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Nearly 15 lakh  
examinees in  
agonising wait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nerves of around 15 lakh students are on edge, as it is still uncertain whether the Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations will begin tomorrow.

Even a day after the BNP-led alliance called a 72-hour countrywide hartal from this morning, the authorities didn't make clear whether the exams would be held amid hartal and blockade.

An education ministry official yesterday said they would announce today their decision on it.

The exams might be deferred due to concern over security of the examinees in the wake of a spate of violence.

"But we will have difficulties in rescheduling the exams if hartal continues. We will sit tomorrow [today] to look for options," said the official.

A total of 14,79,266 students from 27,808 educational institutions got registered to sit for the exams at 3,116 centres across the country. They are scheduled to take Bangla 1st paper test on the first day.

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"We don't know how long the hartal will continue and how long we will have to wait in uncertainty. Is it possible to properly make preparations in this situation?"  
Masuda Akter, Darshana BN School and College, Rangpur



"I really want to know whether Khaleda Zia has any relative taking the exams. If so, how would she feel?"  
Monjuara Begum, Masuda's mother



"I don't know whether or not the exams would be held on time and which subject I should study. But what scares me more is the thought of going to my exam centre."  
Mahmuda Noor, Vidyamoyee Govt Girls' High School, Mymensingh



"I am afraid that pickets might hurl bombs at us on our way to the exam centre. I am too scared to concentrate."  
Mohammad Ripon, Ctg Collegiate School



"Political parties must keep the future of children in mind. Please, spare the exams for the sake of students."  
Amena Akhter, Ripon's mother

ONGOING ARSON-VIOLENCE CULPRITS

Caught red-handed  
were Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In three more incidents in Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sirajganj yesterday, four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, were caught red-handed while they were fleeing after hurling crude bombs at police.

In the last 10 ten days, at least 17

Shibir men were caught by law enforcers and common people while or after carrying out attacks on police and public transports. A few of them were arrested from their dens with large haul of explosive materials.

Besides, on January 14, a Shibir activist was crushed to death by a truck when fleeing the scene of an arson attack in Chittagong. Another Shibir

man, who had suffered injuries while allegedly trying to explode a crude bomb at Kadamtoli in Chittagong, died on January 28.

Apart from Shibir men, a few other pro-blockade activists from other parties were also caught while carrying out attacks.

The four arrested yesterday are

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18 female  
BNP activists  
detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night detained at least 18 female leaders and activists of the BNP in front of the party chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in the capital.

Over 100 policemen, including female cops, were deployed in different phases in an apparent bid to tighten security of the BNP chief's office. The law enforcers beefed up

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Int'l tender floated  
for metro rail cars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday floated an international tender to purchase 144 carriages for the country's first-ever metro rail.

"We have floated the tender as manufacturing and supplying rail carriages is time consuming," said Mofazzel Hossain, project director of the Tk 21,000 crore metro rail project.

Prospective bidders would first be selected and one of them would be chosen following scrutiny of its technical and financial proposals for the job worth an estimated Tk 2,750 crore.

Tenders for the other components of the project, like constructing lines, viaducts and operation building, electrical and signalling systems, power substation, and operation building, were going to be floated in February and May.

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Declared dead,  
newborn stirs  
to life after  
three hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In yet another incident of utter negligence, Dhaka Medical College Hospital doctors declared a newborn dead yesterday but the infant was found alive moments before its burial.

The baby boy was later readmitted to the hospital and kept on assisted ventilation as of 1:00am today.

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Books are being laid out and finishing touches given to stalls at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opens the fair today.

PHOTO: STAR



AMAR  
EKUSHEY

The book fair  
begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited month-long book fair "Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015" begins on the Bangla Academy premises and extending into the Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital today.

The fair, along with an International Literary Conference celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Bangla Academy, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 3:00pm.

Later, she will hand over the Bangla Academy Literary Award 2014, which was announced on Thursday, to the recipients.

Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan gave the details of this year's fair and the literary conference at a press conference at the academy yesterday.

In the three-day long conference, around 40 writers, poets, academicians and researchers from 12 different countries will participate in six sessions, two each day, from

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PRAYER TIMING February 1

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Woman born with  
no womb gives  
birth to twins

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A woman born with no reproductive organs who was told she could never have children has given birth to twin girls.

Doctors used hormone

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

শোক  
সংবাদ



গভীর বেদনার সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় মাতা, সাবেক সংসদ সদস্য, তদানিন্তন পাকিস্তান আওয়ামী লীগের কোষাধ্যক্ষ, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের ঘনিষ্ঠ সহচর মরহুম অধ্যাপক হামিদুর রহমানের সহধর্মিণী জনাবা হাসনা হামিদ, গতকাল ৩১শে জানুয়ারি শনিবার ভোর পাঁচটায় সিঙ্গাপুরের ন্যাশনাল ইউনিভার্সিটি হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে .... রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৭৬ বছর। মরহুমার প্রথম নামাজে জানাযা আজ কেরানীগঞ্জের দোলেখুর কলেজ মাঠে সকাল সাড়ে দশটায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। দ্বিতীয় নামাজে জানাযা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বাদ জোহর গুলশান আজাদ মসজিদে। আত্মীয়-পরিজন ও গুণগ্রাহীদের মরহুমার জানাযায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি। তিনি চলে গেছেন নশ্বর পৃথিবীর মায়া ছাড়িয়ে, কিন্তু আমাদের পরিবারের সমস্ত অস্তিত্ব, চেতনা আর আগামী পথ চলায় আমাদের মাতা থাকবেন দীপ্যমান আলোর শিখা হয়ে। শোকাহত পরিবারের পক্ষে- ইভা হাকিকিয়া । নসরুল হামিদ বিপু এম.পি। ইন্তেখাল হামিদ অপু এবং পরিবারের সদস্যবৃন্দ।

The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it would be justified for the government to hold the SSC and equivalent exams in this violent political situation?

Yes

(22%)

No

(78%)

TOTAL VOTES: 362

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the government to stop the utility services to Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net

'CIA, Israel scheme saw  
Hezbollah leader killed'

AFP, Washington

The CIA and Israel's spy agency Mossad were behind an elaborate plot to kill Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyeh in a 2008 car bomb attack in Syria, the Washington Post reported on Friday.

Citing former intelligence officials, the newspaper reported that US and Israeli spy agencies worked together to target Mughniyeh on February 12, 2008, as he left a restaurant in the Syrian capital Damascus.

He was killed instantly by a car bomb planted in a spare tire on the back of a parked car, which exploded shrapnel in a tight radius, the Post said.

The bomb, built by the United States and tested in the state of North Carolina, was triggered remotely by Mossad agents in Tel Aviv who were in communication with Central Intelligence Agency operatives on the ground in Damascus.

"The way it was set up, the US could object and call it off, but it could not execute," a former US intelligence official told the newspaper.

A senior Hezbollah commander, Mughniyeh was suspected of masterminding the abduction of Western hostages in Lebanon in the 1980s and of the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy in Argentina

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