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It was a star-studded evening. Who wasn't there? Government policymakers, politicians, film stars, sportsmen, local and foreign journalists, and dignitaries from different other fields gathered at the capital's International Convention City Bashundhara to share the joy of The Daily Star family on the newspaper's 25th anniversary. The English daily renewed its pledge to be with its readers and the people of Bangladesh, as it has been over the last 25 years.

PHOTO: STAR

Glitz, warmth light up Star gala evening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated its 25th anniversary amid much fanfare and with a renewed resolve to better contribute to the democratic and socioeconomic development of the country.

The daily, which began its journey on January 14, 1991, after the restoration of democracy, has set an example of ethical and bold journalism not only in Bangladesh, but across Asia, said eminent personalities speaking on the occasion.

Around 4,000 people -- politicians, academics, businessmen, diplomats, journalists and development workers from home and abroad -- joined the grand reception under the banner "25

Years of Journalism without Fear or Favour" at the International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital in the evening.

The programme began shortly after 7:00pm with the screening of a documentary on the brief history of the birth of Bangladesh, its struggles throughout the journey and achievements in the economy and the social sector.

Then came a group of 25 eminent artistes of the country who rendered two songs -- *aguner poroshmoni chhoau prane* and *joy houk joy houk shantir joy houk shammer joy houk* -- igniting the inner spirit of democracy, peace and justice.

Speaking on the occasion, eminent Indian journalist Kuldeep Nayar said The Daily Star "is a child of liberation

of Bangladesh".

Nayar, who covered Bangladesh's 1971 war, added that he found the ethos of Bangladesh's liberation in the largest circulated English daily in Bangladesh.

N Ram, publisher of The Hindu Group of Publications, India, said: "The Daily Star is a respected daily, and the reason is it maintains the core values of journalism -- truthfulness, freedom, independence and social good."

It is a big achievement made despite many challenges faced, he noted.

Pichai Chuensuksawadi, editor-in-chief of Bangkok Post, said The Daily Star had been playing an important role in promoting development.

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MADHABDI MUNICIPALITY CEC, 6 others sued for polls 'irregularities'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad and six others have been sued in connection with alleged irregularities at a polling centre during the recent Madhabdi municipal elections in Narsingdi.

Obaidur Rahman, a defeated councillor candidate at ward-4, lodged the case with the election tribunal and first joint district judge's court on Thursday.

The tribunal fixed March 1 for hearing.

The other accused are Narsingdi Deputy

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Rainforest regrowth boosts carbon capture



BBC ONLINE

Newly grown rainforests can absorb 11 times as much carbon from the atmosphere as old-growth forests, a study has shown.

The researchers have produced a map showing regions in Latin America where regrowing rainforests would deliver the greatest benefits.

However, they added that old-growth forests still needed to be protected as they locked away vast amount of carbon. Details of the study have been

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OC closed over tea seller's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station was closed yesterday in connection with the death of a tea vendor, who had suffered severe burns in an incident involving police.

OC AKM Shahin Mandal was closed and attached to the Central Reserve Office of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said DMP Deputy Commissioner (media) Maruf Hossain Sorder.

On Thursday, five members of the same police station were suspended over the incident.

They are Sub-Inspector (SI) Mominur Rahman, SI Shree Ram Chandra, SI

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Two 'robbers' killed in mob beating

A CORRESPONDENT, Daudkandi, Comilla

Two suspected robbers were killed and another was critically injured in a mob beating in the district's Chandina upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Solaiman Mia, 22, son of Mokshed Ali of Karunapur village in Comilla Sadar upazila, and

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Bangladesh players rush onto the field after a hard-fought win over Nepal in the ICC Under-19 World Cup quarterfinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. On the back of a 117-run fifth-wicket stand between Zakir Hasan (2nd from L) and skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz (L), Bangladesh reached their target of 212 with 10 balls and 6 wickets to spare.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

IS sending fighters disguised as refugees

Says German spy agency; New US intel report claims IS weaker

REUTERS, Berlin

Islamic State militants have slipped into Europe disguised as refugees, the head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BfV) said yesterday, a day after security forces thwarted a potential IS attack in Berlin.

Hans-Georg Maassen said the terrorist attacks in Paris last November had shown that Islamic State was deliberately planting terrorists among the refugees flowing into Europe.

"Then we have repeatedly seen that terrorists ... have slipped in camouflaged or disguised as refugees. This is a fact that the security agencies are facing," Maassen told ZDF television.

"We are trying to recognise and identify whether there are still more IS fighters or terrorists from IS that have slipped in," he added.

The Berliner Zeitung newspaper cited Maassen yesterday as saying that the BfV had received more than 100 tip-offs that there were Islamic State fighters among the refugees currently staying in Germany.

German fears about an attack have risen since the Paris killings. On Thursday, German forces arrested two men suspected of links to Islamic State militants preparing an attack in the German capital.

Authorities also cancelled a friendly international soccer match in Hanover last year and closed stations in Munich at New Year due to security concerns.

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PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-30	12-45	4-15	5-52	7-15
JAMAAT	6-05	1-15	4-30	5-56
				7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION