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AL, BNP RALLIES No violence; conditions violated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not a single incident of violence took place centring the rallies held by the Awami League and the BNP in the capital yesterday, much to the relief of city dwellers.

However, there were violations of the set of conditions imposed by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Monday on the parties for holding their rallies.

While there were widespread violations of the DMP conditions by the ruling AL men centring their two rallies, the BNP

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Even though the BNP had the permission to use horn speakers in front of its central office for a rally to protest 'Democracy Killing Day', the speakers were installed on the entire road between Fakirapool and Nightingale intersections violating the permission conditions. The Awami Muktiyoddha Projanma League, a pro-AL body, on the other hand brought out a procession led by Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan to mark the 'Victory of Democracy Day' in front of the Jatiya Press Club violating its permission to hold its programmes only on Bangabandhu Avenue and Russell Square. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/ANISUR RAHMAN

Obama pleads for 'urgency' on gun control

CNN ONLINE

US President Barack Obama grew emotional yesterday as he made a passionate call for a national "sense of urgency" to limit gun violence.

He was introduced by Mark Barden, whose son Daniel was killed in the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Obama circled back to that shooting in the final moments of his speech.

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad," Obama said, pausing to wipe away tears.

He added: "And by the way, it happens on the streets of Chicago every day," referring to his hometown where he began his political career.

The White House is introducing a new requirement that would expand background checks for buyers. The measure

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City utility networks exposed to danger

May cause major casualties if damaged by strong earthquake, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

Damaged utility networks of Dhaka would be the main cause for casualties in the event of a major earthquake and the capital might need to be abandoned even, experts said.

Gas, electricity, water, and sewerage lines would be damaged immensely during the earthquake and the number of casualties would be high due to fires, which rescuers would most likely be unable to reach and put out.

The earthquake experts said rescue operations could collapse completely.

Painting the grim picture, they said immediate steps to improve the total system of the utility networks were needed to get rid of this vulnerability of Dhaka.

Dhaka has 1,834km of gas transmission pipes and there would be leaks in 56 places and cracks would develop in 191 places, said Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, chairman of department of disaster science

and management of Dhaka University, quoting a 2010 survey done by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme.

There were 1,118km of underground water pipes in the city and if the Madhupur fault had an earthquake of 7.5 magnitude, pipes would leak in 79 points and pipes would break in 272 places, he said.

In the 630km of sewerage network, there would be leaks in 107 places and cracks in 360 points, the professor said.

Overhead electricity poles and snapping of cables would be a major problem too. At least 16,000 electricity poles out of 56,000 would topple during the tremor, he said.

Maksud suggested using gas cylinders instead of underground pipelines for providing gas to homes and installing earthquake-resistant gas pipes in phases. An automatic gas transmission control system was required, he added.

Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of the department of

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1,009 not out

AGENCIES, Mumbai

Fifteen-year-old Pranav Dhanawade made history on Tuesday when he became the first ever batsman in any class of cricket to score 1,000 runs in a single innings. Smashing 129 fours and 59 sixes, he reached 1,009 runs before his team decided to declare.

Playing for KC Gandhi School, Dhanawade reached the gigantic score in just 323 deliveries with a jaw-dropping strike rate of 312.38 in a game against Arya Gurukul in the Bhandari Cup inter-school tournament organised by the Mumbai Cricket Association.

The son of an auto-rickshaw driver, Dhanawade soared past Arthur Collins' previous record total of

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LAND DISPUTE Two killed in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two people were killed after unknown assailants hurled bombs at a tea stall in Gangadaspur village of Chuadanga's Jibonagar upazila on Monday night.

Victims' families allege that the attack was carried out over a land dispute.

The dead are Mohammad Ali, 50, and Sahabuddin, 70. They were locals.

Quoting witnesses, Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Jibonagar Police Station, said out of nowhere, a group of some 15 unidentified men threw seven handmade bombs at the tea stall around 7:30pm, killing Ali on the spot and injuring three others.

The injured were rushed to Jessore General Hospital where Sahabuddin died

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Amanullah Kabir in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

