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**NEWS flakes**



**Zia's 75th birthday today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 75th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh

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# Markets shut as stocks dip

**SARWAR A CHOWDHURY**

Share trading on the Dhaka and Chittagong bourses was stopped one hour and 20 minutes ahead of schedule for the second time in eight days.

The stockmarket regulator instructed the exchanges to suspend the trading after it predicted that the market would see a massive fall if the transactions continued.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) directive came following the General Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DGEN) slumped 237 points and Selective Categories Index of Chittagong Stock Exchange by 298 points.

"After seeing the downward trend in share prices, the commission directed the stock exchanges to stop share trading considering the retail investors' interest," Anwarul Kabir Bhuiyan, a spokesman and executive director of the SEC, told journalists.

The free fall in share prices and the trading suspension also prompted several hundreds of retail investors to take position in front of DSE main building.

The aggrieved investors, especially whose money got wiped out in the current bearish market, chanted slogans against the slump and top bosses of the regulators.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds talks with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at Hotel Emirates Palace of Abu Dhabi yesterday on the sidelines of the 4th World Future Energy Summit.

PHOTO: PID



**Johnsen new CEO of GP**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone yesterday named Tore Johnsen as its new chief executive officer. Johnsen will

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## Stop killings on border

**Dhaka asks New Delhi**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frequent killings of Bangladeshi citizens by Indian Border Security Force figured prominently at the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the two countries that began in the capital yesterday.

Dhaka strongly protested indiscriminate firings by BSF killing unarmed Bangladeshi nationals on a regular basis, meeting sources said.

The killing of 15-year-old Felani on Kurigram border on January 7 came up at the meeting. "We requested our

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## Pre-paid gas meters likely from June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company will introduce the first batch of prepaid gas meters at homes in Lalmatia and Mohammadpur from June to curb gas wastage and ensure fair payment by the consumers.

Under a pilot project, 4,500 prepaid gas meters

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## PM invites more UAE investment

**Businesses of 2 countries sign MoU; UN chief meets Hasina**

BSS, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon UAE entrepreneurs to invest more in Bangladesh's potential sectors taking the advantage of its investment-friendly environment.

The premier made the call while addressing the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MoU)

between Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and UAE Foreign Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) at Hotel Rotana Beach.

FBCCI President AK Azad and FCCI Secretary General Abdullah Sultan signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides.

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## PM to visit UK Jan 25-29

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay a five-day official visit to the United Kingdom from January 25, following an invitation extended by the British Prime Minister David Cameron.

According to officials at the foreign ministry, an inter-ministerial meeting has been held and preparations to make the visit successful are in full swing.

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## Arial Beel Airport plan protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Arial Beel Rakkha Committee has termed the government decision of building Bangabandhu International Airport and a satellite city covering the Arial Beel unscientific, illegal,

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Freelance carpenters waiting for work at Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of city yesterday. Some of them lamented to this photographer that quality carpentry has come under threat from cheap readymade furniture and people do not appreciate craftsmanship these days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Swindling alert not enough

**Experts question role of commerce ministry, joint stock companies**

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The commerce ministry and the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms are liable to clarify what is happening with the so-called multilevel marketing (MLM) companies, experts said.

They also raised questions about the proposed guideline prepared with inputs from the very MLM companies that are cheating people by offering hefty profits -- up to 120 percent a year.

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank Farashuddin questioned if the commerce ministry and the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms conducted any

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the increased CNG auto-rickshaw fare will encourage more drivers to charge using meters?

Yes (38.6%)  
No (60.5%)  
No Comments (0.9%)

TOTAL VOTES : 531

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the government is sincere about stopping the illegal housing projects in the capital?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING January 19**

Azan Jamaat  
Fajr 5:30 - 6:05  
Zohr 12:45 - 1:15  
Asr 4:00 - 4:15  
Maghrib 5:36 - 5:40  
Esha 7:00 - 7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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