the members of Madina Group are deeply shocked at her sad demise. We pray for the salvation of her departed soul and express our deepest sympathy for the bereaved family.