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Electioneering ends tonight

BGB deployed in polls areas; 30 hurt as violence goes on

STAR REPORT

As violence continues centring the municipality polls, additional law enforcers and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel have been deployed from this morning to maintain law and order in the areas going to polls.

In order to prevent irregularities during the elections to be held on Wednesday, the EC has directed returning officers (ROs) to suspend voting if any polling station got taken over.

The commission yesterday asked two Awami League lawmakers to leave electoral areas. The authorities also asked for the withdrawal of officers-in-charge of three police stations and to change an RO for their suspected bias towards certain candidates.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015

In another development, a BNP-nominated mayor aspirant in Chittagong verbally withdrew himself from the race alleging "pressure".

The three-week long electoral campaign ends with the clock striking 12 tonight and restrictions on vehicular movement and outsiders' in the polls areas will take effect.

'FORCED TO GO INACTIVE'

In Satkania municipality of Chittagong, BNP's mayor candidate Rafiqul Alam yesterday announced that he was becoming inactive in the electoral race in the face of "false cases" and "pressure".

He, however, did not mention where the pressure was from.

Sources at the local BNP told The Daily

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With sacks of phensedyl bottles, drug peddlers crossing the Giridhari river in Jari Dharla of India's Cooch Behar to enter Bangladesh. The photo was taken from the no-man's-land near Mogholhat border in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila last week.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Smugglers find easy route

Unfenced border in Lalmonirhat leads to rampant drug smuggling

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

"For each phensedyl bottle we carry over the border," says drug mule Robiul Islam, 24, of Lalmonirhat sadar upazila's Mogholhat, "we are paid 20 taka."

Along with other portions of Lalmonirhat's international border that have not been fenced by India, Mogholhat has become a drug smuggling hotspot. "We transport drugs round the clock," Islam says, "but especially at night."

The border between the northern district and India stretches for 360 kilometres, of which nearly 75 kilometres are unfenced, primarily due to the obstruction of rivers. It's geography from which smugglers benefit.

As a result, the area between border pillars 924 and 927

in Mogholhat, which lies adjacent to Jari Dharla, Daribas and Nagatari villages in Dinhatata of India's Cooch Behar district, has become notorious as a drug smuggling safe haven.

"We never face any obstruction from either BGB or BSF personnel," says Islam, "The border is open."

In Aditmari upazila's Durgapur meanwhile, where similar border conditions prevail, Dibar Ali, 30, is also engaged as a drug mule. "We are only the transporters," he says, "not peddlers or syndicate men."

He says that smuggling of commodities other than drugs is minimal, due to similar prices between the two countries preventing profits from reaching levels equivalent to those achieved in the drug trade.

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AHMADIYYA MOSQUE Bomber still not identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three days have gone by since a suicide attack in an Ahmadiyya mosque in Sayedpur Chalkpara of Rajshahi but police still do not know who the bomber was.

The bomber set off the explosive belt he was wearing inside the mosque of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Bagmara upazila on Christmas Day.

The bomber was killed and three Ahmadiyyas were hurt.

The police were yet to launch a field-level investigation. They did do some paper work for processing of the investigation.

Inspector Abul Kalam

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JMB MIRPUR DEN Outfit had a plan to attack Ahmadiyyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed that the three JMB men arrested at the Mirpur "bomb and ammunition factory" on Thursday had a plan to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Bagmara of Rajshahi.

"One of the arrestees on remand told us today [yesterday] that as they had the

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AL to face debacle if polls are fair

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia has said the Awami League is spreading propaganda in the name of an election "survey".

She also said the ruling party will face a catastrophic defeat in the municipal polls, provided the elections are free and fair.

"Conducting a false

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195 PAKISTANI POWS War crimes probe 'in suitable time'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal would start a probe against 195 Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs) whenever it found a "suitable environment" and "directives from the high-ups."

The agency also called for simultaneous drives across the country to arrest local war crimes fugitives and bringing amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 so that a court could order attachment of their property.

The top officials of the agency told these at a press

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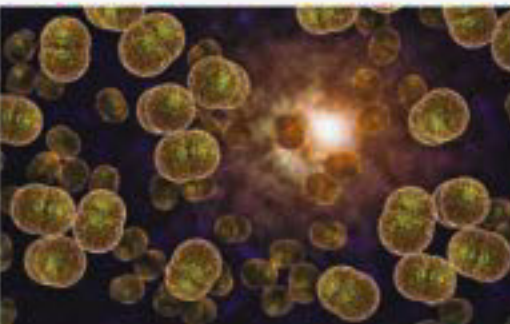
Today is the 18th Death Anniversary of **Engr. Ejabuddin Ahmed**



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul

Gonorrhoea could become untreatable

BBC ONLINE



Gonorrhoea could become an untreatable disease, England's chief medical officer has warned.

Dame Sally Davies has written to all general practitioners (GPs) and pharmacies to ensure they are prescribing the correct drugs after the rise of "super-gonorrhoea" in Leeds.

Her warning comes after concerns were raised that some patients were not getting both of the antibiotics needed to clear the infection. Sexual health doctors

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The Daily Star
17th O & A Level Award Presentation Ceremony 2014-2015

SALUTING THE NATION BUILDERS OF TOMORROW

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates:
Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level:
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2014 to May/June 2015

Criteria for 'A' Level:
Minimum 3(three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2014 to May/June 2015)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Shahir Hasan Khan at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, with their original Result Certificates and a photocopy, and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 25, 26 or 27 January, 2016, between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm.

Schools:
Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Shahir Hasan Khan at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at p.alevel.tds@gmail.com by 28th January, 2016, with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 5:00 pm of 28th January, 2016.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

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14 militant suspects sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent 14 militant suspects, who have been repatriated by Singapore police recently, to prison in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Rani Chakraborty passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of police Inspector Mustafa Anwar produced them before the court on completion of their four-day remand.

Anwar, also the investigation officer of the case,

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PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-27 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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