



## AMLA FASTEST TO 20 TONS

The South Africa opener took 108 innings to get to the landmark

PAGE 51

## NON-BANKS WARNED

Atiur asks their CEOs not to indulge in irregularities

PAGE B1

## DIFFERENCE WIDENS

Netanyahu sees Iran deal a threat to Israel; Obama differs

PAGE 15

# Khaleda won't go to court

Determined to skip today's hearing on 'security grounds'; cops yet to get arrest order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite two arrest warrants against her, Khaleda Zia will not surrender before court today to seek bail in two graft cases, BNP sources and one of her lawyers said yesterday.

Speculations have been rife that the BNP chief might be arrested anytime since the court trying the two cases issued the warrants last week. They grew intense yesterday as the case proceedings are set to resume today.

The BNP chairperson is determined not to leave her Gulshan office where she has been staying for two months now. She would not surrender before the court "come what may," said the party sources.

"She will not go to the court tomorrow [today] on security grounds," Sanaullah Mia, one of her counsels, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandker Mahbob Hossain, another lawyer for Khaleda, said the BNP chief would surrender to the court only if the government ensured her security to and from the court.

If she comes out of her office to go to the court, BNP leaders fear, the government might not allow her to return to the office and might forcibly send her to her residence, also in Gulshan.

POLITICAL CRISIS TO DEEPEN IF KHALEDA HELD - PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The Tigers limber up at the Saxton Oval in Nelson on Tuesday, ahead of their Thursday morning's World Cup clash with Scotland at this small and tranquil ground in New Zealand.

PHOTO: BCB

## Chance to rectify mistakes

Tigers take on Scotland tomorrow

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

Cricket fans across the country will have to make some serious adjustments to their Thursday morning's wake-up call if they are unwilling to miss the Tigers in action against Scotland.

With the match beginning as early as 4 am (Bangladesh time) at the Saxton Oval...

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

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# Hold talks, stop violence

16 foreign envoys write to Hasina, Khaleda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Deeply worried by the escalation of political violence in Bangladesh, 16 foreign envoys have urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to hold talks for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Diplomatic sources said ambassadors, high commissioners and charges d'affaires of different foreign missions in Dhaka sent separate letters to the two leaders last week.

They said the international community was concerned as the political situation was pushing Bangladesh dangerously to a deepening crisis.

Envoys of Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, South

Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States signed the letters.

Sources said the envoys in their letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought concrete ways to de-escalate the situation and to engage constructively with the opposition.

They also expressed their concern on the shrinking democratic space for the opposition, and underlined that peace and stability would be critical for economic development.

In the letter to Khaleda Zia, the diplomats deplored the ongoing violence and disruption in the country that has resulted in many deaths, casualties and destruction of property.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

## Envoys meet Khaleda

Want de-escalation of conflicts

STAR REPORT

Some foreign diplomats, including the US and EU ambassadors in Dhaka, yesterday stressed the need for building confidence among political parties to de-escalate the country's political conflict.

The diplomats were in a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the evening.

Briefing journalists after

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# FBI team likely to arrive this week

Avijit's wife 'flown back' to US; Farabi on 10-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials are likely to visit Dhaka this week to help in the Avijit murder investigation, according to a senior police official.

A day after the fatal attack on writer-blogger Avijit Roy, a Bangladeshi-born American citizen, the US Department of State said Washington was



ready to assist the investigation, if sought.

Dhaka later decided to seek FBI's assistance.

Meanwhile, Avijit's wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya, who sustained critical injuries in the attack, was flown back to US last night. She too is an American citizen.

Contacted, her father-in-law Prof Ajoy Roy said the US embassy in Dhaka took the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



These two trucks carrying rice and potato were firebombed by suspected pickets at Joypurhat on their way to Dhaka from Dinajpur yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

## CRUDE, PETROL BOMB ATTACKS ON

# Driver burnt alive

26 vehicles torched, govt offices attacked; today's SSC exams postponed as 20-party extends hartal till 6am Friday

STAR REPORT

Yet another life perished and over two dozen vehicles were torched yesterday in the violence that have been plaguing the nation since the BNP-led alliance enforced an indefinite country-wide blockade, coupled with intermittent hartals, on January 6.

With the latest death in Jamaat-stronghold Chapainawabganj, 81

people have so far been killed, mostly in arson attacks, in the mindless violence.

A total of 26 vehicles were burnt, government and bank offices were attacked and people's suffering continued across the country on the third day of this week's hartal enforced by the 20-party combine.