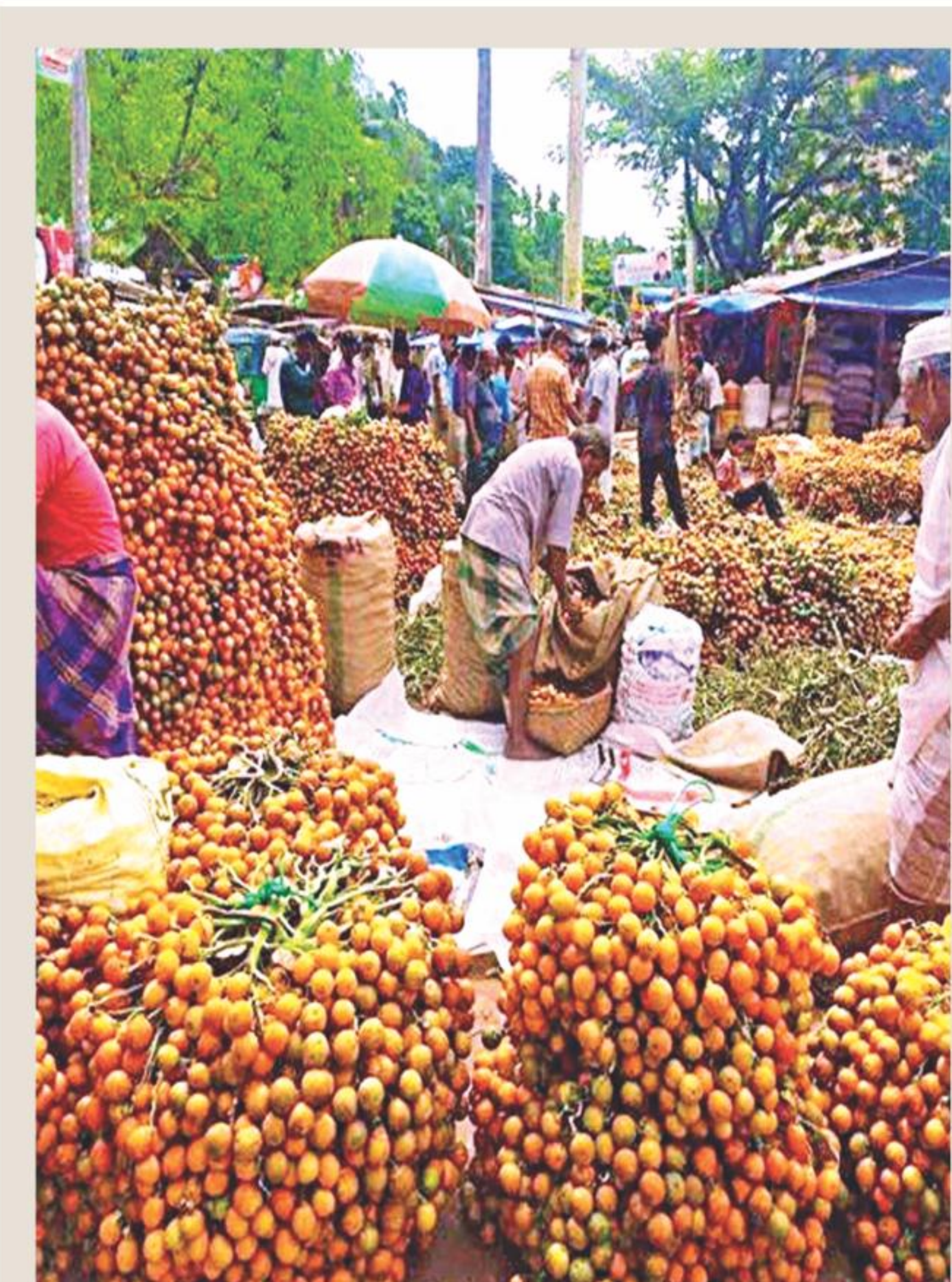
Eminent journalist Amanullah Kabir was admitted to a city hospital after suffering a massive heart attack yesterday.

Kabir complained of chest pain in the late afternoon, and was whisked off to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases from his house in the capital's Kalyanpur, his son Shat-el-Kabir told this correspondent last night.

He was later taken to the coronary care unit from the emergency unit.

His condition improved slightly at night, but he was still not out of danger. He

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Betel nuts worth Tk 50 lakh change hands at this bazaar of Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar every day. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

Betel nut sees bumper yield

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINAT

A bumper production of betel nut and a fair price for the produce have put a big smile on the growers' faces in Ukhia and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar this season.

Apart from flooding the local markets, the nut, called supari in Bangla, is being supplied to different

PHOTO: STAR

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ATTACK ON KIBRIA Court accepts charges against 32 accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj special court yesterday accepted the charge sheet against 32 accused in a case filed over grenade attack that killed Awami League leader and former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

The accused include former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Hannan, expelled Sylhet mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury and newly elected Habiganj Mayor GK Gaus.

On Aug 5 last year, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet in the case lodged under the Explosive Substances Act.

Of the 32 accused, 14 are behind bars, 10 are on the run and eight are on bail.

Taking cognizance of the charge sheet, Special Trial Tribunal-1 Judge Md Atabullah issued arrest

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All terrorists are dead

Says Indian defence minister on air base attack; Sharif assures Modi of Pakistan's support in probe after US urges Pak action

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian security forces have killed all six militants who launched an assault on a military air base in northern India that killed seven security personnel and injured 22, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said yesterday.

"There is no suspected terrorist inside right now. (Still) I will not give a negative report till the combing operations are over. The combing operations may be over by tomorrow," he said in reply to questions.

While praising Indian security forces for eliminating the attackers, Parrikar also alluded to "some gaps" in security that allowed the attackers to reach the base in the northwestern state of Punjab.

It has emerged that the militants hijacked a police officer's car but that his call to colleague, after he was dumped by the road side, was not taken seriously. The National Investigation Agency, a central body set up to probe such cross-border attacks, is investigating.

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REMARKS ON 1971 Another case filed against Khaleda, Goyeshwar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a probe into a defamation allegation against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and the party's senior leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy for their derogatory comments on the Liberation War martyrs.

Taking cognizance of the allegation, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque directed officer-in-charge (investigation) of Shahbagh police to

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority

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Necessary legal action will be executed soon against the violator of the act/rule. Your cooperation for ensuring use of ionizing radiation is highly appreciated.

With the approval of the authority

Dr. Md. Mofazzal Haider

Head, Radiation Control Division

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA)

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GD-30