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SK JAMAL IN LAST 4
 The Dhanmondi side beat Abahani in tiebreaker to reach the Fed Cup semis
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DEPRECIATION UNABATED
 The taka continues to fall despite various measures
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SOUTH CAROLINA DEBATE
 Presidential candidate Mitt Romney's business and political record comes under attack
 PAGE 7

5 lakh more jobless in three years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

Despite all his efforts, Arif Hossain, a graduate in Bangla from Dhaka University, has failed to land a job. He has faced many job interviews in the last three years, but all his efforts have gone in vain.

He now pins his hope on the three interviews he appeared for last week. Arif wishes he gets a call from any of his prospective employers. It will light up the lives of his parents and siblings in a remote village in Satkhira.

"My parents expect me to contrib-

KEY FINDINGS	Labour force (15-yr plus)	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment rate
FY 2003	4.63 crore	4.43 crore	20 lakh	4.3%
FY 2007	4.95 crore	4.74 crore	21 lakh	4.3%
FY 2010	5.67 crore	5.41 crore	26 lakh	4.5%

ute to the family and bear the educational expenses of my younger brothers," said Arif, who now pays part of his living costs in Dhaka by tutoring students. For the rest, he has to depend on his parents. Arif is one of nearly five lakh new faces that have joined the queue of the unemployed since 2007.

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Stocks trading halted abruptly

DSE feared negative impact of renewed ban on stock investment by govt staff

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Dhaka and Chittagong bourses hastily suspended trading yesterday, after the government had expressed the day before its plan to strictly enforce an already existing ban on investment in stocks by public servants.

The trade suspension was prompted by a fear that the government's move would have a big negative impact on the stockmarket, officials of the bourses said

adding that trading will resume today. Yesterday's shutdown was unprecedented as the bourses halted trading without any prior instruction from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the stockmarket regulator.

SEC had directed the bourses to halt trading twice in January last year after Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) plunged to historic lows and lurched into market crashes.

Retail investors, who lost much of their

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 MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

AN APOLOGY

On December 10 last year, we ran a detailed report on Doreen Tower, located at Gulshan 2 roundabout. The day before yesterday, we published by mistake an advertisement of the same building. Given the content of our report, we should not have published the advert. We have therefore decided, on ethical grounds, not to accept the money due for the advertisement. We apologise to our readers for this error of judgement on our part.
 -- Management

Charitable Trust Case: Khaleda submits bail bond

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday appeared before a Dhaka court to submit her bail bond in connection with Zia Charitable Trust graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahadat Hossain allowed the leader of the opposition to submit it upon a Tk 5,000 bond with two guarantors' minutes.

After a brief three-minute hearing Khaleda left the court premises.

Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder moved the petition for the BNP chief. Senior lawyers, including Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain and former law minister Moudud Ahmed, were also present in the court.

On December 8 last year, the High Court (HC) granted Khaleda anticipatory bail and asked her to submit the bail bond to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court.

ACC on August 8 last year filed the graft case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda and three others

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 PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Two chief ministers distinctly different

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the first foreign head of government to congratulate Mamata Banerjee on her party's historic victory at the Paschimanga elections last year. But the first Indian state she chose to visit on her second innings as prime minister was Marxist-ruled Tripura and not Paschimanga.

The significance of Hasina's visit to Tripura goes much beyond receiving the honorary D Litt degree of Tripura University and going through a journey down memory lane in a state which shared an umbilical chord with Bangladesh's liberation war. It brings out a contrast between two chief ministers -- Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal and Manik Sarkar of Tripura.

Mamata did not accompany Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when he visited Dhaka in September last year but Sarkar was one of the four chief ministers of the northeastern states to do so. While Mamata scuppered the Teesta water-sharing treaty with Bangladesh,

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A small investor in the share market raises his shoe during a sit-in in front of Bangladesh Bank yesterday. Investors took to the streets after the market was suddenly closed.

Suspension criticised

'An attempt to pressurise govt to reverse decision'

SOHEL PARVEZ and GAZI TOWHID AHMED

The suspension of trade in the country's two bourses yesterday drew criticism from experts who consider the move as a means of forcing the government to allow civil servants in stock business.

"The trade suspension reflects an

Lokman Killing: Prime accused freed on bail

STAR REPORT

Salauddin Ahmed Bacchu, younger brother of a minister and prime accused in Lokman murder case, was freed on bail along with two others yesterday afternoon, although the chief judicial magistrate's court only hours ago had ordered sending them to jail.

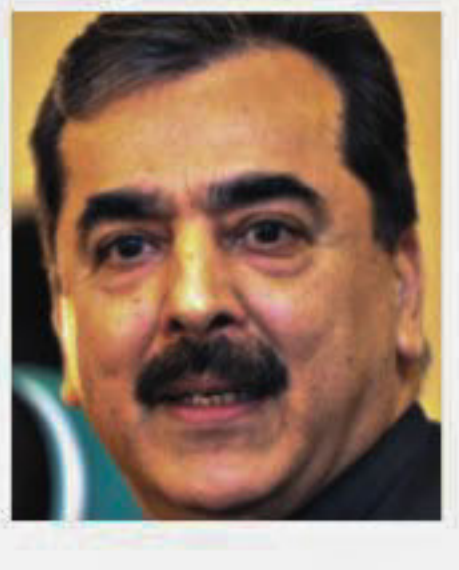
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Gilani in new crisis

Pak anti-graft watchdog may file case against the beleaguered PM; contempt notice challenged

AGENCIES

Pakistan's main anti-corruption watchdog is considering a proposal for filing a case of misuse of authority against Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani under which he could face a prison term of 14 years if convicted.



for his inaction in certain high-profile illegal appointments may lead to the framing of a formal case against Gilani, the daily quoted a source in NAB as saying.

Gilani and Khwaja had been detained in jail together during the regime of President Pervez Musharraf, PTI reported.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is considering the filing of a case in connection with the appointment by Gilani of Adnan Khwaja as chairman of the state-run Oil and Gas Development Company even though Khwaja had already been convicted by court, The News daily reported.

The serious reprimand of NAB chairman Fasih Bokhari by the Supreme Court

The NAB had been considering the case against Gilani after the Supreme Court served a contempt notice on the prime minister for the government's failing to reopen high-profile graft cases.

Meanwhile, a petition was filed yesterday in the Lahore Registry of the Supreme Court against the contempt notice that

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JU gets new proctor

Classes resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities resumed yesterday at Jahangirnagar University after Prof Arzu Miah stepped down as proctor, followed by the appointment of Prof Tapon Kumar Saha of the chemistry department to that position.

A group of teachers and students had been

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10th Death Anniversary of Late-Mohammed Hanif Bhuiyan

Founder Chairman of Abedin Group of Industries and an important social welfare worker, who died on 18th January 2002. He built many industries, social institutes such as Mosque, Madrasa, School & College which made him alive among us forever.

We remember him with deepest sorrow, love & respect on the occasion of his 10th death anniversary and pray to Almighty Allah for peace & happiness of his departed soul.

Late-Mohammed Hanif Bhuiyan

Wife, Sons, Daughters of Late-Mohammed Hanif Bhuiyan and All Officers & Staffs of Abedin Group of Industries.

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