



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



SPORTS VIOLENCE-HIT

Visiting under-19 Caribbean cricket team pull out on security concern

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PEOPLE PICK SNOWDEN

The American whistleblower is voted Guardian Person of the Year, again

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No good news yet

Taranco's 'hope for solution' depends on 'ifs'; UN mission's parleys with govt, opposition focus on curbing PM's polls-time powers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

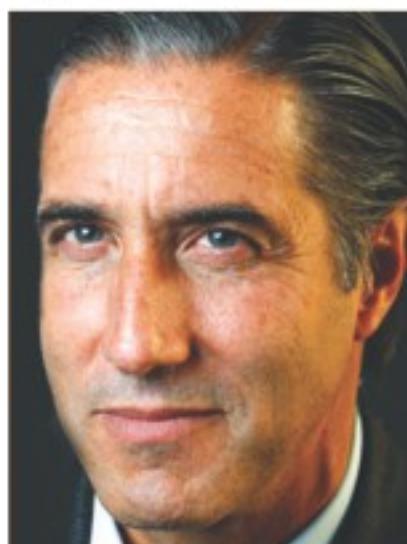
UN Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco yesterday expressed hope for a solution to the crisis over polls-time government but with four vital 'ifs'.

It was the first time he spoke to the press since flying in three days ago.

Meanwhile, with the opposition's blockade stretched till Friday, people wait keenly to see if any solution comes out of the UN mission's four-day troubleshooting that ends today.

Talking to reporters at the EC Secretariat after a 15-minute second-round meeting with the CEC in the afternoon, Taranco said, "I do believe that there is a possibility of a peaceful solution to this current deadlock -- if we've a political will, we've leadership, if we've an attitude of compromise, most importantly if we're engaged into a peaceful dialogue."

He added, "I know that you would like to hear more right now. I still have many other meetings to go through. I want to reassure that we will have the



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Polls on schedule

Reiterates PM at cabinet meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated that the 10th parliamentary elections will be held as per the constitutional guidelines and the polls schedules announced by the Election Commission, whether "some parties" participate in the polls or not.

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Boy killed in firing

Jamaat men clash with police in several dists; blockade extended until 6am Friday; Jamaat calls hartal also for today

STAR REPORT

A 12-year-old boy was killed by stray bullets and 10 others were injured yesterday, as Jamaat-Shibir men fought with law enforcers in Sirajganj during Jamaat's nationwide hartal that coincided with the opposition's blockade across the country.

Along with the activists of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, Jamaat-e-Islami men resorted to vandalism and arson in different

parts of the country, leaving more than 67 people injured.

Meanwhile, the alliance extended its 72-hour blockade, which started at 6:00am on Saturday, till 6:00am on Friday, causing further sufferings to people.

BNP Spokesperson Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday afternoon announced the extension of blockade via a video message from

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MAPPING VIOLENCE -- PAGE 16

BLOCKADE IMPACT ON 10 LARGE Factories (Dec 1-Dec 3)

Orders cancelled \$ 3.96 lakh

Air shipment cost \$ 3.08 lakh

Price cut \$ 1.08 lakh

Orders delayed \$ 27.70 lakh

SOURCE: BGMEA

Are our leaders at war against citizens?

Otherwise how can they be so destructive?

MAHFUZ ANAM

In wars, enemies not only destroy the soldiers and weapons of their opponents but also each other's industries, agriculture, roads, bridges, food supply chain, etc., with the express purpose of making the common people of the opponent's country suffer.

The way our two leaders are refusing to reach any compromise, the indifference

COMMENTARY

they are showing about the impact of their actions on our industry, agricultural products, income of the poor, disruption of food supply chain, etc., force us to ask the question as to whether or not they are at war against a country called Bangladesh. Is it their wish to make our common people suffer? Is it their wish that our productive capacities built at huge

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Ctg Shibir man killed 'while making bomb'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chhakra Shibir leader was killed and two were injured in an explosion while making bombs at a remote hilly village in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The dead is Md Rasel, 23, organising secretary of the Sitakunda upazila unit Islami Chhakra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

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RMG exporters in a tight corner

GAZI TOWHID AHMED

Repeated blockades have put the garment sector in a tight corner as exporters are counting losses from order cancellation and rising transport costs.

Buyers are cancelling orders as exporters fail to meet the lead time

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due to transport crisis, said Atiquil Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Some buyers are also imposing penalties in case of delayed shipment, cutting prices of garment products, he mentioned, adding

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Family members stand close to truck helper Mujibur at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Opposition activists torched speech-impaired Mujibur's truck in Comilla yesterday.

imagination at work

CANCER DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN PEOPLE. WHY SHOULD TECHNOLOGY?

GE's PET/CT scanners are making world-class cancer diagnostics more accessible in Bangladesh. By helping doctors with accurate information to stage, they are giving more and more people the hope of recovery.



Burnt in blockade arson

This time speech-impaired truck helper falls victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A speech-impaired truck helper received burn injuries to the face, hands and thighs when pickets set his truck on fire at Debidwar in Comilla early yesterday, during the country-wide hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Victim Mujibur Rahman, 42, was going towards Companiganj of Comilla with the goods from the capital.

The attackers had hurled brick chips

at the truck when it reached Baniapara-Phultola area. As soon as the driver pulled off, they set fire to the vehicle using flammable liquid around 4:30am.

Driver Abdur Rahman, 47, also sustained minor burn injuries. They both had been rushed to a local clinic.

However, after primary treatment, Mujibur was rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 12:30pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, resident

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surgeon of the burn unit Partha Shankar Paul said, "Though he sustained 20 percent burn, he is not out of danger, as fire damaged his respiratory organs."

Since the beginning of the opposition's latest spell of agitation on October 26, a total of 13 arson victims died. So far, some 124 victims have been treated at the DMCH burn unit. Of them, 72 had to be admitted to the hospital.