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## ARSON ATTACK

## Ctg auto driver loses 15-day battle for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Abdul Aziz was supposed to return home in Chittagong on the night of December 1 as usual. But he returned 15 days later as a corpse.

The 50-year-old driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 4:30am yesterday.

He had suffered burns over 35 percent of his body when blockaders hurled a petrol bomb at his auto-rickshaw at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong on that day.

"He wanted to live -- he wanted to go back home," said his wife Munni Begum at the DMCH burn unit.

Aziz was initially admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), and was shifted to DMCH on December 3 for better treatment.

Doctors at DMCH said the fire had damaged his respiratory organs.

He was driving to his Langal Mora home in the upazila after the day's work when he came under attack in Battali area, Aziz had told The Daily Star at the CMCH.

The auto-rickshaw was the only source of income for his five-member family. Aziz had borrowed from a friend to

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A farmer tends his second batch of Red Amaranth at Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj while others weed their spinach field, inset. As winter vegetables are widely grown in districts around the capital, the city dwellers are not deprived of them even during the series of hartals and blockades that plagued the country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## EU envoys skip Savar V-Day programme

Join president's reception

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European Union envoys based in Dhaka did not attend the Victory Day programme to pay respect to liberation war martyrs at the National Memorial at Savar yesterday morning.

It was their collective decision not to attend that raised a lot of questions among the diplomatic community and also inside the government.

However, they joined the president's reception at Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

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## JU VC forced to leave campus

Agitating teachers misbehaved with me, says Prof Anwar

JU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating teachers of Jahangirnagar University yesterday forced its vice-chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain to leave the campus as per their earlier decision of not letting him enter there.

Around 9:00am, the teachers thronged the on-campus residence of Pro-VC (Admin) Prof Afsar Ahmed being informed that Prof Anwar was there.

"We asked him not to return to the campus as he [Prof Anwar] had not complied with the chancellor's instructions of holding the VC panel election," said Prof Kamrul Ahsan of philosophy department, also the member secretary of the protesters' platform.

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## Air raids in Syria kill 76

28 children among victims, alleges rights body

AFP, Damascus

The Syrian air force was accused yesterday of killing 76 people -- including 28 children -- by unleashing barrels packed with explosives on Aleppo, a focal point for fighting between regime and rebel forces.

The bombardment, which activists described as "unprecedented", came as the United Nations said the number of Syrian war refugees in the Middle East was likely to double to 4.1 million by the end of 2014.

The number of people slain in Sunday's bombing of Aleppo "with explosive-packed barrels... rose to 76,"

including "28 children and four women," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, updating its previous toll of 36 dead.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said it was "one of the heaviest tolls from air raids since the beginning of the war" that flared after a brutal regime crackdown on Arab Spring-inspired democracy protests that erupted in March 2011.

Explosive-laden barrels were dropped on six rebel-controlled districts in the east, including Sakhr, Ard al-Hamra and Haydariyeh, Abdel Rahman said.

The Observatory and activists said

government forces frequently drop the barrels filled with TNT on rebel-held areas of the war-torn country from helicopters and warplanes.

"The barrels of explosives are not like bombs. Their impact is not accurate as they are dropped without any guidance system, and that is why they cause a large number of victims," said Abdel Rahman.

The devices are made up of metal barrels that have a layer of concrete inside them "so that they cause as much destruction and death as possible," according to Abdel Rahman.

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Thousands of people throng Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday to celebrate Victory Day, and vow to build a new Bangladesh with the spirit of the Liberation War and resist the war criminals.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## JP protests 'confinement' of Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party yesterday announced a two-day countrywide agitation programme demanding the release of party chief HM Ershad from "confinement" by the government at the Combined Military Hospital in the name of treatment.

Under the programme, the party is set to hold protest rallies today at all upazila and district headquarters and to submit memorandums tomorrow

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## Dogs can 'predict' human behaviour

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Dogs understand humans far better than previously thought according to evolutionary biologists at Abertay University in Dundee.

A new study looks at the progress made in the

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## We Deeply Mourn



We are deeply mourn at the sad demise of **Mrs. Feroza Khatun Chowdhury**, Mother of **Alhaj Sajjatuz Jumma**, Founder Chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd.

Mrs. Firoza Khatun Chowdhury passed away on 07 December, 2013 in the morning at United Hospital, Dhaka due to old age complications (Innalllahi.... Rajun). She was 91 years old.

We are expressing our heartfelt condolence to Mr. Jumma's family members for this irreparable lose.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the departed soul so that it may rest in the Heaven.

- Members of the Board of Directors and all Officials of SJIBL



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think people will accept an election in which the ruling Awami League is going to win uncontested in 127 constituencies?

Yes (12%)  
No (88%)

TOTAL VOTES: 579

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the Election Commission has staged a drama of farcical polls through declaring 154 persons elected-unopposed?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING December 17**

Fajr	5:20	5:55
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:22	5:25
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation