

# Khaleda Zia sued for Khulna bus arson

UNB, Khulna

A case has been filed in connection with Thursday's bus arson in Fultala upazila, accusing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of instigating the attack. Over 100 BNP leaders and activists, including Khulna district BNP general secretary SM Shafiqul Alam Mona, have also been made accused in the case. Sub-inspector Khairul Bashar of Fultala Police Station filed the case against 54 identified men and 60-70 unidentified men with the police station on Thursday night. A bus driver sustained injuries while getting down from the bus hurriedly as miscreants torched the vehicle in Damador Primary School area of Fultala upazila. Police arrested seven people from different areas for their alleged involvement in the arson attack.

## Digital

FROM PAGE 16 which little is known because there are few written records. Cerf recommended that users make physical copies of important documents, so that they will last into the future. "In our zeal to get excited about digitising we digitise photographs thinking it's going to make them last longer, and we might turn out to be wrong," he said. "I would say if there are photos you are really concerned about create a physical instance of them. Print them out." But even that might not work, since historians often don't realise what the important documents of a time are until centuries after those that made them have died. "Some people make the argument that the important stuff will be copied and put into new media and so why should we worry," Cerf said. "But historians will tell you that sometimes documents and transactions images and so on may turn out to have an importance which is not understood for hundreds of years. So failure to preserve them will cause us to lose our perspective." Another way of solving the problem is "digital vellum", a concept that is still in development. That involves taking a snapshot of all the ways that a digital file can be opened, and storing it alongside the document itself — meaning that scientists will be able to use the instructions to reproduce the files by following the instructions.

Cerf illustrated his point with the example of Doris Kearns Goodwin's book 'Team Of Rivals: The Political Genius Of Abraham Lincoln', which was written by searching through libraries to find letters between Lincoln and his contemporaries. Such a book might not be possible to write about the people living today, he said — the digital content such as emails that an author might need will have "evaporated because nobody saved it, or it's around but it's not interpretable because it was created by software that's 100 years old". Cerf, who is also the chief internet evangelist at Google, made the remarks at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the Silicon Valley capital, San Jose, California.

## Taliban storm

FROM PAGE 16 when five or six men wearing military uniforms broke into the mosque and started shooting. "We had no idea what was going on. One of the attackers then blew himself up and then there was huge smoke and dust all around," he said. The attack came as Pakistan tries to adopt new measures to tackle militants following the school massacre, in which 134 children were among the dead. The government has pledged to crack down on all militant groups, and has reintroduced the death penalty, set up military courts to speed convictions and widened its offensive in northwestern areas on the Afghan border where militants find refuge. Yet Pakistan's religious minorities, among them Ahmadis, Christians and Hindus, say the government is doing little to alleviate their daily struggle against discrimination and violence. Last month, dozens of people were killed in a similar attack on a Shia mosque in the southern town of Shikarpur.



Guardians waiting outside T&T High School in the capital's Motijheel while SSC examinees were taking the English 1st Paper exam yesterday. The exam had to be rescheduled on the weekend due to a nationwide hartal on the original date.

PHOTO: STAR

## All-out hartal

FROM PAGE 16 Besides, the BNP has threatened to launch "law-violation programmes and non-cooperation movement" to unseat the government. The programmes to protest "the government's repressive acts" would be taken up very soon, the party said in a press release yesterday, as the country passed the 39th day of the indefinite blockade amid arson attacks, arrests and recovery of crude and petrol bombs and firearms. Meanwhile, crude bombs were blasted at the venue of a rally attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam in Rajshahi. However, none was hurt. **THE THREATS** "The current illegal, unelected and usurper Awami [League] government has besieged Bangladesh through absolute misuse of the state power. We'll be forced to launch law-violation and non-cooperation movement against the illegal government very soon," reads the BNP statement signed by the party's Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed. Criticising the ministers and the ruling party leaders for "announcing in public to kill protesters through crossfire and encounters", the party said, "The top officials of law enforcement agencies are also claiming credits in public for killings in crossfire." Threatening the ruling party leaders, ministers and top law enforcement officials of "mass beating", the statement reads: "For such open and arrogant declarations of violating human rights, they will be brought under trial at national and international criminal courts." Later at night, BNP's Dhaka City unit convener Mirza Abbas and member secretary Habibun Nabi Khan Soheli issued a statement, saying their movement has reached "the final stage". They called upon the party men to join the movement and get ready "to make the maximum sacrifice".

