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# Spare education plea goes in vain

## SSC exams rescheduled, again

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Syeda Ishrat Jahan, mother of SSC examinee Antara Ibnat, was worried about how her daughter was doing in the exam. She was anxiously waiting outside the exam centre in the capital's Siddheswari Girls High School yesterday.

The mother pleaded with the politicians to call off hartals considering the future of her daughter.

Her appeal echoes the concerns of the guardians of around 15 lakh candidates appearing in this year's SSC and equivalent exams, which have already been disrupted by the ongoing blockade and hartals.

But their pleas fell on deaf ears as the BNP-led alliance is set to observe a fresh spell of 72-hour hartal from today, forcing the government to reschedule the upcoming exams again.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday morning urged the 20-party alliance not to call hartal on exam days. He even pleaded with them to reconsider hartal during exam hours (including the time required for going to exam halls and returning home after the exams).

But later in the afternoon, the minister had to reschedule today's exam for Friday (February 13) and Tuesday's exam

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# HARTAL again, for 72 hours

Parents and students wait on a footbridge near Motijheel Govt Boys High School in the capital around eight in the morning, two hours before the SSC exams were scheduled to start. Fearing they would not be able to reach the exam halls on time due to the blockade, many had started off following day break.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# 'Shibir man' killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A youth was killed in a "shootout" with police in Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur early yesterday, taking the death toll to 20 in such incidents since the BNP-led alliance declared nationwide blockade on January 5.

Police, who arrested the youth hours before his death, described him as Bachchu, 26, an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The victim's family and the upazila unit of Shibir could not be contacted for their comments on the police claim.

Half of the 20 victims were BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men while six "criminals" or "robbers". Whether or not

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# Stop cycle of violent crimes

## Urges HRW

STAR REPORT

As violence spewing from political turmoil continues, state authorities need to ensure their response, respect everyone's rights, and avoid arbitrary use of forced disappearances and arrests, said Human Rights Watch yesterday.

"All parties should cooperate to stop the cycle of violent crimes and ensure that those responsible for all crimes are arrested and prosecuted," said Brad Adams, Asia director of the New York-based rights body.

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# No surrender to militancy menace

Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Describing the recent activities of the BNP-Jamaat alliance as militancy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday categorically said her government will in no way give in to this menace.

"We'll never surrender to militancy," she said addressing the inaugural ceremony of the International Rotary Peace Conference 2015 at city's Radisson Hotel.

The PM also said the whole nation would resist

the terrorist activities of these ferocious hyenas. "We'll restore peace in the country defeating these bad elements and that's our promise ... Inshallah we'll be successful," she reiterated.

Referring to the Bangalee nation's historical uncompromising nature, Hasina said, "Bangalees are always invincible, we never bow down to injustice and we'll never bow down. This time we won't bow down our head to this injustice."

She said the people of the country never saw

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# Don't operate long route buses at night

## IGP to transport owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inspector general of police yesterday requested the transport owners not to run long-route buses at night amid continuing arson attacks across the country.

"We want to see no buses on the roads after 9:00pm. We requested the owners, but they were not willing to accept it. The matter will be discussed again with the high-ups," said IGP AKM Shahidul Hoque after a meeting with road transport owners at Razarbagh Police Lines auditorium in the capital.

The owners said they would rather keep operating their vehicles at night and for this, they sought stringent security measures for the vulnerable points on the highways. They

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# BNP warns 'crossfire' culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance last night warned members of law enforcement agencies of harsh action against them in future if more opposition men were killed in the name of "crossfire".

"We urge the law enforcers to totally stop extrajudicial killings, torturing opposition men, shooting and wholesale arrests. Arrest ruling party-blessed criminals instead of giving them shelter," a 20-party press release said.

"If members of the law enforcement agencies get involved in further extrajudicial killings in spite of our appeal, they should be prepared for facing tougher

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Integral Energy Limited  
ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia that her movement is completely peaceful and systematic?

Yes

(47%)

No

(53%)

TOTAL VOTES: 568

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Dr Kamal Hossain that ordinary citizens are suffering from the continuation of the government's "sick politics"?

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These days however, there is far more

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# 'SAUDI TIES TO AL QAEDA' Obama considers secret files release

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The White House may declassify still-secret sections of an official inquiry into the 9/11 terrorist attacks which refer to possible Saudi Arabian support.

Questions over the 28-page section of the congressional report have been raised this week following the deposition of imprisoned former al-Qaeda operative Zacarias Moussaoui in which he claimed major Saudi figures were donors to his group in late 1990s.

Saudi officials have denied this.

According to White House spokesman Josh Earnest, US intelligence last year began re-evaluating the decision to classify the section following a request from congress,

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PRAYER TIMING  
FEBRUARY 8

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN

5-35

12-45

4-15

5-46

7-15

JAMAAT

6-10

1-15

4-30

5-50

7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



ICC CRICKET  
WORLD CUP 2015  
6 DAYS TO GO

Afghans target Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team reached Sydney yesterday from Brisbane to play their two official warm-up games ahead of the ICC World Cup. Smarting from two defeats in the unofficial practice matches against a Cricket Australia XI in Brisbane, the Tigers were looking forward to making a turnaround when they meet Pakistan tomorrow and Ireland on February 12.

Bangladesh will try to tune up in the two matches before their first game against Afghanistan in the tournament proper on February 18 in Canberra and almost everybody opined that the first game would be crucial for the Tigers.

Afghanistan however made it clear yesterday during an official press conference that they had

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Star

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