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INDIA VISIT
Hasina meets
Manmohan
on Jan 11

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign ministry officials of Bangladesh and India are working to sort out many issues ahead of the meeting of Sheikh Hasina and Manmohan Singh likely to take place in Hyderabad House in New Delhi on January 11.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India would be the first after her Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power early this year.

As AL-led grand alliance in Bangladesh and Congress-led United Progressive Alliance in India enjoy positive vibes,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Neonatal care left in neglect

All 9 incubators at DMCH out of order; parents forced to get private clinic service at exorbitant cost

ALPHA ARZU and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Parents of premature babies are being forced to pay at least Tk 4,000 each day for the use of incubators in private clinics due to the short supply in public hospitals.

All the nine incubators at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital have been out of order for months.

Shahida Begum travelled to Dhaka from Narayanganj with her 16-day-old son who was suffering from respiratory problems and required care in an incubator.

She said, "We went to Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Ma-O-Shishu Hospital and then DMCH, but each time we were told that there was no incubator available for my baby."

For parents such as Shirina Akter, who simply cannot afford the fees charged by private clinics, the situation is highly distressing.

Shirina travelled from Bogra to the DMCH on her doctor's advice when her baby was born two months premature.

She said, "I came to this hospital because I was told it had free incubator services."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

VIOLENCE AT NIPPON GARMENTS Probe body blames owners, police

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

A high-powered probe committee formed to investigate the October unrest at Nippon Garments Industry Ltd in Tongi found both the garment factory owner and the law enforcement agencies at fault for the widespread violence that left three people dead.

One of the five members of the committee on Wednesday said that the factory owner did not follow the rules of giving prior notice for closing down the factory, which primarily agitated the workers.

But then the police that were supposed to control the law and order, asserted excessive force on the agitating workers that refueled their agitation, he told The Daily Star.

The owner had sought additional police to control the unrest instead of following the rules. They should have informed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

43 killed in Pak offensive

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's armed forces said yesterday they have killed at least 43 militants in the northwest, widening the net in the lawless tribal belt as the top US military officer visits for talks on the war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, met army chief General Ashfaq Kayani to discuss the new US Afghan war strategy, which Washington says hinges on Pakistan's own battle against Islamist extremists.

Pakistan has launched multiple offensives against insurgents this year, but Washington is pushing Islamabad to go after the top al-Qaeda leadership, the Afghan Taliban, and other groups seeking sanctuary in Pakistan.

The military sent 30,000 troops into the Taliban stronghold of South Waziristan in October, and is now pursuing insurgents believed to have fled to the other six districts that make up the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Nawaz Sharif
on 1971
Says disrespect for
democracy led to
Bangladesh's creation
ANI, Islamabad

Pakistan Muslim League-
Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif has said 'undemocratic attitudes' and a 'disrespect for democracy' were the prime reasons which led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Referring to Pakistan's defeat in the 1971 war against India, and the subsequent bifurcation of Pakistan, which led to the formation of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

AUG 21 PROBE Key law enforcers being quizzed

KAILASH SARKAR

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has started questioning officials of different law-enforcement and intelligence agencies who were on various key positions during the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004, sources say.

In the last four days, CID officials interrogated Maj Gen (retd) Sadiq Hasan Rumi, former director general (DG) of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Maj Gen (retd) AAMIN, former DG of Ansar-VDP and DGFI director during the carnage, Abdul Aziz Sarker, former Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) DG, and Superintendent of Police (SP) Obaidur Rahman, who is now OSD and was then deputy commissioner (DC-East Zone) and in-charge of the security of the rally.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

New envoys
from 3 Saarc
nations in
new year

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

With the New Year, new envoys of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will take up their diplomatic assignment at their respective missions in Dhaka.

The government of India has already named another Bangladeshi diplomat Rajeel Mitter, currently the Indian ambassador to the Philippines, as the next high commissioner in Dhaka. He is likely to join in the last week of this month.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of The Premier Bank Limited in its 75th Meeting held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 5.00 p.m. at the Board Room of Head Office has decided to sponsor a Mutual Fund in the name and style "Premier Bank 1st Mutual Fund" of BDT 150.00 (one hundred fifty) crore divided into 15,00,00,000 units of Tk. 10.00 (Ten) each wherein Bank's stake as sponsor will be 20.00% (twenty percent), Pre-IPO placement will be 30.00% (thirty percent) and rest 50.00% (fifty percent) of total fund will be for public offering subject to approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Dated : December 15, 2009
Dhaka

Sd/-
Syed Ahsan Habib, FCMA
Company Secretary

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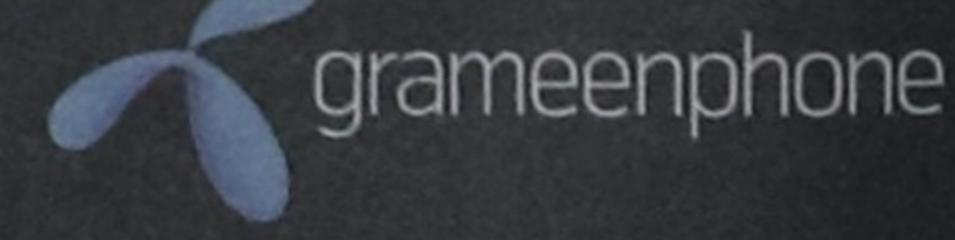
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