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Tragic tale of a trucker

Arson attack shatters dream of his family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barely six months ago, Bakul Chandra Devnath's family came out of financial hardship and began dreaming of a better life.

Bakul, a trucker for about 16 years, and his partner last year paid off the loan they took to buy a truck in 2011.

He was earning around Tk 1,000 a day. He got his five-year-old son admitted to a school at Osmaninagar of Sylhet, his home town.

With his wife expecting a second child, the 35-year-old man was working hard for a better future of the family.

But it's all gone now. An arson attack took his life, leaving his wife and child in total uncertainty.

Bakul, the bread earner of the family, died from burns at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

"He had been driving trucks since he

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Bakul Debnath

POLITICAL VIOLENCE
since blockade starts

33 DEAD

22 OF THEM HAD NO POLITICAL LINK



Trucker Azizur Rahman lies semi-conscious in a Chittagong Medical College Hospital bed with both hands burnt after blockaders firebombed his truck at Sitakunda's Shuklaa Haat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway early yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Arson claims 2 more lives

STAR REPORT

There is no respite yet for innocent people from the ongoing countryside blockade as the violent political programme continues to wreak havoc on public life and livelihood, national economy and education.

Two more burn victims died yesterday after suffering from excruciating pain, raising the death toll to 33 in the political violence that started on January 5.

One of the victims was a trucker from Sylhet and another a truck helper from Rangpur.

Another trucker and his helper suffered burns at Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday, the 22nd day of the nonstop blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

The BNP-led combine has meanwhile called a 36-hour hartal in Sylhet division and Shibir and BNP called a 36-hour hartal in

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TORCHING VEHICLE Fakhrul on remand for first time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court for the first time yesterday placed BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on a three-day remand in a case filed for torching a vehicle of the public administration ministry on December 28 last year.

Earlier, police on different times sought permission from the court for placing Fakhrul on remand to find out clues about the arson attack.

But the court rejected both the bail and



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NEW LOAN RESTRUCTURING POLICY

Big borrowers to get 12 years to repay

Taking the facility, borrower cannot pay cash dividend to shareholders in first 3 years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The central bank yesterday approved a restructuring policy under which a big borrower would get a maximum of 12 years to repay loans above Tk 500 crore.

The borrower will not be allowed to provide any cash dividend to shareholders in the first three years after taking the restructuring facility. Even after that period, he has to take permission from the bank to give dividend, says the policy.

For restructuring a lone, a bank has to set aside from its own income an amount equivalent to 2 percent of the loan.

A big borrower can get the facility only once but has to apply for it by June 30 this year, according to the policy.

Bangladesh Bank will soon issue a circular to this effect.

Emerging from a BB board meeting, Deputy Governor SK Sur Chowdhury told reporters that the policy is aimed at giving support to clients who couldn't repay loans timely due to unavoidable reasons like political unrest, and local and international factors.

It would boost economic activities and ensure repayment of loans, he said.

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Nasa plans to send drones to Mars

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa plans to send drone helicopters to Mars, so that they can fly around the planet's surface and scout it out.

The helicopters, which Nasa compares with remote control toy drones, will be able to scope out areas of Mars so that scientists can use the information to decide where drones should head to.

Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is in the early

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Speedy power supply act gets 4-year extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Speedy Supply of Power and Energy (Special Provision) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in order to extend the tenure of the act till October 11, 2018.

The law aims at quick disposal of contracts in the power and energy sector to meet the demand for power and energy within a short time.

Parliament also passed Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) Bill, 2015 aiming to achieve excellence in the

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A pedestrian walks along a snow-covered road in Somerville, Massachusetts yesterday during a blizzard that swept across the northeastern United States, dropping more than a foot of snow.

PHOTO: REUTERS

New York shuts down for blizzard

BBC ONLINE

New York City's mayor has responded to claims that officials overreacted to the threat posed by Winter Storm Juno, saying: "We dodged a bullet."

As New York awoke to a blanket of snow less deep than feared, forecasts were downgraded and a transport ban was lifted in the city.

But up to 60cm (24in) was still expected in places across New York state, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Some 60 million people may be affected.

Speaking to CNN, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said: "This is a better-safethan-sorry scenario."

He added: "We did what was necessary to keep everyone safe."

Blizzard warnings have now been lifted in New York City and New Jersey, and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said yesterday that the driving ban had been lifted in New York City.

On Monday an emergency was declared in a swathe of north-eastern states, and meteorologists predicted up to 90cm (36in) of snow. Officials later revised the

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Prothom Alo editor gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A Jhalakathi court yesterday granted permanent bail in a case filed against Bangla daily Prothom Alo Editor Matiuir Rahman.

The accused appeared in the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Arifuzzaman in the morning and prayed for bail in the case filed on charge of hurting religious sentiments of the Muslims and the Hindus.

After hearing, the court granted the prayer, and also exempted Matiuir Rahman from personal appearance in the court in the case, said Manik Acharya, lawyer of the defendant.

The court fixed the next date of hearing on February 22, he added.

Advocate Bani Amin Baklai filed the case with the Jhalakathi court against Matiuir Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, and Md Majid Ali, photojournalist of the same daily, on April 9 in 2014, said Akkas Shikder, another lawyer of Matiuir Rahman.

In this regard, Baklai presented two reports of the newspaper -- one

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PRAYER TIMING January 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

অগ্রগতির

১৯৬৫

বছর
১৯৬৫-২০১৫

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is possible for the government to resolve the ongoing political crisis and stop violence by using police and other law enforcement agencies?

Yes (21%)
No (79%)

TOTAL VOTES: 441

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed to say that there is no extra-judicial killing in the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net