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## O- AND A-LEVEL EXAMS A father's ordeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This is the story of a father who, like thousand others, finds himself utterly helpless in the face of widespread violence throughout the country which has put his child's education in peril.

Shykh Seraj, a noted agriculture development journalist, made desperate attempts to make sure his son, an A-level examinee, would not miss an exam. All his efforts, however, went in vain.

Seraj, also director and chief of news at Channel i, yesterday shared with The Daily Star his experience about what he and his family had to go through in the last two days.

The ongoing political impasse has already cast a shadow over O-and A-level examinations, which his son Ashiq Seraj Bijoy and 7,000 other examinees in the country are sitting for.

But things took a turn for the worse when the BNP-led 20-party alliance enforced a 48-hour hartal in Dhaka and Khulna divisions starting from Wednesday morning.

British Council, which administers the



Another day of blockade passed yesterday with no work and income for day labourers Babu (L) and Habibur. After waiting in vain for hours to be hired, the two are leaving Fakirapool for home. They were hired for only four days since the indefinite blockade began on January 6. Many workers in the capital have been living on the breadline ever since.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Viber, four other apps unblocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecom operators have unblocked five popular online voice and messaging services days after they were shut down temporarily on security grounds.

The services are Viber, WhatsApp, Tango, Mypeople and Line.

Intelligence agencies asked the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to block the services of these applications temporarily until the midnight of January 21.

The applications have been unblocked since the order was not renewed, said a senior official of the regulator yesterday.

Zahir Ahmed, managing director of BDLink, an international terrestrial cable and internet gateway, said that they had unblocked the applications as there was no further instructions to discontinue the services.

Officials of the mobile operators also said they had unblocked the applications from January 21 midnight.

On January 18, BTRC sent a directive to all carriers to discontinue the services of Viber and Tango after law enforcement and intelligence agencies asked the regulator to take the step.

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## President, PM resign in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

Yemeni leader Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi offered to resign yesterday amid a standoff with a powerful Shia militia in control of the capital, throwing his country deeper into political turmoil.

Presidential adviser Sultan al-Atwani and several other aides confirmed that Hadi had quit, but a senior official said Yemen's parliament had rejected his resignation.

"Parliament... refused to accept the president's resignation and decided to call an extraordinary session for Friday morning," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Yemeni Prime Minister Khalid Bahah also resigned, saying he did not want to

## MPs clamour for Khaleda's arrest

*Urge govt to tackle violence with an iron fist*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers of both the treasury and opposition benches yesterday described the violence during the BNP-led alliance's ongoing blockade and hartals as acts of terrorism, and demanded Khaleda Zia's arrest and trial on those counts.

In an unscheduled discussion in parliament, several MPs also urged the government to act tough to contain "violence and terrorism of the 20-party alliance".

Lawmakers from the ruling Awami League and the opposition Jatiya Party alike said the happenings in the name of BNP-Jamaat's blockade were acts of terrorism and there was no room for terrorism anywhere in the world.

Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Abdul Matin Khasru, Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Chief Whip ASM Firoz of the AL; Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and Kazi

Firoz Rashid of the JP; and independent lawmakers Hazi Muhammad Selim and Nixon Chowdhury, among others, took part in the discussion.

Nixon Chowdhury even walked out of the House protesting at not arresting Khaleda Zia for "masterminding killings". So far, 28 people have died in the anti-government programmes since January 5.

Suranjit said the government must deal with "the BNP-Jamaat terrorism" to safeguard democracy, and take legal actions against BNP chief Khaleda.

ASM Firoz demanded Khaleda's trial, saying she had declared a war against the country and democracy.

Tofail said Khaleda is giving orders to kill people while sitting in a "luxurious office".

The current situation would be normal in seven days, he added.

Amu alleged Khaleda has been killing common people as they voted in the January 5 elections last year.

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## GOOGLE street view comes to Bangladesh



STAR REPORT

The streets and sites of Dhaka and Chittagong are now open to anyone to roam around virtually - thanks to Google Street View.

Google Street View, a free map-based service from Google that provides panoramic views of

streets and sites, is widely popular among travelers and tech enthusiasts worldwide.

A good portion of Dhaka and Chittagong has already been included in the street view service.

More locations of the capital and the port city are going to be added to the service soon, Hasan

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## Incredible story of The Sikh

MAIL ONLINE

The incredible story of a real-life 'War Horse' - nicknamed The Sikh - that dodged shellfire to deliver supplies to troops before walking back to the UK from Russia during the First World War has been uncovered for the first time.

After the war ended in 1918,

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## US, Cuba seek to reopen embassies in historic talks

AFP, Havana

Cuban officials sat down yesterday with the highest-level US delegation to visit Havana in 35 years for landmark talks on reopening embassies and thawing long frozen ties.

US assistant secretary of state Roberta Jacobson, the most senior US official on the communist-ruled island since 1980, led the American delegation as the Cold War-era rivals opened a second day of meetings.

Cuba was represented by the director of the foreign ministry's US affairs department, Josefina Vidal, at the capital's Convention Center.

The two sides claimed a good first day on Wednesday despite persistent disagreements over US migration policies, which Havana says encourages Cubans to flee to nearby Florida.

US President Barack Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro surprised the world in December when they simultaneously announced plans to normalize relations following months of secret negotiations.

The raising of the US and Cuban flags in each other's capitals would send powerful signals of the new era the two nations want to enter, though

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## Alternative to Shela route will reopen by June

Says BIWTA report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Mongla-Ghasiakhal channel will reopen by June as an alternative to the Shela river route for water traffic movement, says a BIWTA report.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority submitted the report to the parliamentary standing committee on shipping

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## iPhone can spy on people

Says Snowden

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The iPhone has secret spyware that lets governments watch users without their knowledge, according to Edward Snowden.

The NSA whistleblower doesn't use a phone because of the secret software, which Snowden's lawyer says can be remotely activated to watch the user.

"Edward never uses an iPhone, he's got a simple phone," Anatoly Kucherena told Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

"The iPhone has special software that can activate itself without the owner having to press a button and gather information about him, that's why on security grounds he refused to have this phone."

Apple has been active in making the iPhone harder for security services to spy on, and the company said that iOS 8 made it impossible for law enforcement to extract users' personal data, even if they have a warrant. The company has

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He had nothing to do with politics. Yet violent politics has cost trucker Rafiqul Islam dearly as he suffers agonising pain from burn wounds at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital yesterday. Criminals on Wednesday night hurled a petrol bomb at his truck on the Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway at Bhatgaon village of Kaharol upazila, Dinajpur, that left two others injured.

PHOTO: STAR

**PRAYER TIMING** January 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think Minister for relief and Disaster Management Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury's demand to arrest BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for creating anarchy across the country in the name of democratic movement is justified?

Yes (29%)

No (71%)

TOTAL VOTES: 547

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with PM that it would be logical to take legal action against Khaleda Zia for masterminding criminal activities that were leading to deaths and loss of property in the ongoing blockade?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)