



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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## 'OPEN LETTER TO THE US'

Most of Khaleda's Washington Times article is outright ludicrous

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## INVITING SORROW

Nasir Ali Mamun says he can't work unless he's sad

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## A WAR TOO LONG

Blair likens fighting al-Qaeda to fighting communism

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# SINKING BOAT NEAR LANKAN COAST 138 fortune-seekers rescued from sea

Survivors include Bangladesh, Myanmar nationals; most of them dehydrated; One found dead on the 'Malaysia-bound' boat

STAR REPORT

The Sri Lankan Navy rescued 138 Bangladeshi and Myanmar nationals on Saturday from a sinking vessel 50 miles off the island's eastern coast.

Of them, 127 are Bangladeshis and the rest are Myanmar nationals, according to a press release of the Sri Lankan Navy.

However, in a statement late last night, Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo said most of the survivors are Myanmar nationals.

The vessel set off on January 12 from Safarong of Nayapara in Bangladesh's Teknaf, the high commission said, adding its officials collected information through interaction with some 10 survivors of Manju 4. The boat was heading to Malaysia. It ran out of fuel on the way and drifted to Sri Lankan waters.

One person had been found dead aboard the boat, naval spokesperson Kosala Warnakulasuriya said. The deceased was a Bangladeshi national, according to BBC Bangla.

Sri Lankan police spokesman Prishantha Jayakody told AFP that they were certain that the passengers on Manju 4 had not been trying to enter Sri Lanka. But he could not determine their port of origin or destination.

The navy personnel provided the survivors with emergency services. Many were found unconscious due to weakness caused by hunger and dehydration.

Fifteen of them, including two women and two children, were hospitalised with acute dehydration, reports AFP quoting a police statement.

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Dazed and exhausted, some of the Bangladeshi and Myanmar nationals rescued on Saturday by the Sri Lankan navy from a sinking boat off Sri Lanka's eastern coast huddle together, above, at Oluvil fishing harbour in the island country. Navy personnel tend to the survivors, giving them water, saline and food.

PHOTO: AFP

## Bangalees in protest mode

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The proceedings in the constituent assembly were keenly monitored by the students of Dhaka University. The dismissive manner in which Dhirendranath Dutta's proposal regarding the place of Bangla in the state of Pakistan was handled was not lost on them or on Bangalee intellectual circles.

The students were swift

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# Mufti Hannan revealed Hawa Bhaban plot

Magistrate tells of Huji leader's confessional statement citing bigwigs' role in grenade attacks

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan in his 2011 confessional statement named some intelligence and political bigwigs, including Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, as masterminds of the August 21 grenade assault launched to assassinate Sheikh Hasina.

AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, the then additional chief metropolitan magistrate who had recorded the statement, told a Dhaka court about its content yesterday.

Hannan, chief of banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), was in the dock while Habibur,



AUGUST 21

now an additional Dhaka judge, was giving his testimony on recording the confessional statement.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of Hannan's statement.

The Huji leader had also narrated some conspiratorial meetings to assassinate Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader.

He was present at the meeting along with some influential leaders and ministers of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, Huji leaders and top intelligence officials.

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## Probe to continue

ACC chief on Padma graft conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission believes the World Bank will continue supporting the ACC investigation in the case over Padma bridge corruption conspiracy though the government has withdrawn its request for WB funding for the bridge project.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday said he had no report that the MoU (memorandum of understanding) between

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# Govt unveils plan to fight graft

Assures development partners of improving governance

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday unveiled before the development partners its plan for preventing corruption and improving governance against the backdrop of Padma bridge corruption allegations.

Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan presented the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) describing it as a concerted initiative for fighting corruption at a meeting of the Local Consultative

Group (LCG).

The meeting was held at the National Economic Council auditorium two days after the government withdrew its request to the World Bank for financing the Padma bridge project.

A high official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) told The Daily Star that there were "no direct links between the timing of the presentation and the complexities over the graft allegations

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## SSC exams begin

7,723 absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 7,723 candidates were absent on the first day of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations while 35 students and two invigilators were expelled for resorting to unfair means.

A man was also arrested for impersonating a candidate yesterday.

Eight education boards, one madrasa education board and one technical education board are conducting the month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations for 2013.

Candidates of SSC and SSC vocational exams

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3



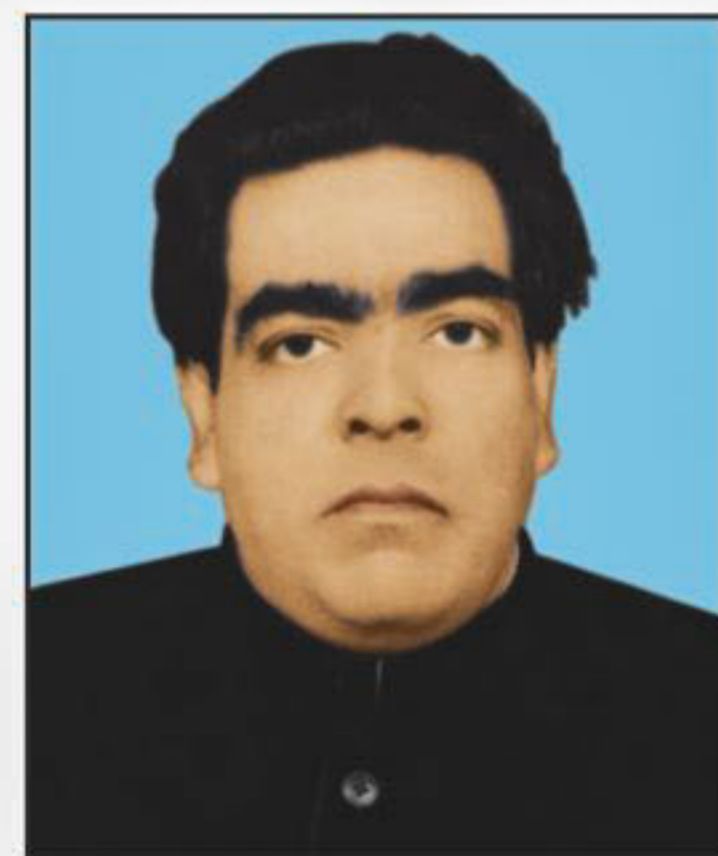
Locals assist fire fighters trying to douse a blaze which burnt down at least 366 shanties at Shahidertek Slum in the capital's Agargaon yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

## 35th Death Anniversary

(Abul Company) The founder of Abul Khair Group noted industrialist and social worker

Late Janab ABUL KHAIR



Death: 4th February, 1978

In accordance with the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent, you left this mundane world, leaving us and many of your relations overwhelmed by grief. In our everyday life your bright ideals serve as beacon. You are immortal in your death. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul.

May Allah the beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Your loving Son, Daughters and Relatives.

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APOLLO HOSPITALS

## Hartal in 16 dists today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BNP will enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions today demanding release of the party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and its self-dependence affairs secretary Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu.

Joint Secretary General of BNP Mizanur Rahman Minu announced the hartal

yesterday during a press conference at the party's Rajshahi office.

Withdrawal of "false" cases filed against the two veteran leaders of the opposition, protesting incidents of disappearance and secret killings and indiscriminate killings by Indian BSF on borders, increase of fuel prices and lack of security are among other reasons for calling hartal