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People pay the price, as always

Alleged Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir men vandalise vehicles, *left and bottom right*, on Culvert Road at Bijoyanagar in the capital yesterday ahead of the 60-hour hartal that begins today. The mother of human hauler driver Noor-e-Alam tries to comfort her son at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, *top right*. He was injured when criminals exploded a home-made bomb near Dhaka Udyan in Mohammadpur. The blood-soaked shirt of this pedestrian, *right middle*, inside an ambulance and the bandage show how badly he was injured when a crude bomb went off near him in Nayapaltan.

PHOTO: COURTESY, FOCUS BANGLA, STAR



Students to end up with session loss

O & A-level exams could be cancelled for 60-hour shutdown

WASIM BIN HABIB

Four O-level and A-level exams will be cancelled if the opposition-called 60-hour-long shutdown that began this morning is continued. Examinees and teachers of different English medium schools fear the authorities in Bangladesh will be unable to hold the tests, which are taken simultaneously around the world. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, they said in case an exam is cancelled due to hartal, the session will be lost and the students will have to wait for the next available slot to take the test. Already in a difficult situation, the students and their parents are concerned that the political programmes may disrupt more examinations that already began this month. The October-November session of O- and A-level exams under the Cambridge International Examination (CIE) Board started on October 7 at

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ONION Tk 110 A KG

Eerie political climate sparks panic buying

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

MA Aziz usually buys five kilograms of onion at a time. But yesterday, he could afford to buy just two kg of onion at the capital's Karwan Bazar, thanks to the rocketing prices of essentials. The prices have shot up as many people were panic-buying essentials like rice, edible oil, pulses, lentils, eggs and meat, fearing political uncertainty and unrest ahead. Frequent price hike of essentials weighs heavily on the customers, who are on fixed income group, as they find it really difficult to maintain their fami-



lies. Some of them are even forced to cut their consumption. Onion, which was sold for Tk 25 per kg three months ago, is now selling at Tk 110 to Tk 115 as of yesterday. On Friday, it was sold at Tk 100 a kg in the retail market. The skyrocketing prices of commodities are taking a heavy toll on the traders too. Mohammad Alauddin, 50, a wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, said the wholesale price of onion yesterday reached to Tk 4,100 per maund (40kg)

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Blasts at strategic places in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants blasted crude bombs in front of the houses of Supreme Court Justice SK Sinha and Law Minister Shafique Ahmed in the city yesterday ahead of the 60-hour hartal enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance from today. The law minister suspected that Jamaat-Shibir men blasted the bombs to stop the ongoing war crimes trial. A key component of the 18-party alliance, Jamaat-e-Islami, has been demanding the government stop the trial. Five of its top leaders have already been convicted of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. Some other leaders were facing similar charges. Justice Sinha, one of the members the Supreme Court's Appellate Division bench, has been dealing with the appeals of war crimes convicts. He is the senior most judge of the Appellate Division next to the chief justice.

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RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 3



City dwellers of Chittagong try to stay dry inside a rickshaw and endure the pouring incessant rain yesterday as a low pressure over the Bay makes their life miserable. The photo was taken from Prabartak intersection.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

UN members slam US drone policy

Washington defends drones, says strikes 'necessary and just'

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The US government has defended its use of drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and other countries in front of the UN, telling a chamber full of largely critical nations that in President Obama's view the deployment of unmanned aerial attacks against al-Qaeda targets was "necessary, legal and just". Representatives from a slew of nations, including Brazil, China and Venezuela, lined up to berate the Obama administration for its intensive use of drone strikes. But the US delegation told a plenary meeting of the general assembly in the UN building in New York the president had

taken steps to introduce new guidance and standards, and to set out the legal rationale for unmanned weapons deployed in the fight against al-Qaeda and affiliated threats. The UN debate marked the first time that member nations have come together to discuss the rapidly expanding militarised use of remotely piloted aircraft and the fraught international legal issues that it raises. It came at the climax of 10 days in which the question of the legality of drones has caught the headlines, with the release of two UN reports that have sharply condemned aspects of the programmes.

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What's in name?


Needs changing if it's Priebke

AFP, Bueno Aeres

The Argentine grandson of Nazi war criminal Erich Priebke wants to change his last name, just weeks after the death of his grandfather sparked turmoil when various countries refused his body. Tomas Erick Ramon Priebke Ortiz, 23, told the press in Bariloche, the southern Argentine city where he lives, that the Priebke name is a hurtful label, according to an interview that came out Friday. "Why carry a last name that does me bad because it did harm to people? It doesn't make sense. It's a label that has nothing to do with me," he said in an exclusive interview with news agency ANBariloche. The city, a picturesque resort town at the foot of the Andes some 1,800 kilometers southwest of Buenos Aires, was also home to the elder Priebke, a former Nazi official who took refuge and lived there for 40 years until he was extradited to Italy in 1995 over a World War II massacre. The grandson hired an attorney to begin the process of removing the Priebke name so as to "part with so much pain and bring closure to this story."

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the main opposition BNP would finally agree to join the all-party polls-time government?

Yes

(37%)

No

(63%)

TOTAL VOTES: 310

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Hasina-Khaleda dialogue will ease the current political situation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

October 27

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:50	5:25
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:00	4:15
Maghrib 5:32	5:35
Esha 7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Samsung to steal Google show


MAIL ONLINE

Samsung has filed a design patent for wearable computer glasses that are tethered to a smartphone. The Samsung spectacle plugs into a mobile phone and displays information such as text messages and phone calls.

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PROFOUND GRATITUDE

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Apollo Ispat Complex Limited - the manufacturer of "Apollo Rani" brand C.I. Sheet, appreciates with immense pleasure that the Public Issue of the Company in October 2013 received tremendous public response and thus oversubscribed to over Tk 500 crore against the offer for Tk 220 crore.

The Board of Directors feels obliged to honor the overwhelming response and support of the valued investors which ultimately reflects their confidence over the Company and its Board. The Board takes the privilege to express their profound gratitude to the valued investors.

The Board of Directors also acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation extended to the Company by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited, Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited, CDBL, ICB Capital Management Ltd. - the Manager to the Issue, Satcom IT Ltd. - the Post Issue Manager, Underwriters, Bankers to the Issue and all Public Media. It is the firm conviction of the Company that the cooperation from all concerns will continue in future as well.

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