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BOMB BLASTS, ARSON

# 2 children, 8 others hurt

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people, including two children, were injured in crude bomb blasts and arson attacks in different places of the country yesterday, the second day of the 72-hour countrywide hartal enforced by the BNP-led alliance.

There were sporadic incidents of violence in several districts with alleged pickets torching and vandalising vehicles.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro-BNP student body, called a three-day strike in all educational institutions across the country from today, protesting the “killing, enforced disappearances and abduction” of its leaders and activists by law enforcers.

In a press statement, JCD leaders said they called the strike to mount pressure on the government to ensure coexistence in all educational institutions. They also urged the government to hold a fresh election under a non-party government.

Meanwhile, at least eight vehicles were torched across the country yesterday, said fire service officials.

In Sylhet, three people, including two children, suffered injuries as miscreants hurled two crude bombs at a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Mirer Maidan in the city, reports UNB.

The injured were identified as Nafisa, 8, daughter of Mahbubur Rahman of Gobindaganj in Chhatak upazila, her 18-month-old brother Hafizur, and Shaheed Ahmed, the auto-rickshaw driver.

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With his head bandaged, a year and a half old Junel cries in pain at the Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet around 2:30pm yesterday. He was injured when a homemade bomb was exploded near him in Mirer Maidan area of the city just over an hour before. PHOTO: COURTESY BY SK NASIR

## Mamata due Thursday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrives here on Thursday on a three-day visit to deepen ties with Bangladesh, a foreign ministry official said.

Earlier in September 2011, Mamata had cancelled her trip with then Indian premier Manmohan Singh to Dhaka claiming that the Teesta water sharing deal would not protect the interest of West Bengal.

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DCC UNDER ADMINISTRATORS

## PM admits dearth of public service

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday said people in the capital were suffering from a lack of city services and that city corporations cannot be run by administrators for long.

To end the sufferings of city dwellers, she later asked LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam to take steps for holding the long-due Dhaka city mayor elections, sources said.

In November 29, 2011, the Hasina admin-

istration split the DCC into two -- Dhaka south with 36 wards and Dhaka north with 56 -- and appointed two government officials as the administrators for six months.

After yesterday's meeting, Hasina, also the ruling Awami League chief, held an unscheduled discussion with her cabinet colleagues and gave directives to Syed Ashraf on the polls.

According to sources, the PM said her party would back Annisul Huq, former

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## ISIS beheads 21 Egyptian Christians

Cairo retaliates with bombing the militants' targets

REUTERS, Cairo

Egyptian jets bombed Islamic State targets in Libya yesterday, a day after the group there released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, drawing Cairo directly into the conflict across its border.

Egypt said the dawn strike hit militant camps, training sites and weapons storage areas in neighbouring Libya.

Libya's air force also participated in Monday's attack on Derna -- an eastern

coastal city seen as a base for Islamic State fighters in the oil-rich nation.

The rival Tripoli-based parliament, which is supported by some Islamist groups, condemned yesterday's strike as an assault on the country's sovereignty.

The 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians, who had gone to Libya in search of work, were marched to a beach, forced to kneel and then beheaded on video, which was broadcast via a website that supports Islamic State.

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## Formalin control bill passed

Maximum punishment life term jail

UNB, Sangsad Bhaban

Parliament yesterday passed the Formalin Control Bill, 2015 keeping a provision of maximum life term imprisonment and Tk 20 lakh fine for culprits behind formalin in food.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed piloted the bill in the House and it was passed by voice vote.

The long-sought bill did not propose banning formalin rather suggested tougher punishment for regulating its production, import, transport, stock, sale and use without licence.

The law has a provision of maximum seven years' imprisonment, but not less than three years or Tk five lakh fine, but not less than Tk two lakh or both in case of violation of terms of formalin licence.

For the sale or use of formalin without licence, the bill proposed provision of awarding maximum two years' imprisonment or Tk four lakh fine or both.

It also kept a provision of maximum two years' imprisonment or Tk two

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 17

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-25	12-45	4-30	5-57	7-15
JAMAAT	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Agrashar Vikrampur Foundation in collaboration with Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology of China excavated this over 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple in Nateshwar in Munshiganj. The dig has so far revealed structures, terracotta motifs, and a road of the temple.

PHOTO: PINAKI ROY

## Candy king Ferrero dies

AFP, Rome

Billionaire Michele Ferrero, who became Italy's richest man

with a confectionary empire built on his popular Nutella spread, has died at the age of 89.

Ferrero had been battling illness for several months. He died in Monte Carlo on Saturday.

"I have learnt with emotion of the passing of Michele Ferrero, a true entrepreneur, known and loved in Italy and abroad," Italian President Sergio Mattarella said in a statement.

"Ferrero was a leading light in Italian business for many years, always managing to stay on trend thanks to his innovative products and his tenacious and cautious work. Italy remembers him with gratitude."

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## Adulthood begins at 25: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

"Kidults" could be a better term for those in their twenties, according to research which suggests that people do not become adults until about 25.

The adolescent desires of sensation-seeking and novelty in the brain increase as individuals leave home and fend for themselves, Beatriz Luna, a psychiatrist of the Pittsburgh School of Medicine, believes.

Previously, such desires were thought to peak at 15, but new studies found that they extend far beyond this age.

A key finding is evidence of hyper-activity in a

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## Going back to ATISH DIPANKAR ERA

### 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple found in Munshiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint team of archaeologists from Bangladesh and China has unearthed an ancient Buddhist temple with unique architectural features at Nateshwar of Tongibari upazila in Munshiganj.

They believe this discovery will offer interesting glimpses into the early life of Atish Dipankar, one of the most venerated Buddhist saint and scholar in Asia, who was born in this area over a thousand years ago.

"This is one of the oldest archaeological sites in our country. We have collected a number of

samples from here. After conducting carbon dating on them, we will be able to gather more information about the time when these structures were built," said Professor Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, research director of the project in the Nateswar area, at a press conference at the site yesterday.

The 50-day excavation, which was started in 2013 by Agrasar Vikrampur Foundation, has also dug up an octagonal stupa and a pair of stupas with a four-metre wide wall which are the first of their kinds in the history of the country's archaeological excavations, speakers said.

Discoveries of two roads and a 2.75-metre wide wall to the site's southeast side speak of a rich urban area of a bygone era. Besides, other important relics including ash pits and pottery items have also been recovered from the site, they added.

Although Atish Dipankar rose to fame early in his life and traveled to Tibet in his later years where he gradually had become the second most revered Buddhist saint in the world, very little is known about his life and education in this area.

Archaeologists from both the countries

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## Delhi, Colombo sign landmark civil nuke deal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India and Sri Lanka yesterday inked a civil nuclear pact -- the first such deal between two Saarc countries -- and decided to expand defence and security cooperation.

This was announced after the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena in New Delhi.

In a joint press interaction with Sirisena, Modi said, "The bilateral agreement on civil nuclear cooperation is yet another demonstration of our mutual trust."

"This is the first such agreement Sri Lanka has signed. It

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**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited**

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think it was justified for police not to allow food meant for the staff of BNP chief's Gulshan office?

☒ Yes (19%)
 ☐ No (81%)

**TOTAL VOTES: 512**

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that talks with BNP chief would mean encouraging militancy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net