Meanwhile, an organisation claiming itself "The Real BNP" yesterday called hartal for three hours and 17 minutes from 12:00pm tomorrow, demanding resignation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and its Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman. **BLOCKADE DAY-39** At least 57 activists of the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir were detained in different places, including the capital, in connection with "subversive activities" yesterday. Law enforcers recovered some crude and petrol bombs, two shutter guns and one machete from Jhenidah and Satkhira. Meanwhile, blockaders burnt down a pick-up at the capital's Shantinagar last night and a truck at Aminbazar earlier in the day. Another truck was torched in Feni's Dagonbhuayan early yesterday. No casualty in these incidents was reported. A train derailed in Rajshahi's Godagari last night after alleged blockaders removed some fishplates of the railways track. Three compartments of the Ishwardi-bound local train fell off the track around 11:00pm as miscreants had removed some fishplates, said duty officer Riadul Islam at Railway Control Room of Saidpur. In Gazipur, two Shibir activists were shot and caught while trying to "hurl petrol bombs at vehicles" at Shibbari intersection around 2:30pm yesterday. Ruman, 30, of Tankirpar area and Nasir Uddin, 24, of Munshipara area of the city were shot on the legs and were out of danger, according to

police. Two petrol bombs, a knife and a matchbox were recovered from them, said Officer-in-Charge Khandaker Rezaul Hasan of Joydebpur Police Station. At least 15 BNP-Jamaat men were arrested from different areas of the district yesterday in connection with subversive activities during the ongoing blockade. Police arrested 15 BNP and three Jamaat-Shibir men from different areas of Dhaka city yesterday. In Rangpur, 20 activists of the BNP, Jamaat and Shibir were detained from the city, Pirgachha and Pirganj upazilas since Thursday night. In Mymensingh, law enforcers arrested three Shibir activists from a mess at Digharkanda area of the town early yesterday. Jihadi books and leaflets were recovered from their possession, according to local police. A local Jamaat leader was arrested at Rohonpur Station Bazar of Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur on Thursday night. The detainee -- Tariqul Islam Bakul -- was the former secretary of Gomostapur upazila unit of Jamaat. Police said he was accused in three cases. In Jenidah, the Rapid Action Battalion-6 recovered 10 cocktails, two shutter guns and one machete from a fish market at Tribeni bazaar under Shailakupa upazila early Friday. On information of a secret meeting of miscreants, a team of the elite force raided the area around 4:30am. But sensing their presence, the miscreants fled leaving behind the arms and bombs, Jhenidah Rab-06 camp commander Squadron Leader Neaz Mohammad Foysal told the Daily Star. In another drive, the Rab recovered five petrol bombs from a house at Baliyadoha in Tala upazila of Satkhira, said Assistant Superintendent of Rab-6 Mizanur Rahman. Sixteen more firebombs and seven crude bombs were recovered in separate drives by law enforcers in Chittagong and Bhola. **BLAST IN RAJSHAH** Miscreants blasted some five crude bombs during a programme attended by State Minister Shahriar Alam in Bagha upazila of Rajshahi yesterday. None was hurt in the explosions, said Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bagha Police Station. Unidentified criminals exploded the bombs around 6:00pm at Mirganj High School ground where Monigram union Awami League was holding a programme on anti-terrorism with the junior minister in the chair, the OC said. "The explosions occurred near the dais immediately after the state minister concluded his speech," the OC told The Daily Star. [Our correspondents from the districts concerned contributed to the report]

## Obama

FROM PAGE 16 The footage, which received 1,00,000 views within an hour of being posted online, is titled "Things Everybody Does But Doesn't Talk About". It starts with the US president, 53, making faces in a mirror, wearing sunglasses and shaping his fingers like a gun. Then he strikes a series of poses with a "selfie stick" winking into the lens before running through his healthcare patter and struggling to pronounce "February". He finishes by saying, "YOLO, man" -- you only live once -- although it may take him a lifetime to live this down.

## Civilians ready to take over Ebola fight: US

AFP, Dakar

The head of the United States army in Africa expressed confidence Thursday that civilians could take over the battle to eradicate Ebola as Washington prepared to scale down its military force fighting the epidemic. The US force reached 2,800 troops as the epidemic peaked but is due to withdraw over the coming weeks, leaving no more than 100 soldiers in the region by the end of April. "We went into the process trying to work ourselves out of a job," USARAF commander Major General Darryl Williams told reporters at the end of a four-day conference of African army chiefs in the Senegalese capital Dakar. "We were always looking at handing it over to civilian authorities." The forces, most of whom were stationed in Liberia, constructed Ebola treatment units, trained health workers, provided logistical support for aid agencies and set up labs to test blood samples. President Barack Obama said on Wednesday the mission would give way to a civilian-led drive to "extinguish" the deadly virus, as he ordered home American troops. Guinea and its neighbours Sierra Leone and Liberia have registered around 9,000 deaths since the epidemic flared up in December 2013. After months of decline, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday the number of new cases had risen for the second week running, including a "sharp increase" in Guinea.

