

# NEWSIN brief

## Cost of violence in Bangladesh terrible: new Canadian envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing political violence is inflicting a terrible cost on Bangladeshis and the country, said newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Benoit-Pierre Laramée during a call on the state minister for foreign affairs yesterday.

"There must be an end to violence, and there must be space for peaceful political activity," he said, adding that economic and social developments were built on the foundations of good governance, peace and democracy, says a Canadian high commission press release.

## Dhaka Tribune journo mugged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Armed muggers took away valuables, including a motorcycle, from a journalist of Dhaka Tribune, an English national daily, at Jorpu of Savar early yesterday.

Adil Shakhawat, a reporter of the daily, said a gang of muggers numbering three to four, in a white car, stopped his motorcycle on Dhaka-Aricha highway. They snatched all his belongings and fled away.

A case was filed.

## Sayed president, Arif gen secy of Institute of Architects Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly elected president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh A Sayeed M Ahmed and General Secretary Qazi M Arif took charges on February 6.

Mosharrar Hossain, housing and public works minister, administered the oath-taking ceremony held at the IAB Centre in the capital.

Other office bearers of the executive council are:

Shailla Joarder, Farhna Sharmin Emu, Shahnwaz Masud, Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad, Mamnoon M Chowdhury, Masudur R Khan, Jalal Ahmed, Nowajish Mahbub, Md Ehsan Khan, Masud Rashid, and Asif M Ahsanul Huq.

## Mujibul president, Enamul general secretary of Ctg Bar Association

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mujibul Haque and Enamul Haque were elected president and general secretary respectively of Chittagong District Bar Association early yesterday.

A total of 50 candidates contested for 19 posts during the executive committee election held on Tuesday.

Of them, Awami League-backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad secured ten posts while BNP-Jammat-backed Ainjibi Oikya Parishad clinched nine.

## Arrest Sagar-Runi killers

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home minister Shahara Khatun's assurance of the arrest of the killers within 48 hours proved hollow.

Addressing the rally, columnist Syed Abul Maksud said it was unprecedented in the world that people had to wage movement for getting justice for a murder.

"The killing of Sagar-Runi is mysterious. But the government's role is more enigmatic. The administration and government's activities for not to bringing the mastermind to book are condemnable," he said.

Thanking the prime minister for consoling and helping financially the victim families, DRU former president Shahed Chowdhury sought her intervention in bringing the culprits to book.

Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Syed Abdal Ahmed, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club, and Rafiqul Islam Azad, vice president of DRU, also spoke.

After investigation by Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police and detectives, the Rapid Action Battalion started a further probe on April 18, 2012. Rab on Tuesday said it got reports of the DNA tests of the 21 suspects and evidential samples collected from the scene, but these were not matched. However, the reports confirmed the presence of two unknown men during the murder, the force claimed.

At least eight people including Rafiqul Islam, Bakul Miah, Masum Mintu, Kamrul Hasan alias Arun, Abu Sayeed, two security guards of the couple's house Palash Rudra Paul and Enamul Hoque and the couple's "family friend" Tanveer Rahman had been arrested. However, Tanveer later got freed on bail.

## Rajshahi cops break

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innocent man, which could not be expressed in words.

He demanded punishment for the cops responsible for the torture.

