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## 13 hurt as BCL factions clash again at CU



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 13 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Chhatra League at Chittagong University yesterday.

The identities of the injured could not be known immediately.

The clash broke out around 5:00pm between BCL factions - Sixty-Nine and Choose Friends with Care (CFC), said eyewitnesses.

Sources said activists of both groups took position at Shah Amanat and Shahjalal halls with sharp weapons and threw brickbats during a three-hour-long clash.

"We treated 13 individuals, and sent four to Chattogram

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The bank of the Shondha in Pirojpur glows with the sun's rays, as lumberjacks unload logs brought from different districts in Barishal. Furniture makers from across the country source timbers from this place which has come to be known as Kathmahal. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## PAKISTAN ELECTION Imran Khan's PTI to sit in opposition

AGENCIES

As the political uncertainty about who will form the government in light of the February 8 general election continues, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) yesterday announced that it would form the opposition in the Centre and Punjab as per party founder Imran Khan's directives.

PTI leader Barrister Saif, while speaking to journalists after a meeting with Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) in Islamabad, said that PTI has decided to sit on the opposition benches in the National Assembly and Punjab Assembly, reports Geo News Online.

"Many politicians face the allegations that they have power lust, but we have decided to sit in the opposition in the Centre and Punjab, despite the fact that if we had gotten the seats according to the votes we received, we would have been forming the government in the Centre," he said.

Saif added that the Form-45s were evidence that the PTI-backed

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## Dhaka, Paris likely to sign 1b euro climate pact Deal expected later this year

PORIMOL PALMA

Dhaka and Paris are expected to sign Climate Adaptation Pact worth 1 billion euro (\$1.1 billion) during a visit by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to France sometime in the middle of this year.

Under the pact, which is being negotiated now between the two countries, France will provide the money to Bangladesh mostly in concessionary loan and some grants for projects that help Bangladesh adapt to climate change.

Stephane Crouzat, Ambassador for Climate Change, Negotiations, Renewable Energy and Climate Risk Prevention of France, led a delegation for a week since last Saturday and held meetings with the ministers and officials for the ministries of environment and climate change, disaster management, local government, finance, water and foreign affairs, as well as private sector and civil society groups.

"There are possibilities for investing in infrastructures. It could be building polders, improve water resources, sanitation and even preserving the Sundarbans. The important focus will be given on the locally-led solutions," Crouzat told The Daily Star on Thursday.

He said the Climate Adaptation Pact (CAP) will be signed when Hasina visits France soon.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who visited Bangladesh in September last year, also sent a letter to

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## Alarm over fate of Gaza hospital after Israeli raid

Several patients died in Nasser hospital due to lack of oxygen

AGENCIES

There was growing concern yesterday over a key Gaza hospital a day after a raid by the Israeli army, with the Hamas-run health ministry saying several patients had died there due to a lack of oxygen.

The ministry said the power was cut off and the generators stopped after the raid at the Nasser hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis, and that five patients had died.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday it was trying to get access to the hospital. "There are still critically injured and sick patients that are inside the hospital," WHO

spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic said.

In recent days, intense fighting has raged in the vicinity of the hospital - one of the Palestinian territory's last remaining major medical facilities that are still operational.

Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari on Thursday evening said there was "credible intelligence" to suggest hostages seized by Hamas members had been held at the hospital, and that bodies of some of the captives may still be inside.

But the military said later it had "not yet found any evidence of this", although forces had found "weapons, grenades and mortar bombs" at the

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## Focus on next polls instead of movement Quader tells BNP

UNB, Dhaka

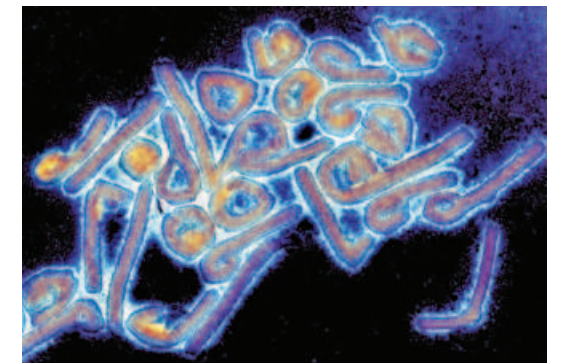
Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the BNP should prepare for the next general elections instead of thinking about its next movement.

He said this at a joint meeting of the party held at the AL central office in Dhaka. Regarding BNP's "movement until victory", Quader said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has become "overwhelmed with daydreams" after getting out of jail.

"The prime minister has brought great honour to the country by participating in the Security Conference in Germany. Today, the democratic world has accepted the importance of Bangladesh," he said.

Quader also said the party president has instructed all party members to resolve internal disputes.

## Ancient viruses responsible for our big brains



AFP, Washington

Ancient viruses that infected vertebrates hundreds of millions of years ago played a pivotal role in the evolution of our advanced brains and large bodies, a study said Thursday.

The research, published in the journal Cell, examined the origins of myelin, an insulating layer of fatty tissue that forms around nerves and allows electrical impulses to travel faster.

According to the authors, a gene sequence acquired from retroviruses - viruses that invade their host's DNA - is crucial for myelin production, and that code is now found in modern mammals, amphibians and fish.

"The thing I find the most remarkable is that

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## Jailed Russian opposition leader Navalny dies

Says prison service; dissidents, Western officials blame Putin for his death

REUTERS, Moscow

Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's most formidable opponent, collapsed and died yesterday after a walk at the "Polar Wolf" Arctic penal colony where he was serving a three-decade jail term, the Russian prison service said.



The death of Navalny, a 47-year-old former lawyer, robs the disparate Russian opposition of its most courageous and charismatic leader just as Putin prepares for an election which will keep the former KGB spy in power until at least 2030.

Western leaders and dissidents paid tribute to Navalny's courage as a fighter for freedom. Some, without citing evidence, bluntly accused the Kremlin of murder and said Putin should be held accountable for the death.

Navalny rose to prominence more than a decade ago by speaking publicly - and documenting - what he said was the vast corruption and opulence among the "crooks and thieves" who ran Putin's Russia.

The Federal Penitentiary Service of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District said in a statement that Navalny felt unwell after a walk at the IK-3 penal colony in Kharp, about 1,900 km northeast of Moscow into the Arctic Circle.

He lost consciousness almost immediately and died shortly afterwards despite the efforts of the prison's medical team and ambulance staff, the prison service

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SCAN TO REGISTER:

**DHAKA**

**Date:** 17th - 18th February 2024

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka

**CHITTAGONG**

**Date:** 20th February 2024

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View, Chittagong

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