The United Nations has played down the impact of the US troop withdrawal, saying 10,000 American civilians are engaged in the three hardest-hit nations. - Rapid reaction force - Williams, who led a task force in Monrovia to set up the mission in September, said conditions on the ground were now "right to transition to civilian control". He said the welcome received by US troops in Liberia had been "absolutely overwhelming -- very warm. The people of Liberia are very strong and I ultimately feel like that is what is making the difference." Williams was addressing the media at the end of a conference bringing together top American military brass and the heads of 36 African armies or their representatives which opened in Senegal on Monday. The event was co-hosted by the Senegalese military and USARAF, which has been promoting security across the continent since 1955, as well as providing crisis response, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

## Barguna

FROM PAGE 16 Dulal Farazee, chairman of Nishabaria Union Parishad in Taltali, said locals rushed to the spot hearing their screams and started rescuing them. Later, a team of Bangladesh Coast Guard joined the rescue operation and pulled out the bodies from water. The trawler was also salvaged, he said. Meanwhile, both Barguna and Patuakhali district administrations announced that they would provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased. Barguna administration would give Tk 5,000 and Patuakhali Tk 20,000 to each of the families.

## US commander proposes slower Afghan withdrawal

AFP, Washington

The US commander in Afghanistan told lawmakers Thursday he had proposed "options" to the White House that would slow the pace of a planned withdrawal of American troops from the country. General John Campbell, who oversees 13,000 US and allied troops, said he had taken into account a request from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to revise President Barack Obama's plan to pull out all US combat troops by the end of 2016. "He (Ghani) has asked for NATO and the United States to provide some flexibility in our planning to account for the fact that his government remains in transition," Campbell told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I have provided options on adjusting our force posture through my chain of command," Campbell said. The US Army general said Washington had to decide how long to keep troops at bases in the north or south before consolidating the force in the capital Kabul. "The issue is how long we stay engaged at the regional level in the transition year of 2015," he said. Asked by Senator John McCain, chairman of the committee, if he supported the options to push back the withdrawal timeline, Campbell said:

## Medical misery

FROM PAGE 16 treatment by the end of January. But he changed his mind due to the ongoing violence and arson attacks that have claimed at least 69 lives. "I am in a state of indecision.... It is risky to travel at this time," he said. Mihir Saha, a trader in Faridpur, waits for normalcy to return. He has to consult a doctor at a Kolkata hospital where he had undergone heart surgery in July last year. The 59-year-old was asked to see the doctor after six months of the operation. But he is scared to travel in this situation. "I cannot afford to travel by air. But it will be very risky to go by bus now," he said. He usually takes a bus from his hometown in Faridpur to Benapole, the country's biggest land port bordering India, and then to India. But the bus service between Faridpur and Benapole has remained suspended since the unrest began.

## Govt aims for smooth

FROM PAGE 16 instruction to the authorities concerned to ensure smooth generation of electricity during the major crops yielding season. "We are putting our best effort to ensure adequate power supply to the irrigation sector," the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources told BSS over phone yesterday. A meeting to ensure adequate power supply during the irrigation season, Ramadan and the summer season was held at the ministry recently. The meeting asked all concerned for taking special measure in this connection, according to a source at the ministry.

## 3 exams over

FROM PAGE 16 back several SSC and equivalent exams. Though the law enforcers patrol the streets in and around the exam centres, the security of around 1.5 million candidates has become a matter of concern to their guardians. Waiting near Islamia Govt High School, Jamshed Mia said, "My son used to go to school alone. But now I am accompanying him to the exam centre." Another guardian, Nazrul Islam, said frequent changes to the examination schedule have put the students under mental pressure. He blamed both the Awami League and BNP for the disruption to the exams. Talking to reporters after visiting the exam centre at Motijheel Ideal School and College in Dhaka, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said, "We are holding the exams tactically." He called upon the BNP to stop the blockade and hartal for the sake of students. SSC examinee Zamil Hossain said, "We are like the children of the Awami League and BNP leaders. "We hope BNP would consider our suffering and not enforce hartal and blockade on the exam days."