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SOUL, SOIL AND SYMBOL

Artist Kalidas Karmakar's 72nd solo at National Museum

PAGE 11

TAMING NORTH KOREA

Obama, Asian allies vow steep price for nuclear test

at ON FRIDA

IOJ splits again, quits 20-party

'Pressure factor' behind decision of Nejami's faction; Raquib-led group assures Khaleda of allegiance

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Ending its 17-year ties with the BNP-led alliance, a faction of the Islami Oikya Jote led by Abdul Latif Nejami yesterday quit the combine.

Nejami, chairman of the Qawmi madrasa-based IOJ's faction, made the announcement at its triennial council at the capital's Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Talking to The Daily Star, several leaders of the Islamist party faction said they had no alternative but to quit the BNP-led alliance, as the government put "huge pressure" on them to quit the opposition combine.

"Otherwise, the government would have forced us to change the two principals of the

"Jamaat will be

banned through

legal process by this

year. There is no

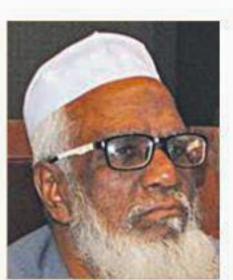
doubt about it."

FOOD MINISTER

KAMRUL ISLAM

AT AN ANTI-HARTAL HUMAN CHAIN

JATIYA PRESS CLUB



Abdul Latif Nejami MA Raquib

capital's Lalbagh and Boro Katra madrasas -the faction's stronghold and the main source of its income," said one of its leaders, wishing anonymity.

Two leaders of the faction -- Abul Hasnet, son of late IOJ chief Fazlul Huq Amini, and SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three convicted killers of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Kazi Aref Ahmed were executed last night.

executed

Shahjahan Ali, superintendent of Jessore Central Jail, told The Daily Star that Safayat Hossain Habib and Anwar Hossain Anu were hanged at 11:03pm while Rashedul Islam Jhantu at 11:45pm inside the jail.

The trio were top cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Laltu).

Kazi Aref, a liberation war organiser, along with four Kushtia JSD unit men was killed after a rally at Kalidaspur in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia on February 16, 1999.

The convicts shot Aref several times after he had finished

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

For 91 days from January 5 to April 5 last year, there was hardly a single day when innocent people were not burnt to death or injured in arson attacks on public transports. Some lost their loved ones, others their lone bread earners during the longest spell of horror allegedly carried out by the BNP-led coalition, protesting the January 5, 2014, elections. At least 95 people were killed and about 1,500 injured. Most of them were ordinary citizens, living from hand to mouth. Another 45 got

killed in "shootouts" with law enforcement agencies. About half of them were allegedly involved in arson attacks. The economic loss from the blockade and shutdown was enormous.

One year on, the overall picture has changed but the ordeals of those injured and the families of those killed have not. The Daily Star visited over a dozen such families. Today's story is based on another victim.

I blame my fate

Mother of two knows justice won't bring her husband, father back in her life



Rita Begum with the younger of her two daughters at her Faridpur home last month. She lost her husband and father in a gruesome petrol bomb attack on February 7 last year. Now, the thought of the future of her daughters -- one aged nine and the other only four -- sends shudders down her spine. The young widow sees hardly any way out as her trucker husband could not leave much for his family. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

For Rita Begum, the loss is so heavy and painful that she tries not to remember it. Sometimes, she wishes if only she could forget it once and for all and move on. But she cannot.

Life has changed for the 27-year-old from Faridpur Sadar since she lost her father and husband in a petrol bomb attack during street

violence last year. All she sees is uncertainty ahead.