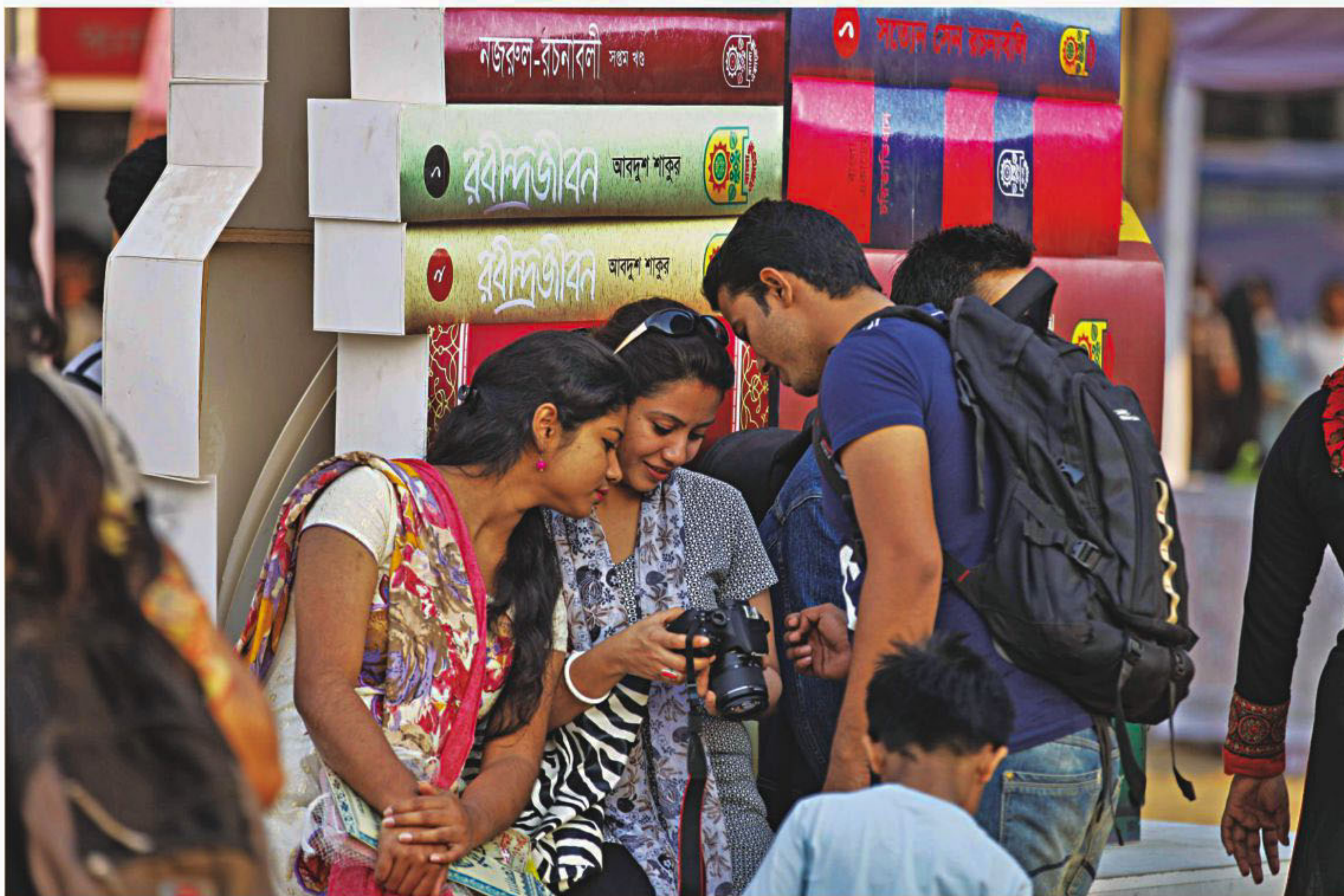
Shamim, the only earning person of his eight-member household, does not know whether his shop would reopen and how the family would survive without his income.

JCD, SHIBIR STRIKES

The RU campus saw four more bomb explosions yesterday, the first day of a strike by Islami Chhatra Shibir and fifth day of an indefinite one by Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Two students were arrested, and no injury was reported.

Shibir called the strike protesting the death of a leader in a "shootout" with law enforcers on February 6, while JCD's strike started Saturday following the arrest of the unit general secretary on February 5.



Visitors engrossed in photos they took at the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 yesterday. Apart from books, the fair is a source of amusement for many.

PHOTO:  
STAR

## Appointment of HC judges before law's formulation unfortunate

Say SCBA president,  
secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is very unfortunate that 10 additional judges were appointed to the High Court without formulation of a relevant law, said Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon yesterday.

The appointment, without consultations with SCBA and formulation of a relevant law, proves the government's ambiguity. The government is not formulating the law to control the judiciary, said a statement from the duo.

Citizens, including senior pro-government lawyers and litigants, have been demanding formulation of a law and a guideline in line with the constitution for recruitment of Supreme Court judges and a related case is pending with the SC, it read.

President Abdul Hamid made the appointment on February 9 in line with Article 98 of the constitution.

## Trawlers'

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sources said.

Rapid Action Battalion and the department officials in separate drives arrested four poachers along with hides of two tigers and 38 deer in Bagerhat, Barguna and Satkhira on February 3 and 5.

On January 13, Rab arrested three members of a gang along with a tiger hide, teeth and some bones of tiger from a bus stand in Morelganj upazila of the district.

During the preliminary interrogation by Rab, the arrestees confessed to killing eight Bengal tigers in the last two months for smuggling out their hides and bones.

