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Kashmir calm as truce holds

New Delhi mulls response to Islamabad's call for talks

AFP, Srinagar

A ceasefire took hold yesterday in disputed Kashmir after the Indian and Pakistani armies agreed to halt deadly cross-border firing that had threatened to unravel a fragile peace process between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

As the foreign minister of Pakistan appealed for talks with her Indian counterpart to defuse tensions, senior officers reported that calm had returned to the region after violence in which five soldiers were killed.

A deal to end the cross-border firing was reached during a 10-minute phone call on Wednesday between two generals, India's Vinod Bhatia and Pakistan's Ashfaq Nadeem.

"No fresh incidents of firing or violation of the ceasefire agreement have been reported from the Line of Control," Rajesh Kalia, the spokesman for the Indian army's Northern Command, told AFP.

At a cabinet meeting in New Delhi, Defence Minister

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Organising Secretary Sajib of Islamic University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League brandishing a shotgun he snatched from a policeman during a clash between Chhatra League and their archrival Chhatra Dal on campus yesterday. He allegedly fired two shells at the Chhatra Dal activists.

BCL flexes muscle at IU again

JCD men injured, arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

At least 15 JCD activists were injured in an attack by some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men at Islamic University (IU) in Kusthia yesterday.

The attack occurred in front of the science building when Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men were returning to their party's tent after holding a procession on the campus.

Enraged by the assault, JCD activists vandalised three trucks and a bus on the Kusthia-Khulna highway, triggering traffic

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Court finds no 'merit'

Rejects Farroque's Tk 10cr damage suit

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a Tk 10 crore damage suit filed by Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque against seven top government officials

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TENDER DROPPING Jubo League men bar bidders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jubo League activists tried to bar some bidders from dropping their tenders at the public works office in the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday.

It was the last day for submitting tenders for a Tk 1.13 crore solar panel project in Dhaka Medical College Hospital, representatives of some bidders said, but some activists of the pro-Awami League youth wing tried to prevent them from dropping

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ACID-ATTACKED FOR MARRIAGE REFUSAL

Victim barely alive

Culprit still not arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days into an acid attack, Sharmin Akter Ankhi woke up to the extent of her injuries and was shocked to learn that the one who caused her this irreversible damage still runs free.

She had rejected a marriage proposal and this is how her alleged attacker and an acquaintance Monir Uddin, 28, punished her.

Ankhi, an honours final-year student of Eden Girls' College in the capital, was doused with a bottle of acid and stabbed on Tuesday inside a



marriage registrar's office in Chankarpul where she was allegedly taken under duress.

"She became inconsolable," her younger brother said, after doctors at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital dressed her burns yesterday.

Her burn injuries were much worse than they were thought to be, said Ankhi's physicians and family members.

Seeing the magnitude of her burns which encompass most of her arms, neck and face and parts of her back and stomach, she was

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Gene makes great leaders

Researchers say

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

Leaders really are born and not made, scientists say after finding a gene that influences whether someone is likely to rule or be ruled.

After analysing DNA samples from 4,000 people, the team from University College London discovered that those with the gene were up to 25 per cent

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Algeria strikes hostage site; nearly 50 reported dead

BBC ONLINE

Algerian forces yesterday moved against Islamic militants holding hostages at a gas facility in eastern Algeria, officials said.

Four foreigners were freed but a number of people were killed in the military operation, Algerian state news agency APS reported.

Algerian soldiers had been surrounding the facility near In Amenas that kidnappers occupied on Wednesday.

Reports quoting militants said at least 34 hostages and 14 kidnappers died.

Militants also told Mauritania's ANI news agency that seven foreign hostages were still alive after the Algerian military raid.

Nearly 600 Algerian workers and four foreign hostages -- two from Scotland, one from France and one from Kenya -- were freed during the operation, APS reported.

An Irishman who had been kidnapped was freed and has spoken to his family, Ireland's foreign ministry said.

APS quoted an unnamed source as

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ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS Top accused Jamaat leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested Shahjalal Chowdhury, the main accused in the case filed for the attack on the Morichcha Dipankur Buddha Bihar under Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Shahjalal is the Ukhia upazila chairman and

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JOBS IN MALAYSIA

Over 6.5 lakh applied so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 6.51 lakh people from five divisions of the country have so far registered for jobs in Malaysia.

The aspirants for jobs from Dhaka, Barisal, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions registered with the information service centres at local union parishads,

said the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

Registration of the job seekers from Dhaka and Barisal divisions closed on Tuesday and it continued for the second day yesterday for those from three other divisions.

In Dhaka, 3,21,945 people and in

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School round begins in two cities

MOYUKH MAHTAB

School activation rounds for the Spelling Bee



organised by Champs21 started in Dhaka with four schools and in Rajshahi with two schools yesterday. The school rounds in

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AL's Javed wins Ctg-12 by-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League candidate Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed was unofficially declared the winner of Chittagong-12 by-election last night.

Farhad Ahmed, returning officer for the constituency (Anwara-Pashchim Patiya), said Javed had polled 1,24,964 votes and his rival, Ujjal Bhowmik of Gonoforum, 1,846 in all 90 centres. The turnout was 51.04 percent.

Locals, however, expressed surprise at the turnout figure, as they said they did not see many people queuing up at the polling centres.

Some presiding officers, seeking anonymity, alleged they were under pressure to inflate the turnout.

Earlier in the day, the by-election was held peacefully across 11 unions in Anwara upazila and five in Patiya upazila. Voting opened at 8:00am and continued till 4:00pm without any

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Mitsubishi to make Mirage cars in Bangladesh

Plans to invest Tk 400cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corporation plans to set up a manufacturing unit in Bangladesh to produce sedan cars for the local market.

The company will set up the unit under a public-private partnership (PPP), with an initial investment of Tk 400 crore, Masahiko Ueki, Mitsubishi's corporate general manager,

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The Mitsubishi Mirage is available in Bangladesh at a starting price of Tk 20 lakh but the company plans to manufacture the car here in Bangladesh which would drop prices to Tk 15 lakh. The five-seater, with a three-cylinder engine, could go 16km on one litre of petrol.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Tariqul Islam that the government is conspiring to keep party Chairperson Khaleda Zia away from the upcoming parliamentary elections?

Yes (78%)

No (19%)

No Comments (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 334

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta that focus should be given to create a strong election commission for a free, fair and transparent election instead of arguing about the reinstatement of caretaker government?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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

PRAYER TIMING January 18

Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-30	6-05
Juma 12-30	1-15
Asr 4-00	4-15
Maghrib 5-36	5-40
Esha 7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

TRIBUTE

SYED ISHTIAQ AHMED'S 81ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY - 18 JANUARY, 2013

... concentrate on the first step ... that's what you are responsible for. Once you take that step let everything do what it naturally does and the rest will follow.

Do not go with the flow Be the flow.

- Elif Shafak (The Forty Rules of Love)

-Sufia, Refaat, Raina, Anat, Liya, Roshanak and Raaid