Apparently unmoved by the public sufferings, the BNP-Jamaat alliance,

like in the past few weeks, yesterday extended its hartal till 6:00am Friday.

The announcement deals a further blow to SSC examinees. Driven by security concerns, the government postponed the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent examinations scheduled for today. A new date for the exams will be announced later, said the education ministry.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

## Kerry asked to help ensure justice

6 US Congressmen on Avijit killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of US Congressmen in a statement has asked the Secretary of State John Kerry to help ensure that perpetrators of the murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy are brought to justice.

"We must stand strong for freedom of speech and freedom of thought," said the statement signed by Congressmen Mike Honda,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Not just a PM

SHAHTUB SIDDIQUE ANIK

We were not surprised when she reached the tin-roof house in Pallabi to console slain blogger Rajib's mother on the February 16 afternoon in 2013.

She is Sheikh Hasina, one who likes to stay connected with the masses -- whether in power or in the opposition.

Newspapers often publish photos of an emotional Hasina, sometimes in tears, embracing a victim or a victim's family members. She herself endured a lot of pain on several occasions in her life -- the most severe one in 1975.

So, it looked quite natural when she rushed to Pallabi. She was there for about 20 minutes. A photo of the two mothers sitting together was published in this newspaper.

Right then she rose beyond her official position. She epitomised the *Bangalee Ma*.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



"Only Chhatra League can bring out processions on Rajshahi University campus ... Political ban is not applicable to them [BCL]."

RMP ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
**RAQUIBUL ALAM**  
AFTER FOILING PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS ALLIANCE'S PROVISION DEMANDING ARREST OF AVIJIT'S KILLERS

## Amin Jewellers announces honored intellectuals

Amin Jewellers Limited, one of the modern and famous jewellers in Bangladesh, has taken initiative to honour country's some intellectuals, who have made remarkable contribution to different fields, on the occasion of its 50 years anniversary.

A total of 27 dignitaries, who have contributed specially in the field of history, tradition, language movement, independence movement, art, literature and culture, politics, economics, agriculture, business, education, architecture, medical science and journalism, will be honoured.

To honour the country's 27 intellectuals in a fair manner, a jury board comprising three members has been formed. The members of the jury board are Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Dr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, litterateur Syed Manzurul Islam, professor of English Dept. of Dhaka University.



Each of the intellectuals, nominated by the jury board, will get Tk 3 lakh cash with a two-voiv weighing gold medal and a crest. Amin Jewellers has decided to honour the country's 27 intellectuals of different fields as they all are serving the country with their devotion and patriotism.

The jury board announced the names of the honored intellectuals at a press conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital on Tuesday.

The press conference was attended, among others, by former Parliament Member and Chairman of Amin Jewellers Quazi Sirazul Islam, director Kazi Aminul Islam and Farhana Lucky, Proprietor of event management firm Dream Merchant.

**The nominated honored dignitaries are:**

1. Professor Anisuzzaman-Academician and Intellectual
2. Ashalata Baidya- Freedom Fighter
3. AKM Zakaria Archaeologist
4. A M Harun-Ur Rashid Science and Technology
5. Prof. AK Azad Khan- Physician and President of BIRDEM
6. Kakon Bibi- Freedom Fighter
7. Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury- Civil Engineering
8. Toab Khan- Veteran Journalist and Advisor of Dainik Janakantha
9. Tofail Ahmed- Politician
10. Professor Dwijen Sharma- A veteran botanist
11. Nurjahan Begum- First woman journalist
12. Protiva Mutsuddy- Language Soldier
13. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed- Chairperson of BRAC
14. Mahadeb Saha- Poet and Journalist
15. Mortuza Bashir- Artist
16. Mustafa Monowar- Artist and Cartoonist
17. Professor Jatin Sarker- Free thinker and writer
18. Barrister Rafique-ul Haque - Lawyer
19. Nayak Raj Razzak- Notable Actor
20. Runa Laila- Legendary singer
21. Sayeda Khanam- First woman photojournalist
22. Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury- Educationalist and Intellectual
23. Sukumar Barua- Renowned Rhymester
24. Sudhin Das - Renowned exponent of Nazrul songs
25. Syed Shamsul Haque- Ambidextrous writer
26. Hasan Azizul Huq- Renowned Short- Story Writer
27. Humayun Ahmed - Author, dramatist, Screenwriter and Filmmaker.