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WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF SAYEDEE

Witnesses on their nerves

TAWFIQUE ALI and HABIBUR RAHMAN from Pirojpur

Prosecution witnesses in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee are passing their days amid insecurity and have demanded that the government take long-term measures to ensure their safety.

Most of the 28 witnesses who testified against the Nayebe-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami are from Zianagar upazila of Pirojpur.

On February 28, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Sayedee to death and the Supreme Court is currently hearing on his appeal petition filed on March 28.

Fear of attacks has gripped the witnesses following the killing of one witness and an attack on another in the upazila.

"We don't feel ourselves safe. We are afraid of attacks on our lives," said Manik Pasari, a key witness from Parerhat of Zianagar, who first filed a case against Sayedee accusing him of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

"Though police are guarding us now, short-term security measures won't work. Sayedee's supporters won't spare us so easily," said a visibly worried Manik.

Modhusudan Gharami, another witness from Parerhat, said, "I have been given police protection for now but they cannot protect me for the rest of my life."

Earlier on December 8, prosecution witness Mostafa Hawlader was hacked in Zianagar and succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital two days later.

On October 28, alleged Jamaat-Shibir men attacked the house of another prosecution witness, Mahabubul Alam Howlader, in the same upazila. He, however, managed to escape unhurt as he had hidden himself in the attic.

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People queuing up at a TCB fair price outlet on Rokeya Sarani in Sheorapara yesterday. Due to poor supply the TCB trucks, which are used as outlets, only had 1.5 tonnes of rice instead of the usual 2.5 tonnes.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ARSON OF POLICE BUS

Fakhrul among 40 accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 40 opposition leaders and activists, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, have been sued for Tuesday night's arson attack on a police bus in the capital's Bangla Motor that left a traffic police dead.

BNP standing committee members Mirza Abbas and Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and the party's Joint

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29 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Admission in a shambles

WASIM BIN HABIB

Aspirations for higher education, it seems, are not going to be realised any time soon.

Thanks to the ongoing political unrest and back-to-back hartals and blockades, 15 of the 33 public universities could not hold admission tests for the 2013-14 academic session.

Twelve of them held the tests, but could not complete the post-test admission procedures.

Students aspiring for admission to Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, have been the lucky ones since the admission process there has been completed. Their classes will start on January 8.

The Chittagong University authorities have completed the tests for six out of eight units. The exams for the other two, after being rescheduled four times, are now scheduled for today, according to the university website. However, the subject nomination stage is yet to be completed for some of the units.

The other four universities, one of which has held the tests, are yet to finish the admission process.

Thousands of other aspirants who have taken the admission test at one or more universities, and the ones who have applied but are yet to take the tests, are suffering from a great deal of anxiety.

The public universities, which can

accommodate around 50,000 new faces, usually hold admission tests between November and December and start taking classes in January. But the current political situation has forced some universities to leave the tests for next January.

The authorities fear that if the situation does not change, it would plunge into a severe crisis many universities that are already troubled with varying levels of session jams.

Admission seekers say they are very uncertain about the tests and utterly frustrated. They would be in a serious problem if the admission tests are held in quick succession.

"We usually get a few days between

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Erdogan govt in trouble

Third Turkey minister steps down, calls on PM to resign over graft probe

AFP, Ankara

Three top Turkish ministers resigned yesterday over a high-level graft probe, with one of them calling on the prime minister to step down himself in a major escalation of the biggest scandal to hit the government in years.

After announcing his own resignation, Environment Minister Erdogan Bayraktar raised the stakes by calling on Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to



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'Glitch' in EC website

Access to affidavits of polls candidates becomes difficult

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The website of the Election Commission (EC) was still not running properly yesterday as people found it hard to access the information on candidates' affidavits which included their wealth statements.

The link to the affidavits of the candidates often led people to find messages like "page not found" or "page seems temporarily damaged" throughout the day.

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Policemen stand guard as security has been beefed up at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan home since yesterday morning. *Inset*, Detective Branch of police arrest BNP leader Shakhawat Hossain at Khaleda's Gulshan office last night and take him away on a microbus.

PHOTO: STAR

Ex-BNP MP Bakul held

Additional security around Khaleda's home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday detained former BNP lawmaker Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul and dozens of opposition leaders and activists from different parts of the capital ahead of the opposition's Dhaka March programme.

Detectives detained Bakul when he was entering BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan residence around 5:00pm. He was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as he fell sick.

Additional security measures were in place around Khaleda's residence yesterday.

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Six cannons to protect home!

MAIL ONLINE

An elderly Chinese man deployed six homemade cannons around his home to prevent it from being demolished.

Zhou Jianbang set the weapons up after watching neighbours' houses torn down allegedly without consent.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the call of Human Rights Watch to set up an effective mechanism to protect witnesses in the war crimes trials in Bangladesh?

Yes

No

(75%)

(25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 279

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhith that the rise in the wealth of people in power is normal?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING			December 26
Fajr	5:25	Azan	6:00
Zohr	12:45	Jamaat	1:15
Asr	3:45		4:00
Maghrib	5:24		5:27
Esha	7:00		7:30
Source: Islamic Foundation			

৪২১ তম

মুলাদী শাখা

মধ্য বাজার, মুলাদী বন্দর

মুলাদী, বরিশাল

৪২২ তম

পাটকেলঘাটা শাখা

গফুর প্লাজা, পাটকেলঘাটা

তলা, সাতক্ষীরা

বরিশালের মুলাদী ও সাতক্ষীরার পাটকেলঘাটাতে

পুতালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড -এর

৪২১ ও ৪২২ তম শাখার খুড়

উদ্বোধন

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আজ ২৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩



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