

**'BITTERSWEET VICTORY'**

New book gives a freedom fighter's account of the Liberation War days

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CHHAYANAUT AT 50

Two-day programme marks the noted institution's Golden Jubilee

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HOFFMAN NO MORE

Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman is found dead in New York

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BCL, cops attack RU students

More than 100 hurt as students protest fee hike, demand cancellation of evening shift; university closed for indefinite period

ANWAR ALI and MA SAYEED, Rajshahi

Around 100 students of Rajshahi University and eight journalists were wounded yesterday, as armed Chhatra League men backed by police attacked the students protesting fee hikes and evening shift master's courses.

The authorities last night closed the university for an indefinite period and ordered the resident students to vacate halls by 8:00am today.

Of the injured, 27 were hit by bullets during sporadic clashes that turned the campus into a battlefield. All the injured, some of them female students, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The wounded journalists are Najim Mridha of New Age, Golam Rabbani of Maasranga TV, Ali Ramjan of daily Janakantha, Zakir Hossain of Shirsha News, Sajib Uddin of Flash News, Bulbul Ahmed

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Brandishing handguns, Chhatra League cadres attack the students demonstrating against fee hike and evening shift on Rajshahi University campus yesterday. Inset, those under attack take cover at the entrance of a building. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR



An angry Liaquat

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Dhirendranath Dutta was unambiguous in his expression of views. And they were views certainly not

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Grassroots ignore party directives

17 AL men to contest polls in a single upazila

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disregarding Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's directive on having one party-backed candidate for every post in the upazila parishad polls, 17 Awami Leaguers have sought candidacy for three posts of Kotlipara upazila parishad in Gopalganj.

The upazila is under the prime minister's own Gopalganj-3 constituency.

Of the 17, eight are vying for the chairman post, five for

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Padma bridge by 2018

3 major contracts including one on river training by June, project cost goes up by Tk 4,000cr; Muhith says money no problem

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The new government looks to complete by June the tender process and award contracts for three key components of the Padma bridge project -- construction of the bridge, river training and appointment of supervisory consultant.

"We hope the contracts for the three components will be awarded by June," Padma Bridge Project

Director Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government move comes as its contract with the project's consultant, Maunsell Ltd AECOM, approaches expiry on June 24.

Because of a three-year delay, the cost of the project, to be implemented solely with government funding, would increase by around Tk 4,000 crore from the current

estimate of Tk 20,507 crore, said officials of the Bridges Division that now aims to complete the long-awaited project by 2018, three years behind the original schedule.

In a letter to the finance ministry on January 28, the Bridges Division gave details about the present status of the project's three key components and asked the ministry to decide on how to pay the contrac-

tors in foreign currency.

The Division is now evaluating the proposals for the bridge's construction. It has also asked the bidders to submit proposals for river training by February 20 and those for the job of supervisory consultant by March 18.

The Padma bridge is among the six projects that are under direct

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Devotees during the akheri munajat of Biswa Ijtema on the Turag in Tongi. The final part of Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims, ended yesterday with the munajat.

PHOTO: STAR

IJTEMA ENDS Devotees pray for salvation

HELEMUL ALAM and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

Lakhs of devotees sought world peace, forgiveness and blessings for mankind and the Muslim Ummah at Akheri Munajat of the second phase of Biswa Ijtema yesterday.

Noted Islamic scholar Maulana Jubayerul Hassan from Delhi led the 13-minute munajat of the Ijtema starting from 9:58am.

Meanwhile, the Ijtema authorities declared the schedule for next Biswa

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Qulkhwani

Our beloved father **Mr. Zainul Haque Khan** passed away on January 31, 2014 while praying Jumma Namaz at Azad Mashjid. Please pray for his departed soul



A Doa Mahfil will be held in Azad Mashjid, Gulshan after Magrib Prayers on Monday, February 3, 2014. We earnestly request you to kindly attend the Doa Mahfil.

From his Loving Family

7 docs lose jobs for not staying in rural areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven doctors were suspended from service yesterday for remaining absent from their workplaces in rural areas.

They were not present at the health sub-centres and upazila health complexes in Shibpur and Palash upazilas of Narsingdi, where they had been posted, during a visit by the authorities on January 30, according to a press statement of the health ministry.

Bansudeb Ganguli, joint secretary of the health ministry, and Md Shahnewaj, director (admin) of the Directorate General of Health Services, lodged complaints against the doctors following the visit.

Based on the complaints, Health Minister Muhammad Nasim issued suspension orders and recommended punitive actions against the physicians.

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Nation headed in wrong direction

Political conflicts, hartals, price hike are top reasons, says Democracy International survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents to a recent public opinion survey said Bangladesh was headed in the wrong direction and top three reasons for this were political conflicts, too many hartals and price hikes.

In the survey, conducted by Democracy International (DI) from January 11 to 15, seven out of ten supporters of the BNP and the Awami League wanted their parties to compromise and engage in talks to end the political stalemate.

To study the post election environment, the US-based DI picked 1,500 people, aged 18 and above, from 62 moujas/mahalas in 39 districts of seven divisions through random sampling.

Formation of the new government, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's speech and post-polls violence were the significant events to coincide with the fieldwork.

The findings were released at the DI's Dhaka office yesterday. Asked about the government formed through the January 5 election, 40 percent termed it not credible, 18 percent credible, 25 percent highly credible and 17 percent less credible.

Fifty-nine percent felt there should be another election within the next five years and 52pc said the BNP should immediately enter dialogue with the government and cease agitation.

Forty percent believed the government should complete its five-year tenure while 57 percent said it should initiate talks with the BNP and come to an agreement on new

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