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# Devotees join Ijtema defying blockade

Second phase begins on Turag bank

HELEMUL ALAM and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

The second phase of Biswa Ijtema, the largest Muslim congregation after the hajj, began on the bank of Turag river at Tongi yesterday amid the ongoing BNP-led 20-party alliance blockade.

The three-day second phase of the Ijtema began after the Fazr prayers with religious sermons delivered by Maulana Ismail Hossain of India.

Despite the opposition programme, the Ijtema venue and its adjacent areas literally turned into a human sea by the time of Juma prayers led by Qwari Zobayer Hossain, imam of Kakrail mosque.

During the prayers, thousands of Muslims were seen on the streets blocking vehicular movement and roofs of different houses and markets in the area.

Millions of devotees, including foreigners, had started to throng the venue in Gazipur since Wednesday night.

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A truck carrying tomatoes crashes into a ditch off the west approach road of Bangabandhu Bridge in Konabari area after alleged pro-blockade pickets hurled a petrol bomb at it late Thursday night.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# Noakhali JCD leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

In two separate incidents, a leader of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was shot dead, while criminals shot and stabbed an Awami League activist in Sonaimuri upazila on Thursday night.

The dead Morshed Alam Parvez, 24, was the general secretary of Chhatra Dal's ward-3 unit in Sonaimuri union.

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# Obama, Cameron in anti-terror push

Vow new cooperation on combating cyber attacks

AGENCIES

Britain and the US are to share expertise on preventing radicalism and tackling domestic "violent extremism".

Prime Minister David Cameron announced the move following talks with President Barack Obama at the White House, warning that they both faced a "poisonous and fanatical ideology".

The taskforce will report back to the two leaders within six months.

Cameron also said Britain would deploy more unarmed drones to help ground forces tackle Islamic State.

The prime minister is on a two-day visit to Washington to talk with President Obama, likely to be his final Washington visit before the UK general election in May.

Obama promised to "do everything in our power" to assist France in their effort to combat terrorism in the wake of the attacks that killed at least 17 people across the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# Pvt university student killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student was killed under the wheels of a covered van in the capital's Badda last night.

The deceased, Jannatul Ferdousi Mou, 22, was a second-year student of East West University. Her family lives in Khulna.

She was returning home from Baridhara on a rickshaw with her classmate Syed Sajedul around 8:00pm.

According to Sajedul, the duo fell from the rickshaw after being hit by another rickshaw. The covered van then ran over Mou.

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# Bengal launches instt of architecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to increase sustainability and resilience of Dhaka's buildings and landscapes, an institute of architecture was launched by Bengal Foundation in the capital yesterday.

The institute will offer certificate, research and professional programmes in the study and design of architecture, landscapes and settlements. It will also organise lectures, public events, exhibitions, symposiums and discussions regularly to promote and propagate the institute's goals.

An important objective of the institute is to open up new potentials in design and planning practice not constrained by disciplinary compartments, said Bangladeshi architect Kazi Khaleed Ashraf during the launch.

He also said development and planning of Dhaka had become outworn which was why it was vital to seek alternative models of thinking and practice.

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School children celebrating with the books they won at Ramna Batamul in the capital. The annual prize giving ceremony of Biswa Sahitya Kendra's book reading programme was held at the Batamul yesterday with the slogan Alokito Manush chai.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# New chief justice takes over today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, known as SK Sinha, will take the oath today.

President Abdul Hamid will administer him the oath of office as the 21st chief justice of the country at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban, official residence of the president, at 11:00am, Supreme Court Registrar SM Kuddus Zaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

All constitutional post holders, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, former chief justices, judges of the Appellate and High Court

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Closing eyes helps recall memory

BBC ONLINE

Closing your eyes when trying to recall events increases the chances of accuracy, researchers at the University of Surrey suggest.

Scientists tested people's ability to remember

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



# 48 hurt at DU as BCL men clash

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 48 Dhaka University students were injured in a clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over a trifling matter on the DU campus in the wee hours of yesterday.

Activists of Jasimuddin Hall unit BCL and Ziaur Rahman Hall unit BCL hurled brick chunks at each other on a playground, located between the two dormitories, for about an hour, triggering panic

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# 'RELOCATING MEDICAL COLLEGE TO BANDARBAN' PCJSS threatens tough movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A faction of Jana Sanghati Samity's Bandarban unit has threatened to wage a tough movement if the government relocates a medical college and a university in Rangamati to Bandarban before the full implementation of the CHT peace accord.

The Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (Santu Larma faction) issued the threat yesterday at a press conference at its office at Madhyam Para in Bandarban.

"PCJSS demands all the activities to establish the Rangamati Medical College and the Science and Technology University of the district anywhere in the Chittagong Hill Tracts be postponed until the peace accord is implemented properly," said Saduram Tripura, chairman of the PCJSS in Bandarban.

The PCJSS faction is against the relocation as "it will only benefit others as

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# BCL leader's tendons cut off in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Miscreants cut the tendons of both the legs of a local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Ponki, a leader of Shahparan thana unit of BCL.

Witnesses said a group of miscreants in several motorcycles swooped on Ponki at Shahparan Gate around 6:00pm and stabbed him indiscriminately while he was gossiping with some of his friends.

At one stage, the attackers severed the tendons of his two legs and fled the scene. Ponki was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think there should be a law to ban hartal?

Yes (55%)

No (45%)

**TOTAL VOTES: 274**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think BNP's allegation that the government has directed law enforcers to suppress people is justified?

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