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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
theSTAR
stories behind the news

LOVE'S LABOUR'S NEVER LOST

Aly Zaker recalls Khaled Khan's dedication to theatre and acting

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NOT GOD, BUT HUMAN

Chinese president notes Mao's "mistakes" on the latter's birthday

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Bomb attack on cops again

One killed, 8 hurt in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A policeman was killed and eight others were injured as alleged BNP-Jamaat activists hurled a bomb at a police van in Rajshahi city yesterday.

The dead, Siddhartha Chandra Sarkar, 23, was a constable of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (riot control division). The injured, all constables in their 20s, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Siddhartha passed away around 9:30pm, one and half hours after he was brought to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital by a private air ambulance.

Earlier on Tuesday, a traffic constable was burned to death in arson attack on a police bus in the capital's Bangla Motor.

In Rajshahi, the bomb assault was made near Loknath High School at Rajahata around 12:30pm while the vehicle was in a convoy of three slowly moving towards Barindra museum point.

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In an innovative way to draw the attention of politicians, poultry farmers yesterday held a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club and brought in 25,000 chicks just a day old. With the sector brought to its knees by hartals and blockades, the protestors were giving away chicks to people passing by saying they could not feed the chicks anymore. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Poultry on the brink of ruin

Farmers lose Tk 4,000cr in last 3 months for political unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The poultry sector is an example how political unrest in a country can bring its businesses to their knees.

The situation is so grave that poultry farmers do not worry about losses now, they are only struggling to save the business from destruction.

Around 5,000 farmers participated in a protest rally in the capital yesterday and brought nearly 25,000 day-old chicks with them.

The farmers were so frustrated and helpless that they were offering the chicks to passersby, for free.

They cannot even keep their farms shut as

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Army starts work as strike force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The armed forces personnel started working as a strike force from yesterday to control law and order during the pre- and post-parliamentary polls days. The election will be held on January 5 next year.

According to a press statement of Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR), the armed forces personnel have been deployed to cooperate with the civil administration during the election time as per the request of the Election Commission (EC).

Initially, the army will be deployed at district headquarters. Later, the forces would be deployed at different nodal points of

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AN APPEAL TO THE EC AND THE PM

Please do not hold Jan 5 elections

MAHFUZ ANAM

Why should the 5th January 'election' not be held?

Because it violates the concept of election as envisaged in the constitution, because it will destroy whatever faith people still have in democracy, because it will cause more deaths and violence in the coming days, because it will further hurt the economy, which is already greatly damaged, because it will further damage the image and reputation of Bangladesh as an unstable country, because more violence will significantly affect our chances of becoming an FDI destination, because further disruption will shift RMG orders from our country to others, because continued unrest will create social instability and break down law order further.

Will the 5th January voter-less election solve any of the problems that we now face? Will it stop the *hartals*, *oborodhs*, the street level violence, the destruction of property? Will it stop the killings and the burning? We all know it will not. Then why go ahead with something that will solve nothing and only complicate the problem further and linger the agony of the people? Sheikh Hasina, more than many others, knows that whenever there is social unrest people blame the govern-

ment. So she has more to lose from continued unrest. She benefited from this public behaviour when she was in the opposition.

What is after all an election? Is it just a ritual that has to be performed every five years whether or not people participate in it? Is it just a constitutional requirement

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COMMENTARY



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Freedom fighter Meher Ali of Monirampur in Jessore expresses his frustration at the burn unit of DMCH yesterday. Criminals hurled a petrol bomb at the local Awami League leader when he was on the front porch of his home Tuesday evening.

Attacked again, after 42yrs

Arson victim freedom fighter describes how criminals threw petrol bomb at him in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest arson victim at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital is a freedom fighter.

Sexagenarian Meher Ali was sitting in his home at Monirampur in Jessore, when arsonists hurled a flaming bottle of petrol at him. He suffered 25 per cent burns.

"It was right after dinner around 9:00pm. I was sitting on my front porch, when seven or eight people

crept up from behind, threw a bottle of liquid at me and fled," Meher told The Daily Star yesterday.

The incident happened on December 24 and he was brought to the DMCH burn unit the next day.

Contacted, Monirampur Police Station Officer-in-charge Mir Rezaul Hossain said: "We found the burnt plastic bottle on the spot."

Ali is also the vice-president of Chaluahati union Awami League in Jessore.

"This is the second time in his life that he has become a victim of arson attack for being who he is -- the first time was in 1971 when the collaborators of the Pakistani forces suspected he was with the guerillas. They burnt down our homestead, but dad escaped unhurt. But this time...", his eldest son Mohammad Khodabaksh left the sentence unfinished, and looked at his father.

Ali, who worked as a spy for the

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Magic lamp for Bipu

His annual income rises five times in 5 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nasrul Hamid Bipu, an Awami League lawmaker and a businessman, wielded a magic wand between 2008 and 2013. He doubled his assets and increased annual income by over five times.

Bipu and his family's assets jumped to over Tk 19 crore in 2013 from Tk

8.78 crore five years ago, according to the wealth statements he had submitted to the Election Commission before the 2008 polls and this month.

Of this, the lawmaker owns nearly over Tk 13 crore worth of assets, his son Tk 5.15 crore and his wife about Tk 1.03 crore. No assets were shown in Bipu's son's name in 2008.

The lawmaker now has a whopping Tk 1.84 crore in fixed deposit and in 2008 he only had Tk 1.5 lakh.

Bipu and his family have four flats (one partially owned) at Paribagh, Banani and Baridhara, which are considered posh areas of the capital. He, however, valued the flats at Tk 82.65

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Your memories are a candle
That lights our souls

Lovingly remembering

Aaron H. Chowdhury (Danny)

29 June 1981 - 27 December 2002

Anita Chowdhury (Dida), Bula & Tapan Chowdhury (Parents), Anika Chowdhury (Sister)

And all loving members of the family