



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

20 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIV No. 353 | POUISH 30, 1421 BS | RABIUL AWAL 21, 1436 HIJRI



RONALDO BEATS MESSI

The Real Madrid star wins his third Ballon d'Or and for the second consecutive year

PAGE 15

GRABAR-KITAROVIC WINS

The opposition challenger becomes the first female president of Croatia

PAGE 8

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE style

EDUCATION BLOCKADE-HIT

Unhappy start to new year

Schools across country see thin attendance; children, guardians in panic

WASIM BIN HABIB

The New Year has not been as thrilling and pleasant as Rimon thought it would be. For the fifth grader at a private school in Dhaka, the year started with fear. On January 1, he collected new books from his school amid a nationwide shutdown.

Still, he tried to overcome the fear and be happy. He started committing his time to reading the new books with a resolve to do better this year. But his joy soon began to fade away. The 11-year-old cannot concentrate on study, as he could not go to school in the last 11 days except on the day of admission. Politics has left him baffled.

"It was fun getting new textbooks. But I don't feel good staying home all day," he says. "My Abbu and Ammu did not send me

to school. They fear. I also feel scared as I watched on TV scenes of bomb explosions." Like Rimon, most of the over four crore primary and high school students are feeling helpless at the beginning of their new academic year. Politics has dampened their spirits.

A BAD START

The year began with a countrywide hartal called by Jamaat protesting the death sentence of its leader ATM Azharul Islam for war crimes. The next two days -- Friday and Saturday -- were weekly holidays while January 4 a government holiday for Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Students did not dare go out of their homes on January 5, as the situation heated up centring on the first anniversary of the new government.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A bus is in flames on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Avenue after it was set alight allegedly by pickets last night during the BNP-led combine's indefinite blockade that began on January 6.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



SK Sinha new chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, known as SK Sinha, the most senior judge of the Appellate Division, has been appointed as the 21st chief justice of the country.

He is the first Hindu to hold the top judicial post in the history of Bangladesh, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star.

President Abdul Hamid made the appointment as per the constitution and will administer the oath of office to the new chief justice at his official residence Bangabhaban on January 17. The law ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

The appointment will come into effect on January 17, as the incumbent chief justice, Md Muzammel Hossain, will retire the day before.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SC asks for security

4 bombs found at Chapainawabganj court building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after the recovery of three bombs from the courtrooms of a Supreme Court building, police yesterday recovered four crude bombs from a court building in Chapainawabganj.

Meanwhile, the SC authorities sought reinforcements from the government although security was beefed up on the court premises yesterday.

A letter has been issued to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner in this regard, Supreme Court Registrar SM Kuddus Zaman told reporters at his office yesterday.

The letter asked for 10 unarmed policemen at the court building to frisk suspicious people and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Blockade hits border trade

Govt to deploy BGB personnel in 22 dists

STAR REPORT

The government has been incurring heavy revenue losses over the last week with the country's export-import through the major land ports badly disrupted due to the BNP-led combine's indefinite blockade since January 6.

Several hundred goods-laden Indian trucks remain stuck at Benapole, Sonamasjid and Hili Land Ports as required number of Bangladeshi trucks could not get there for unloading goods due to the blockade that has left several trucks torched and vandalised over the

past few days.

The authorities, however, have continued their efforts to keep the ports functional by providing police protection to the goods-laden trucks.

Escorted by police vehicles, a small number of trucks transported goods to different destinations on the seventh day of the blockade yesterday.

One more life was lost to violence yesterday with pro-blockade activists exploding crude bombs and carrying out arson attacks and vandalism in several districts.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BLOCKADE VIOLENCE 2015

(JAN 5-12)



SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS; DATA COMPILED BY STAR RESEARCH TEAM; INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN: CHINMAY DEVORST

Stop violence or face people's wrath

Hasina asks Khaleda, addressing rally in city; says Khaleda free to go home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked all to identify bomb attackers, conspirators and those involved in violence, and hand them over to police.

Terming her archrival Khaleda Zia the queen of militancy and terrorism, Hasina said, "Please stop violence in the name of blockade. Otherwise, you [Khaleda] will face dire consequences if people get angry."

Hasina, president of the ruling Awami



League, was speaking at an AL rally organised to mark Bangabandhu's homecoming.

Addressing the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam asked party men to be prepared to face any situation.

Terming the BNP an "evil" political party, he said it could create chaos any time.

The rally was scheduled for January 10 but was deferred by two days because of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Awami League activists and supporters march in procession towards the party's rally at Suhrawardy Udyan, leading to traffic chaos in the busy Shahbagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Noab worried over threat to media

Recent incidents 'restrict freedom of expression'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday expressed concern over threats to media's freedom of expression.

Citing the police attempt to search the daily New Age office in the capital on December 28, and law enforcers threatening its journalists with repercussions when barred from entering the office and filming the journalists, it said such acts were condemnable.

"Noab considers that these incidents restrict opinion and freedom of expression of the media," it said in a statement yesterday after a meeting in the capital.

It also expressed concern over the recent administrative and legal actions taken to threaten the media.

Restrictions on television talk shows and live broadcast are meant to pressurise the electronic media, it said, referring to the arrest of ETV Chairman Abdus Salam on January 6.

The association also stressed the importance of responsible broadcasting by TV channels.

The Noab meeting discussed various aspects

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Khaleda blasts PM's remarks

Says Hafiz after meeting with party chief; 4 BNP central leaders held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night came down hard on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for saying that Khaleda was not confined.

Khaleda gave her reaction to the PM's remarks when some BNP leaders, including party Vice-Chairman Maj Hafizuddin Ahmed, met her at Gulshan office.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is not confined, which is totally untrue," Hafiz told reporters quoting Khaleda.

Asked whether they would call off their blockade if the government allowed them to hold a rally in Dhaka, Hafiz

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

India won't interfere in Bangladesh's internal affairs

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi yesterday reiterated that it would not interfere in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

"It's for the government and people of Bangladesh to determine what sort of society they want and the issues they face," Syed Akbaruddin, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), told a media briefing in New Delhi.

He made the remarks when he was asked whether India was playing any role as

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Curfew again in tense Rangamati

STAR REPORT

An all-night curfew was imposed in Rangamati again yesterday.

The town was placed under curfew from 7:30pm till 8:00am on Sunday after clashes broke out between indigenous and Bangalee youths.

Though no big untoward incident took place yesterday with the army, Border guards and police deployed at key points, the district administration clamped the fresh curfew -- effective from 5:00pm for 14 hours.

In day time, Section 144 prohibiting public gatherings remained enforced. Roads were almost empty; no vehicles except for a

few motorbikes were noticed. Shops were mostly closed.

All the market places have been shut for over two days, leaving people faced with crisis of daily goods. Small shops in lanes and bi-lanes are already running out of oil, onions, eggs, salt and vegetables, locals said.

Law enforcers have arrested some 35 people for defying Sunday night's curfew. However, police declined to provide details about the arrestees.

"The situation is under control. There will be no curfew if the situation improves further," Shamsul Arefin, deputy commissioner, Rangamati told journalists.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3