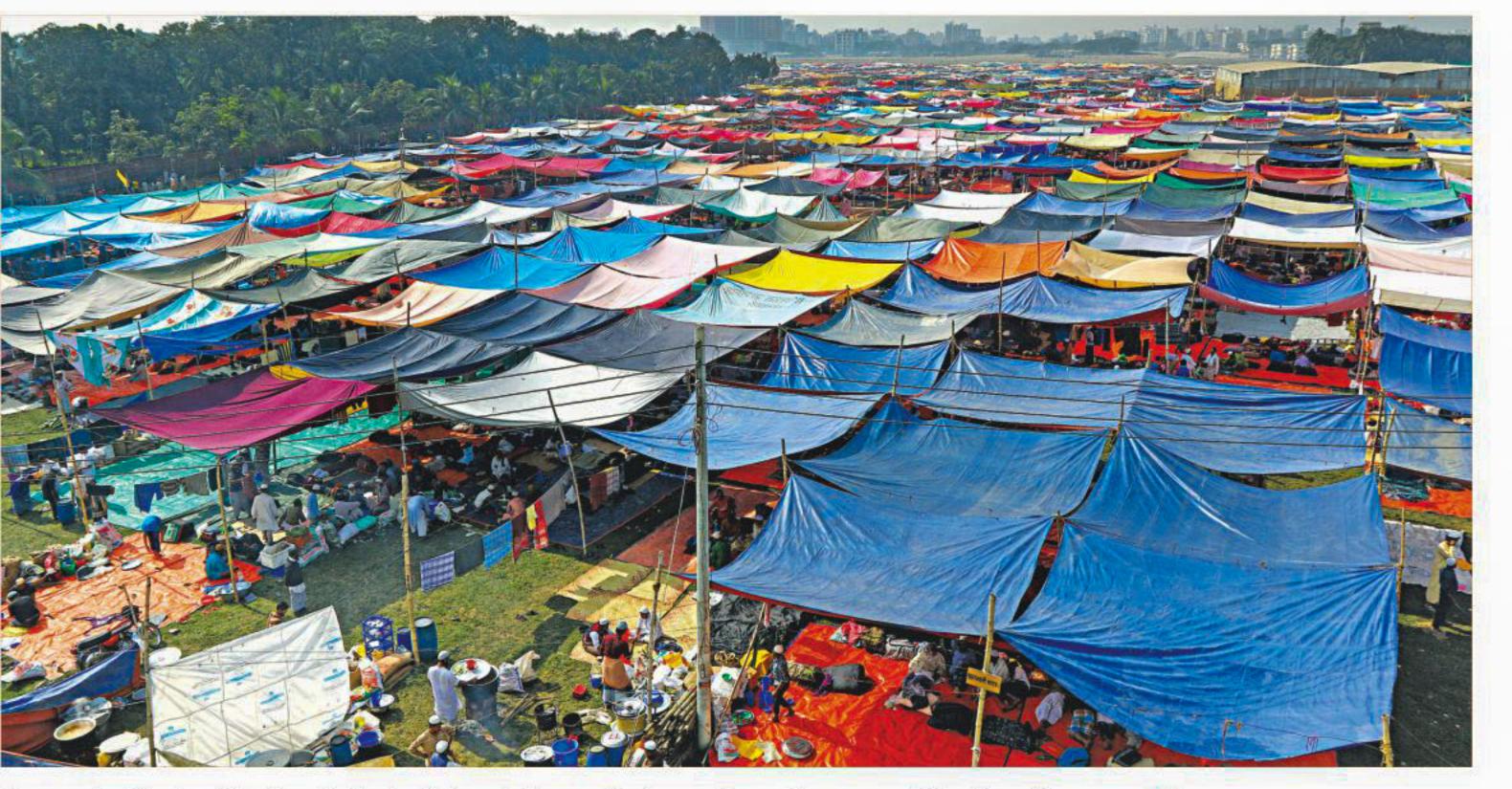
"You've brought those memories back. I've been trying to bury those inside all these months," said the young mother, when The Daily Star went to talk to her at her home last

The thought of her loss numbs her, but the thought of raising her two kids all by herself

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO







Thousands of tents pitched on the bank of Turag to house pilgrims as Biswa Ijtema, one of the biggest Muslim congregations in the world, begins here today. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

First phase of Biswa Ijtema begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of three daylong Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of Muslims after the Hajj, begins on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi in Gazipur today.

Defying yesterday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal, called by Jamaat-e-Islami, thousands of devotees have already reached the venue to join the first phase of the Ijtema, which will end with Akheri Munajat or final supplication on Sunday.

Jamaat called the hartal on Wednesday, protesting the government's "conspiracy to kill" its armeer Motiur Rahman Nizami after the Supreme Court

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

INTERNET TV SERVICES

Netflix comes to Bangladesh



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Streaming pioneer Netflix significantly expanded its global footprint making its Internet TV service available in 130 new markets, including Bangladesh.

The internet TV network expanded to more than 130 countries apart from China, Syria, Crimea and North Korea. The company made the announcement Wednesday --

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Saudi airstrike hits Iranian embassy in Yemen

Claims Tehran, bans all products from Riyadh after ties cut

AGENCIES

Iran yesterday accused Saudi warplanes of deliberately bombing its embassy in Yemen, in a new escalation of diplomatic tensions that have reverberated across the Middle East.

Shia-dominated Iran also announced a ban on imports of all products from its Sunni-ruled rival,

following a dramatic chill in relations that has triggered international alarm.

It comes days after Saudi Arabia broke off diplomatic ties with Iran in response to an arson attack on its own embassy in Tehran by protesters infuriated by Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shia cleric.

Tehran said an unspecified number of embassy staff had been wounded in

the raid on the rebel-held Yemeni capital Sanaa, which has been targeted by months of air strikes by a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

"This deliberate action by Saudi Arabia is a violation of all international conventions that protect diplomatic missions," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari

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Riaz Ahamed (Actor, CEO, Entrepreneur)

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