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# No end to violence

Two petrol bomb attack victims die

STAR REPORT

Two more arson attack victims died at the Intensive Care Units (ICU) of Rajshahi and Chittagong Medical College Hospitals yesterday, raising the death toll in the ongoing blockade to 83.

Mohammad Selim, 27, a truck helper, died at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital a day after he had received the burn injuries.

He suffered burns to 50 percent of his body when a gang of 10-12 people intercepted the Shibganj-bound truck near Nimtala-Kanthal area, and hurled a petrol bomb at it around 11:10pm on Wednesday, police said.

Selim, who hailed from Chapainawabganj, was shifted to the ICU of the RMCH from Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex the same night. He died at the ICU around 5:30pm yesterday.

The driver of the potato-laden truck, Firoj Hossain, 35, and potato trader Saheb Ali also received burn injuries in the incident. They are undergoing treatment at the RMCH now.

Another victim Ranjit Nath, 30, a day labourer, was burnt when criminals hurled petrol bomb at the CNG-run

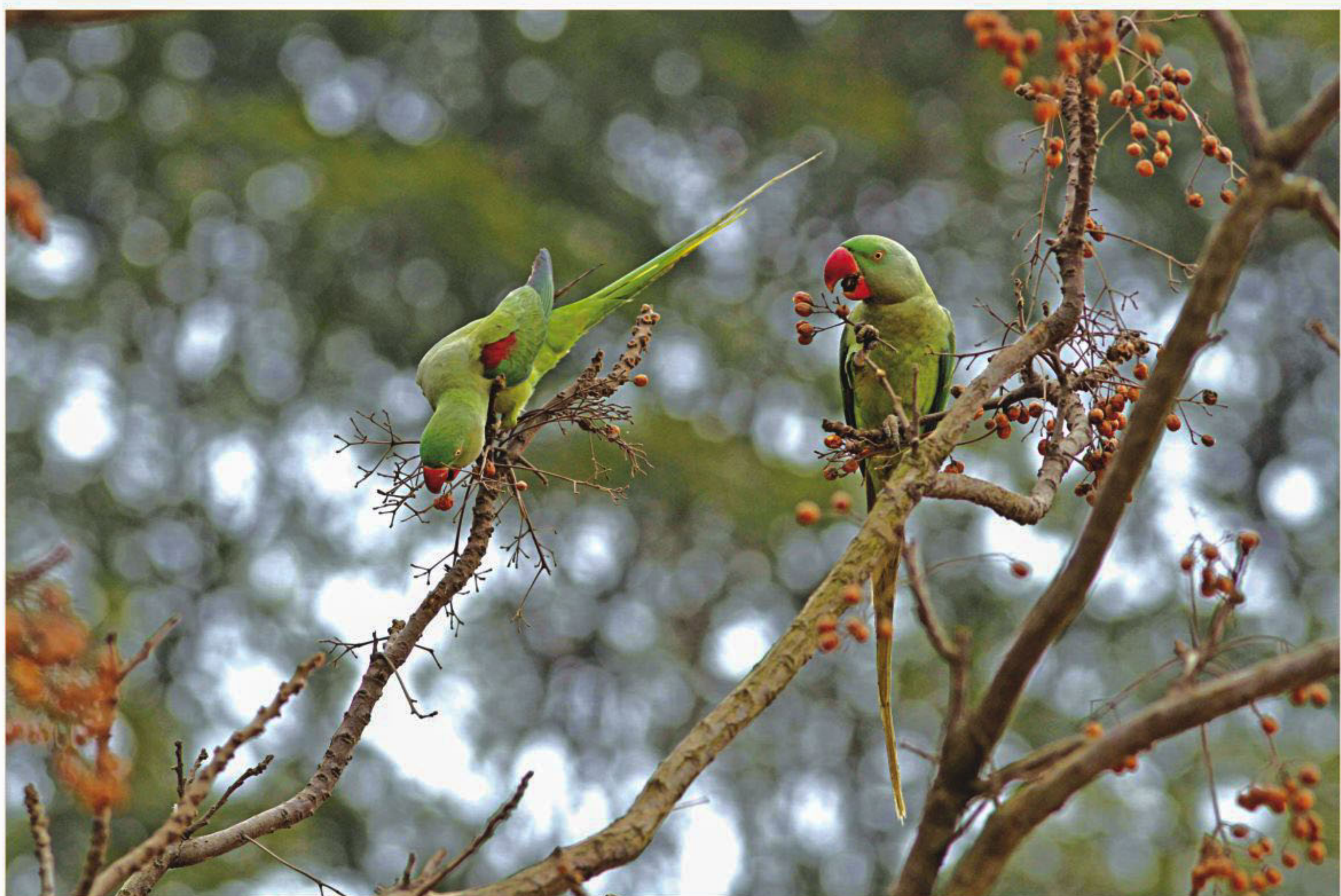
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## RARE ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET IN DHAKA

Alexandrine Parakeet is a globally near threatened and nationally endangered bird. It is vanishing from Bangladesh because of illegal trading as pet bird and the destruction of old trees where it makes its nests. This photo taken in the capital shows a pair eating Neem fruit seeds.

