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# ARSON ATTACKS GO ON 14 vehicles torched; 5 suffer burns

STAR REPORT

Five people, including a reporter of Ekattor TV, received burn injuries in arson attacks in Dhaka and Joypurhat yesterday.

At least 14 vehicles were torched across the country yesterday, according to fire service officials. Eight of them were in Dhaka.

Ekattor TV reporter Arefin Shakil, 24, and three others were wounded when criminals set fire to a bus in Rampura around 8:15pm yesterday.

The other injured were Rabina Karim Tumpa, 18, a first-year student of management, Hafiza Shikder Kuntala, 24, a law graduate, and Nazimuddin, 18, a mason.

Ekattor TV's Arefin said he along with his two relatives -- Tumpa and Kuntala -- got on the bus which had about 8-10 passengers.

"As soon as the bus left Rampura stop, I heard a loud bang and saw fire all around me," said Arefin. Three percent of his and Nazimuddin's body were burnt.

About 18 percent of Tumpa's body, including her face, was burnt while Kuntala had 10 percent of her body burnt.

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**Rabina Karim Tumpa, top, Nazimuddin, left, and Hafiza Shikder Kuntala, right, in treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They were on a bus, which was firebombed, at Rampura in the capital yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# LOSS DUE TO HARTAL, BLOCKADE Businesses go to HC for remedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four leading business bodies yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its direction on the government to impose reasonable restrictions on hartals and blockade in an attempt to save business from financial loss.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Textiles Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association collectively submitted the petition.

In the petition, they requested to the HC to order the government and political parties to compensate for the losses incurred, petitioners' lawyer Imtiaz Moinal Islam told The Daily Star.

They said the government could compensate by extending the duration of loan payment to 12 years as their business activities were being greatly hampered.

Businesses concerned usually repay their loans in three to four years.

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# Remain prepared to protect democracy

PM calls upon armed forces

BSS, Ramu

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the members of armed forces to remain always prepared to face any threat to country's sacred constitution and democracy.

She urged the army to remain careful about the surge of militancy and terrorism, saying all of us have to remain aware so that militancy or terrorism cannot raise their head by any means.

"The root of the evil forces should be eliminated from the country in the interest of development and prosperity," she said while addressing the Darbar of the 10



Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army at Ramu Cantonment in Cox's Bazar.

Hasina hoped that the division would play a crucial role in safeguarding the south-eastern region and protecting the natural resources of the area.

She expressed her firm conviction that the 10 Infantry Division would emerge as an ideal force to show ways to others in operational, administrative and training activities of the army.

In the past, members of the armed forces always extended their support to her government in delivering service to people, the PM

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# Foreign envoys call for end to violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Calling for an end to the ongoing violence, top diplomats of different countries in Dhaka have encouraged confidence building measures, including de-escalation of political conflict, in the interest of fostering safety, stability, human rights and democracy in the country.

The envoys made the call at a briefing for diplomats by Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the State Guesthouse Padma yesterday afternoon.

Recalling their previous statements on events in Bangladesh, and those by the UN, the envoys said as friends and partners of Bangladesh they would continue to express their common hopes to all sides.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Charges d'Affairs of the United States, the United Kingdom, the

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# SABOTAGE, KILLING BNP demands UN-led probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday demanded a UN-led international probe into all acts of sabotage, including extra-judicial killing, violation of human rights and firebombing.

"Let the perpetrators involved in acts of violence, mass killing, extra judicial killing, abduction and firebombing, are identified and tried through an international investigation under the UN," BNP joint secretary general Salahuddin Ahmed said in a press statement.

The BNP accused the

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# UK girls seen in Istanbul

Footage shows the Syria-bound girls at a bus station

AFP, Istanbul

Security footage appears to show three British girls, believed to be heading for Syria to join Islamic State militants, waiting at a bus station in Istanbul before travelling to a Turkish town on the Syrian border, media reported yesterday.

Close friends Kadiza Sultana, 16, and 15-year-olds Shamima Begum and Amira Abase, boarded a flight from London to Istanbul on February 17.

British police, who have said the girls are thought to have since entered Syria, and their families have launched urgent appeals for them to return home.

The CCTV images show the three girls entering a bus terminal in Istanbul's Bayrampasa district on the European side of the city, which the trio reached by metro from the airport.

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A sublime Kumar Sangakkara and his understudy Lahiru Thirimanne made the chase of a 300-plus total look like a walk in the park against England at Wellington yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Effortless win for Lankans, lifeline for Pakistan

AFP, Sydney

England's hopes of reaching the quarterfinals were left hanging by a thread as Sri Lanka inflicted their third crushing defeat of the World Cup on Sunday, while Pakistan began a salvage operation with a tense 20-run win over Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka cruised to a seemingly stiff target of 310 for the loss of just one wicket with 16 balls to spare as Lahiru Thirimanne (139 not out) and Kumar Sangakkara (117 not out)

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# 2 war crimes suspects arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police arrested two war crimes suspects yesterday in Cox's Bazar following arrest warrants issued by the International Crimes Tribunal.

They are BNP leaders Md Rashid, 84, and

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# Bride 'market' in Bulgaria

MAIL ONLINE

Scores of young Roma women were recently paraded before potential suitors at a Bulgarian 'bride market' where poor families are given the chance to arrange financially beneficial marriages for their children.

Here the potential brides are provocatively dressed, donning gobs of mascara and wearing flashy jewellery, towering heels and mini-skirts.

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**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with a report by Amnesty International that police and other forces committed torture with impunity in Bangladesh?

Yes (41%)  
No (59%)

**TOTAL VOTES: 903**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with Ayesha Khanam, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad president that frequent incidents of rape and violence prove that attitude towards women have not changed much?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**OBITUARY**

**Begum Sofia Huq** wife of late Md. Fazlul Huq former chairman Dhaka Improvement Trust (DIT/RAJUK) at 8.30 am on Sunday 1 March 2015 at her Dhanmondi residence at the age of 85 years.

She left behind daughters Selina (W/O Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed of ILO, Geneva, Switzerland), Shamina (W/O Arif Mainuddin a former Minister) and sons Ehsan (IT Engineer, Austin Texas), Ashraf (Regional Manager for Eastern Europe Deloitte & Toosh) and Javed (Banker in Newcity Newyork).

Her Kulkhani will be held at the road no. 7, Mosque in Dhanmondi on Wednesday 4 March after Asar prayers.

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