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OUR FRAGILE PLANET

Stephen Hawking believes humans will not survive another 1,000 yrs

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Cargo piles up at Ctg port

Unloading, delivery hampered due to hartal, strike; 12 lakh tonnes of imported goods await delivery

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

All is not well in Chittagong Port. Recurrent hartals coupled with an ongoing work abstention by water transport workers have left the delivery of imports in a shambles.

Thanks to the latest spate of BNP and Jamaat-Shibir's four-day shut-down and a weeklong workers' strike over pay hike, some 12 lakh tonnes of goods were stranded at the port yards, different docks and on vessels as of Thursday.

The imports include sugar, wheat, lentil, salt, fertiliser, cement, clinker and lime stone.

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Containers are stacked at the jetty of Chittagong Port yesterday as they had not been delivered due to back to back hartals and a week-long workers' strike.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Medicine factory set on fire

Owner blames Jamaat-Shibir men

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Criminals early yesterday vandalised and set fire to a medicine factory owned by Khulna district president of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and leader of Awami League in Lokhpur area of Fakirhat upazila.

According to Baharul Alam, owner of damaged APC Pharmaceuticals, Jamaat-Shibir men had attacked the factory, a claim that the upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami denied.

Baharul said the attack incurred him a loss of around Tk 10 crore. The miscreants had damaged 10 rooms of the factory -- four storerooms, a packaging unit, a standard control unit and four office rooms, he added.

Quoting security guard Mizanur Rahman, the owner said a gang of eight to 10 criminals had entered the factory premises climbing the boundary wall around 12:30am. They had tied the security guard up and

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Fatikchhari still tense

5,000 sued over violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bhujpur, a remote area in Fatikchhari upazila, now looks like a war-torn zone. Thursday's fierce fight among Awami League (AL) men, Hefazat-e Islam supporters and police has left the villagers quite shaken. Nobody wants to talk to the media.

More than 5,000 people were accused yesterday in a case filed for attacking law enforcers and obstructing their work during the fight.

Of the accused, 100 were named. AFM Najim Uddin, assistant superintendent of police of Hathazari circle, told The Daily Star that police filed the case with Bhujpur Police Station around noon.

Meanwhile, section 144 (a ban on movement of more than four people in a group) imposed on Bhujpur on Thursday to ward off further violence was

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FICTITIOUS REPORT ON KAABA

GD filed against Amar Desh acting editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have lodged a general diary against Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman for running a fictitious report involving a traditional ceremony in Makkah.

Sub-inspector Rafiqul Islam of the Detective Branch lodged the GD with Tejgaon Police Station, hours after law enforcers arrested

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SEE EDITORIAL



A New Year gift

First Bangladeshi search engine developed

SUBRATA DAS, from Sylhet

The country's first search engine www.pipilika.com goes online officially on the eve of Pahela Baishakh today.

At least 11 researchers and developers at computer science

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People from all walks of life pay tribute to Biplobi Binod Bihari Chowdhury after his body was taken to JM Sen Hall in Chittagong yesterday evening. More photos on page 5.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Farewell to a revolutionary

STAR REPORT

People from all walks of life, with love and respect, yesterday bid farewell to anti-British and Language Movement veteran Binod Bihari Chowdhury, a close aide to Masterda Surya Sen.

He was cremated at Abhoy Mitra Cremation Centre of Baluar Dighir Par in Chittagong last night.

Born at Dakshin Bhurshi of Chittagong, Binod Bihari passed away at Fortis Hospital in Kolkata Wednesday night at the age of 104.

His body was flown to Dhaka around noon yesterday and then taken to Central Shaheed Minar in the capital around 2:00pm.

People in their hundreds thronged the Shaheed Minar to have the last glimpse of the revolutionary, reports our Dhaka University correspondent.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote organised the programme at the Shaheed Minar.

Political, cultural and media personalities, and people of all strata paid respect to Binod by placing wreaths.

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TIB proposes framework for polls-time govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday proposed to form a committee taking equal number of members from both the ruling and opposition alliances to select polls-time government for holding a free and fair election.

According to the proposal, a Parliamentary Consensus Committee will be formed in the 30 days before the incumbent parliament's tenure expires.

The committee will select 10 members and one chief for the polls-time government. The Speaker will form the committee following recommendations

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