PHOTO COURTESY: SOURAV MAHMUD



## Manna, Khoka sued for sedition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sedition case was filed yesterday against BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Nagorik Oilka Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna.

The case was filed with Gulshan Police Station in the evening, Nurul Alam, an assistant commissioner (Gulshan zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

The details about the case were not available immediately.

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## Freedom of speech under attack

UN rights body also worried at shrinking democratic rights in Bangladesh, other countries

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein yesterday said he was deeply concerned at measures that restrict freedom of expression and democratic space in numerous countries, including Bangladesh.

He observed that in Bangladesh, "civil society and freedom of speech is also under attack, not only by extremists but also due to 'heavy-handed' official responses."

He made the remarks in his opening statement while presenting the High Commissioner's Annual Report in Geneva.

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## DEATH PENALTY Kamaruzzaman files review petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking a review of its verdict that upheld his death penalty for committing crimes against humanity in 1971.

Hours after filing of the review petition, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam moved a petition on behalf of the government before the SC chamber judge for fixing a date for hearing the review petition.

Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, chamber

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## US envoy attacked in Seoul

Assailant Korean nationalist caught

REUTERS, Seoul

US ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert underwent two-and-a-half hours of surgery after he was slashed in the face by a Korean nationalist in an attack at a breakfast forum in Seoul yesterday to discuss Korean reunification.

Lippert, 42, was bleeding from deep wounds to his face and wrist but was able to walk after the attack. Doctors said later his condition was stable after "very successful"



Mark Lippert

surgery that required 80 stitches in his face.

The assailant was caught and identified by police as 55-year-old Kim Ki-jong. In 2010, Kim tried to attack the Japanese ambassador to South Korea by throwing a piece of concrete and was given a suspended jail term, according to

The attack was a protest against joint military exercises by South Korea and US

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## Muggers shoot man, loot Tk 8 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a man and took away Tk 8.77 lakh from him in the capital's Lalbagh yesterday morning.

The victim, Hasan Billah Tasrif, 30, is an accountant of Arafat Trading, a distributor of a cement company. He is being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tasrif told The Daily Star that he received the money from Abdur Rahman, owner of Arafat Trading, in Lalbagh and took it to his office in Azimpur.

When he came out of Rahman's house and was about to get into a microbus parked a few yards away around 10:30am, three armed men intercepted him and told him to hand over the bag with the money, said Tasrif.

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People hold a candlelit vigil near Raju Bhashkarja on Dhaka University campus yesterday evening protesting the murder of writer Avijit Roy. On February 26, Avijit was hacked to death and his wife seriously injured in an attack only yards away from Raju Bhashkarja.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## AVIJIT KILLING PROBE FBI team meets DB officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four officials of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) yesterday joined the local law enforcement agencies in the murder probe of writer Avijit Roy.

They held a lengthy meeting with a team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police at the DB's Mintoo Road office.

It could not be known how many of them actually flew in from the US and whether any of them was assigned to the US embassy in Dhaka.

The authorities concerned refused to divulge their names and designations.

"They wanted to know whether there are witnesses to the murder, photographs of the crime scene, and who are the suspects," Joint Commissioner of DMP Monirul Islam told reporters after the meeting.

During the three-hour-long meeting, the detectives shared information they obtained so far.

The DB had sought the help of the FBI on forensic tests and their expertise in investigation, said another DB official.

"We are going to seek their help in detecting a person and an organisation using social media for crimes," the official added.

Earlier, officials of the FBI and the Interpol visited the country to help local investigators probe the August 21 grenade attack, the attack on the former UK high commissioner Anwar Chowdhury, and the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria.

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## Correction

The Daily Star carried a news item of UNB, a news agency, titled "Swadhinata Padak goes to 8 persons" on March 5, which erroneously mentioned the word "late" before the name of Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, one of the awardees.

## RISK OF FLOODS Bangladesh among top 3 countries

REUTERS, Oslo

Bangladesh, India and China are most at risk from river floods, with an increasing number of people threatened because of climate change and economic growth in low-lying regions, a study said yesterday.

The US-based World Resources Institute think-tank and four Dutch research groups estimated that some 21 million people worldwide were affected by river flooding in

a typical year.

"That number could increase to 54 million in 2030 due to climate change and socio-economic development," their report said.

People living in 15 emerging nations, led by India, Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and Pakistan, accounted for almost 80 percent of all those affected by floods in an average year, it said. In India alone, almost five

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**The Daily Star**

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think that the diplomats in Dhaka would be able to bring the two major political parties closer and forge a consensus to end the impasse?

Yes (31%)

No (69%)

**TOTAL VOTES: 429**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with some foreign envoys that democratic space for the opposition is shrinking in Bangladesh?

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



## 'First human' discovered in Ethiopia

BBC ONLINE

Scientists have unearthed the jawbone of what they claim is one of the very first humans.

The 2.8 million-year-old specimen is 400,000 years older than researchers thought that our kind first emerged.

The discovery in Ethiopia suggests climate change

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