



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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

NATURE HALTS SYRIA WAR

Thanks to a snowstorm, the country sees first deathless day in three years

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PK

Bollywood like never before? The much-hyped movie becomes a blockbuster hit

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Trains target again

Railway put on alert as criminals remove fishplates at 2 places; 50 hurt as a train derailed; rail link with Sylhet snapped for 19hrs

STAR REPORT

In a chilling reminder of last year's pre-election violence that saw railway taking the brunt, two acts of sabotage yesterday sent rail communications in disarray again.

At least 50 passengers were injured as five carriages and the locomotive of a train bound for Chittagong derailed at Kulaura of Moulvibazar after suspected blockaders removed fishplates there.

Rail communications in the western zone were disrupted for four hours after "pickets" uprooted lines in Joypurhat.

The attacks came a day after the government instructed Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party to deploy over 4,000 personnel along the rail lines to prevent possible sabotage.

Until yesterday, the BNP-led 20-party alliance's nationwide nonstop blockade had virtually no effect on the railway.

In Moulvibazar, Udayan Express, carrying 700 passengers and heading for Chittagong from Sylhet, derailed around 3:00am, said Shamsul Alam, stationmaster of Kulaura Rail Station. Rail communications between Dhaka-Sylhet, and Sylhet-Chittagong routes were restored at 10:30pm, said local police.

Of the 50 injured, 12 were in critical condition and admitted to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex and local clinics. The rest had first aid, police said.

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Several carriages of Udayan Express derailed at Kulaura of Moulvibazar yesterday after criminals removed the fishplates from the lines there. Inset, they did the same at Uri Madhabpara in Joypurhat but luckily it was spotted before an accident could occur.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA/STAR

RULE ON TARIQUE SPEECH Residences of 2 HC judges attacked

STAR REPORT

Houses of two High Court judges came under attack by miscreants a day after they ordered to stop publicising BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman's statements in the media.

The attacks took place amid a countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Criminals hurled two crude bombs at the Dhanmondi house of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman yesterday while the ancestral home of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque in Feni was set on fire in the early hours of yesterday.

"Two attackers on a motorcycle threw two crude bombs targeting the residence of the judge around 7:00pm," said Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi

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Khaleda unhappy at leaders' inaction

Gulshan office unlocked in morning, locked again at night; Shamsher Mobin held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is annoyed with a section of her senior party leaders for their failure to stage a showdown in the capital's Nayapaltan on January 5.

She is also frustrated that most of the senior leaders have been inactive during the BNP-led alliance's ongoing blockade across the country, according to party insiders.

Khaleda announced the non-stop blockade programme on January 5

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Govt to go tough against violence

AL defers Jan 10 rally

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would go tough against the BNP-Jamaat alliance for their violent activities. She also said legal action would be taken against BNP chief Khaleda Zia "if she went beyond her limits".

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France mourns massacre

Hunts for killers; policewoman killed in fresh gunfight

AGENCIES

French security forces desperately hunted two brothers suspected of gunning down 12 people in an Islamist attack on a satirical weekly, as a stunned and outraged France fell silent to mourn the victims yesterday.

Bells pealed out across France at the stroke of midday, public transport stopped and people gathered outside the headquarters of the Charlie Hebdo magazine in the

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COMMENTARY

MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY 2

'Internment' of BNP chief, a dangerous precedent

MAHFUZ ANAM

The Awami League will not be in power forever, nor will Sheikh Hasina be the prime minister. Power might change hands in future elections. But some of the precedents that are being set might haunt us for many years to come, as some past precedents have done for so many years, severely crippling our democracy's march forward.

We suffered incalculably for Bangabandhu's killing along with his family, and the murderous precedent it set. That threw us into military and quasi-military dictatorships along with all their unfortunate and unconstitutional actions including many more murders and kill-

ings. All these were dangerous precedents, from which we thought and hoped democracy would save us with its ushering in December 1991.

We believed that we would now have governments and governance with strict adherence to our constitution, laws, rules, norms, and decency.

The first shock to our expectation and to our nascent democracy came from the relentless hartals instituted by the Awami League during 1992-96 period, which intensified in the final two years with weeklong ones until the demand for an election time caretaker government was incorporated in the constitution.

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Police personnel stand guard at the gate of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office. They had removed the lock from the gate yesterday only to put it back again late at night.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Tarique, ETV chairman sued for sedition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sedition case was filed yesterday against BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman and ETV Chairman Abdus Salam in connection with a "false, fabricated and instigating" speech of the BNP leader aired on the television.

A sub-inspector filed the case with Tejgaon police station in the capital accusing Tarique's speech and its telecast of posing a threat to the country's sovereignty.

Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed the

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BJP chief phones Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bharatiya Janata Party President Amit Shah on Wednesday night phoned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to enquire about her health.

The BNP chief's press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan said this at a press briefing yesterday night at Khaleda's Gulshan office.

Amit Shah telephoned Khaleda Zia at 10:30pm on Wednesday, enquired about her physical condition and prayed for her quick recovery, said Maruf.

The BNP Chairperson thanked the BJP chief for

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The Daily Star

16th 'O' & 'A' Level

Award Presentation Ceremony, 2013-2014

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level

Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates

Private candidates who fulfil the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2013 to May/June 2014

Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2013 to May/June 2014)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Ashiqur Rahman at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215, with their original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 13, 14 or 15 January, 2015, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm.

Schools

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Ashiqur Rahman at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at o.alevel.tds@gmail.com by January 15, 2015, with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 4:00 pm of 15 January, 2015

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.