On an average, around 300 trawlers ply the rivers and canals in the forest every day, the sources said. A forest official said the ban has been imposed temporarily.

Legal actions will be taken if anyone defies the ban, he said.

He, however, said fishermen of Dubla village will remain out of the purview of the restriction during the daytime.

# More than book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 is more than just a book fair. It provides visitors a little respite from the ongoing political violence in the country.

Centring the fair, the entire span of road from Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) to Doyel Chattar awakens to a mood of festivity where many people come to hang out with friends and families.

Though hawkers have been restricted from entering the road, barricaded on both sides with makeshift barbed-wire fences, many manage to get inside when the Ansar members relax their patrols and sell items such as toys, ornaments and small musical instruments.

Voluntary groups also get active surrounding the fair -- some try to raise money for their works, others engage in awareness campaigns.

Switch, a voluntary organisation



For a live feel of the activities surrounding the fair and get the schedule of the plays scan the QR code.



formed by students of Dhaka University, the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, and Dhaka Medical College in 2011, is running a signature collection campaign against littering from February 8 with the slogan "Clean Bangladesh Green Bangladesh".

"We also provided 10 bins inside Bangla Academy and our team

visits the fair every day around 3:00pm to remove litter from the fair grounds," said Moinul Faisal, a Switch volunteer.

Inside the academy premises which mostly contain children's publications, adults find entertainment in taking pictures, sitting by the pond or at the Little Magazine Chattar with friends to chat or eating at the canteen run by the academy staff.

The daily seminar and cultural programmes of the academy which starts at 5:30pm also awaken visitors' interests.

Besides, there is always the possibility of meeting a writer or poet at the Lekhak Kunjo or at the stalls and get their autographs and pictures.

This year Shilpakala Academy's initiative to hold theatre and street plays every evening at the Muktomancho inside Suhrawardy Udyan, only about 20 yards from the fair boundary, is an added attraction.



British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson talks to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO:  
BNP

## SC returns to normalcy

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from the Awami League affiliated lawyers, a few of their pro-BNP colleagues who dominate the incumbent SCBA attended proceedings yesterday, said SC sources.

The lawyers' body decided on Sunday not to attend SC's proceedings, considering the "security" of all amid the ongoing hartal, until it takes a decision later.

At the Appellate Division, judges presided over 34 cases, said court sources.

Meanwhile, a special HC bench yesterday continued, for the 13th day, hearing the death references and appeals in the BDR carnage case.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Zahid Sarwar Kazal read out confessional statements of 45 convicts, and will continue to do so today.

On Monday and Tuesday, HC's judicial functions were seriously hampered due to the work stoppage, causing sufferings to several hundred litigants.

## Cops extracting

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the banner Bangladesh Besorkari Karigori Shikkhok Samity around 50 yards from the office.

Later another group, under the banner Bangladesh Awami Muktiyoddha League, were also stopped.

Since January 21, organisations, mostly pro-government ones, and students and parents have been staging demonstrations near the office where Khaleda has been staying since January 3.

## Fourth witness implicates

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witness in the case told the International Crimes Tribunal-1. Earlier, three witnesses including one survivor testified on the massacre.

Haldar said 40-50 Razakars arrived at the temple in two boats around 2:00pm--the team of one boat led by Siraj Master and that of the other by one Rajab Ali Fakir who is now dead.

Getting down, the Razakars opened fire on the temple people. Haldar witnessed the shooting from the boat he used to come to the temple. "I saw accused Siraj Master shoot my father dead."

Driven by fear, Haldar fled the place.

He said that after the Razakars left he visited the spot in the evening and found 600-700 bodies including those of his father, uncle Ananda Mohon Haldar and cousin Sukhendra Haldar.

Siraj faces six charges of crimes against humanity and genocide, but he denies all.

State-appointed defence counsel completed cross-examining him before the proceeding was adjourned until March 1.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Seminar**  
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka and other will organise a seminar on "Exporting to Canada." Venue: Chamber Building, Motijheel, Time: 11:00am.

**Exhibition**  
British Council will organise an exhibition on "Education UK." Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 12:00pm.

**Downtime for MTB Debit Card and Internet Banking services**

Due to MTB system upgradation, MTB Debit Card and Internet Banking services will be offline from 10:00 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2015 to 1:00 am, Friday, February 13, 2015.

MTB apologizes for the temporary inconvenience caused.

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