



NEWS IN brief

New US envoy presents credentials to president, meets Pankaj Saran

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The new US ambassador, Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, presented her credentials to President Abdul Hamid in Bangabhaban yesterday, said an embassy press release.

Bernicat, who succeeded Dan W Mozena, arrived on January 25. Prior to her presentation of credentials, she made a courtesy call on the Indian high commissioner at his residence.

RU pro-BNP teachers protest cases against Khaleda

RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP teachers of Rajshahi University yesterday protested filing of cases against the party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia, former Dhaka University VC Emajuddin Ahmed, and BNP high-ups.

Terming the cases false, over 100 teachers under the banner of "Nationalist Teachers' Forum" brought out a procession on the campus and demanded withdrawal of those.

Khaleda was sued yesterday as the instigator following an arson attack in Chouddagram of Comilla that killed seven people. On Monday, she was implicated in another case for allegedly instigating all violence during the ongoing nationwide blockade.

Undergrad freshers' orientation held at Eastern University

CITY DESK

The orientation ceremony for the newly enrolled undergraduate students under Spring-2015 semester at Eastern University (EU) was held recently in the university plaza.

Shahid Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank Ltd, the chief guest; Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, former chairman of the EU Board of Trustees, the special guest; and Prof Abdur Rab, EU vice-chancellor, were present among others at the event.

Education UK Exhibit next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual Education UK Exhibition, organised by the British Council, will be held next week to showcase the range of study options in the UK.

On February 12-13 it will be held in Dhaka from 12:00pm-6:00pm at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

In Chittagong it will be held on February 15 at Zinnia Hall in the Peninsula Chittagong while on February 18 in Sylhet at Rose View Hotel at the same time.

For details, log on to bit.ly/CalendarExhibition2015.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

The three arson attack victims targeted while passing Sheikh Para in Panthichila of Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila on a pickup van on Tuesday around 8:30pm. They are being treated in Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The photo was taken yesterday.

TUESDAY'S SITAKUNDA FIRE BOMB ATTACK ON PICKUP VAN Horror seen in movies becomes real

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, City

Rabiul Hossain has seen people go up in flames in cinemas. But it was beyond his imagination that he would experience it firsthand, that too involving his three colleagues.

"Brother I have never seen this kind of grievous scene," the emotionally choked man told The Daily Star at Chittagong Medical College Hospital's burn unit yesterday, narrating how the three were screaming and writhing in pain while desperately trying to douse the flames by rolling in a sand pile by the road.

Moments ago he and the three had jumped off a moving pickup van, narrowly missing another unsuspecting one which rammed their vehicle from behind, forcing it to run onto a roadside field.

Fearful of losing their jobs on failing to meet the monthly target, the salesperson of a dealership on a

contract with Meghna Group of Industries was out distributing goods with salesperson Jhantu Paul, 28, his assistant Md Zillur Rahman, 19, and driver Md Anwar, 20.

Sitting atop goods on the back of the van, he saw two youths aged around 25 years appear on the left and throw three fire bombs in quick succession while they were passing Sheikh Para in Panthichila of Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila on Tuesday around 8:30pm.

Those broke through the side window and also landed on the back. Jhantu and Zillur's faces and shirts caught fire, spreading to Anwar sitting next to them. Rabiul first took them to Sitakunda Health Complex, from where they were shifted to the hospital.

The doctors predict a grim future for all three are

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Pro-20-party teachers will not be in classes during blockade

RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers of Rajshahi University yesterday evening declared that they will not conduct any academic activities until the BNP-led 20-party alliance's countrywide hartal and blockade programme ends.

Considering students' security, the decision was taken at a joint meeting with white-panel teachers and Nationalist Teachers' Forum, said Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker, convener of the white panel.

The university reopened after 22 days on Tuesday due to hartals and blockades.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin said they would take steps to conduct classes and examinations as per schedules; otherwise the students would face at least one year's session jam.



A Jubo League man, in striped suit, fist-fights with a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist at the LGED office in Barisal city. The followers of the two pro-Awami League organisations clashed yesterday to keep each other out from bidding for a Tk 10 crore infrastructure development work.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

BCL, Jubo League clash in Barisal

Eight including journo injured as a result of a feud over Tk 10cr LGED contract

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League clashed in Barisal city yesterday, each group trying to drive out the other during the submission of bids for a Tk 10 crore infrastructure development work in three upazilas.

Eight people were injured, including local photojournalist Suhad of the daily Kaler Kantha, when police and Rapid Action Battalion used batons to stop the hour-long fight.

Executive Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Barisal Md Ruhul Amin Khan said submissions were invited on December 31, 2014 for the Tk10 core project, involving construction of

roads and culverts, and yesterday was the deadline.

The work, divided into eight segments in Wazirpur, Banaripara, and Babuganj upazilas, will be awarded to eight businesses, he told The Daily Star.

Journalists who were at the scene said some 50 activists of BCL and a dozen of Jubo League had started gathering in and outside the LGED office since the morning. The fight began when Arif Hossain, a follower of BCL BM College joint convener Moin Tushar, snatched away the tender documents from Ziaul Hasan Biplob, a Jubo League activist, they said.

They were engaged in fist fights and pelting each other with projectiles. BCL city

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HC questions legality of organ transplant law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain why the provision of Bangladesh Organ Transplantation Act 1999 (BOTA) which allows a patient to receive organs only from blood relatives and spouse should not be declared unconstitutional.

Responding to a writ petition filed on Monday by MA Rashid of Savar, the court also asked health and law secretaries to answer the ruling within next 48 hours.

Rashid wanted to donate his kidney to a relative outside his family at Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka. But the hospital did not allow him, citing the act.

He said the law conflicts with the constitution's article-32 which says "no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty, save in accordance with law".

Find extremism's cause while fighting terrorism

Security experts tell BIIS programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Root causes of extremism should be identified along with counter-terrorism for complete elimination of this global concern, observed security experts at a programme in the capital yesterday.

It requires a global effort to develop the skills and capabilities of the public and private sectors to support local, community-based initiatives to strengthen resilience against violent extremist agendas, said Dr Khalid Koser, executive director of the Interim Secretariat of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

He was delivering a lecture on "Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): The Global Experience" in the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) auditorium.

"The challenge is to translate domestic concern into transnational actions. What's happening here must have international implications," Koser added.

He also said the organisation has taken up pilot projects in Bangladesh, Mali,

Morocco and Nigeria where local government and non-government organisations will benefit.

The GCERF is a not-for-profit Swiss foundation to support local community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas.

Expressing his concern, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said, "Two phenomena can wipe out whatever development we have made in Bangladesh—one is climate change and the other is radicalism."

Shahidul emphasised some remedies including reduction of inequality, mitigation of deprivation, inclusion of excluded people and acceleration of human development.

Unemployed youths are the main targets of militant organisations, said the speakers, laying stress on support systems for vulnerable groups as well as rehabilitation, socio-economic development, fairness and equality.

In Bangladesh's perspectives, the speakers observed that poverty and hunger were no longer the root causes of radicalism and

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After successful rounds of Jessore & Bogra, we are coming to Dhaka, Chittagong & Mymensingh

Date: February 7, 2015

• Venue:

- Dhaka- Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1, Dhaka
- Chittagong- Anika Community Center, 510, Katalgonj, Chawkbazar, Chittagong
- Mymensingh- Shohagh Party Center, 20B, Kali Bari, Mymensingh

• Reporting time: 8am

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