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# BNP crosses big hurdle

Finalises 718 single chairman candidates for UP polls; fails to reach understanding with Jamaat

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

BNP has finalised single chairman candidates in 718 union parishads as of last night with the deadline for filing nomination for the upcoming UP polls expiring today.

The party has failed to reach a consensus with Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, over selecting single candidates in the elections to the lowest tier of local government body, said insiders.

The BNP central election coordination committee to select the party's chairman candidates has instructed the grassroots leaders to reach a consensus to select a single candidate in each UP where Jamaat wants to contest.

"Of the total 739 union parishads going for elections on March 22, we could not find candidates in around five because of the ruling party's torture and intimidation to our men," Mohammad Shajahan, chief of the BNP central election coordination committee, told The Daily Star last night.

Emran Saleh Prince, assistant publicity secretary of the party and another member of the coordination committee, said they have left around 15 UPs for the candidates of the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Candidates in those UPs will be finalised at local level, he added.

The BNP-led alliance on February 19 announced that it would contest the UP polls under the banner of 20-party alliance.

The opposition alliance had earlier announced to contest the municipality polls in the same manner.

But the move failed as Jamaat men contested the polls independently from different municipalities along with the BNP candidates.

"The same is likely to happen in the Union Parishad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# TOO HEAVY TO WITHSTAND...



The Bailey bridge over Kansama Canal in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila collapsed under the weight of a truck "overloaded" with sand on Sunday, snapping road communications between the district town and the upazila. The 45-metre bridge had the capacity of vehicles weighing just five tonnes but trucks with heavier loads were using the bridge.

PHOTO: SANJAY KUMAR BARUA

# More than 7 involved

Confesses another accused in Habiganj child killings

MINTU DESHWARA, from Bahubal, Habiganj

More than seven people were involved in the killing of the four children at Sundartiki of Bahubal in Habiganj, said accused Jewel Mia in his confessional statement before a magistrate yesterday.

"On Friday Rubel Mia had said seven people took part in the killing mission, but Jewel Mia named some other people too. We will not reveal their names now," said Jaydev Bhadra, superintendent of police of Habiganj, in a press briefing at his office yesterday evening.

Jewel's description of the murder was the same as of his cousin Rubel, he said, adding that Jewel made the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# HARYANA CASTE CRISIS

## Fresh arson, riots erupt in India

Protesters cut water to Delhi; death toll 10

AFP, Rohtak

Fresh rioting and arson erupted in a north Indian state yesterday in caste protests that have left 10 people dead, and New Delhi faced a water crisis after mobs shut down a key supply.

Thousands of troops with shoot-on-sight orders were deployed on Saturday in Haryana state after week-long protests turned violent, with rioters setting fire to homes and railway stations and blocking highways.

Ten people have been killed and about 150 injured in the state since Friday when officers fired on rioters, Haryana police chief Yash Pal Singal told a press conference.

The Jat rural caste is leading the protests, demanding quotas be set for Jats for highly sought-after government jobs and for university places. Caste members say they are struggling to find places despite India's strong economic growth.

Talks were held in Delhi between Jat leaders, national Home (interior) Minister Rajnath Singh and the Haryana government run by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Haryana BJP leader Anil Jain said the state government had now agreed to the community's demands. "We have decided in the meeting that Jats will be given reservation through a law in the next assembly session," Jain told reporters after the talks.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# Teenager gang raped in Dhaka

5 suspects arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested five youths for allegedly gang-raping a teenage girl at a house in Dakshin Khan area of the capital early yesterday.

The arrestees include Swadhin, a "friend" of the victim, and his friend Sajeeb, Sheikh Rokonzaman, inspector (investigation) of Dakshin Khan Police Station, told The Daily Star last night.

Names of the other youths could not be known immediately.

The inspector said the victim, who is aged around 16 and hails from Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur, lives with her grandmother in the area.

On Saturday night,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# UK town 'destroyed by violent storms'



BBC ONLINE

Evidence of violent storms that destroyed a lost town known as Britain's Atlantis has been uncovered.

The finds were uncovered off the coast of Dunwich, Suffolk - a small village which in the 11th Century was one of the largest towns in England.

The town was hit by a succession of storms in the 13th and 14th centuries and is now largely below the sea. Researchers said sediment gathered from the cliffs independently corroborated the historical record.

Professor David Sear, of the University of Southampton, said Dunwich was hit by huge storms

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# US MASS SHOOTING

## Six killed; suspect held

AFP, Chicago

A gunman killed six people and seriously injured two others in the northern US state of Michigan, police said yesterday, after arresting an armed 45-year-old white male for the crime.

The suspect was apprehended at 12:40 am yesterday after a shooting rampage Saturday night at three different locations in the city of Kalamazoo, police said.

Police said the gunman seriously wounded a woman outside an apartment complex, killed two people at a car dealership and then shot to death four more and seriously wounded a teenage girl at a chain restaurant.

"What it looks like is we have somebody driving around, finding people and shooting them dead in their tracks," Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas told the local CNN affiliate 24 Hours News 8.

"This is your worst nightmare, when you have somebody just driving around randomly killing people," he added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# FAMILY FEUD

## Nephews kill 2 uncles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two people were killed and another was seriously injured allegedly by their nephews over a family feud in the district's Singair upazila yesterday.

The dead are Aziz Mollah, 55, and his cousin Tendol Mollah, 50, of Gobindol Uttarpara village.

According to Singair police, Hasina Begum, one of Tendol's sisters, died in Bahrain five months ago.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



With alphabets on its outside wall, the International Mother Language Institute building near the Kakrail Mosque at Ramna in the capital. The IMLI is working for the protection and preservation of languages.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# To protect all spoken words

Ethnic languages to be documented at International Mother Language Institute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The large building with its façade adorned with alphabets can't be missed from the VIP road opposite Kakrail Mosque in Ramna.

A wide flight of stairs leads to a display of world languages. Rows of tall panels on the floor of the gallery depict the origins and development of many ancient and modern languages.

This is the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), a statutory body that came into being through the passing of a law on October 2010, almost a decade after 21st February was declared the International Mother Language Day by the UN.

"Information about 66 countries in Asia and Australia and Pacific, the status of their mother languages, including cultural diversity, number of mother language speakers and official languages etc. are displayed on the panels," said Professor Dr Jinnat Imtiazi Ali, Director General of IMLI.

The country's only language museum is located on the ground floor of the building. Opened in 2011, the language museum is working currently to digitise its content. Once done, users can click on links in display kiosks to get information about a country's location, its national anthem, and folk songs. Videos will also tell of their cultural diversity.

The main task of the IMLI is the protection and preservation of languages through an ethno-linguistic survey, Dr Ali said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION