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No envoy in South Africa for a year

Delay hurts embassy's work, export prospect

REZAUL KARIM

The post of high commissioner is vacant for over a year at the Bangladesh mission in South Africa, considered to be one of the new major export markets for the country.

Foreign ministry officials said the last high commissioner, Md Shahidul Islam, was transferred to Saudi Arabia on December 16, 2010 and since then the seat has been vacant.

Owing to the absence of the head of mission, routine activities are being hampered. Besides, junior officials cannot attend many government events, business meetings and other programmes where Bangladesh needs to be represented by an ambassador, said the officials.

According to the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR), 2011, Japan, South America and South Africa are becoming Bangladesh's new export destinations.

South Africa, now the richest and eco-

nomically strongest country in the African region, imports from Bangladesh raw materials such as leather and finished jute and also readymade garment, fish and medicine.

Bangladesh has an opportunity to export its manpower to South Africa as well since huge development works are taking place in that country.

South Africa's exports to Bangladesh are iron ore, steel, aluminium, infrastructure machinery, and machinery and equipment for railways.

According to officials at the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, around 50,000 to 60,000 Bangladeshis are now in South Africa and the majority of them are engaged in trade or having small business houses.

Bangladesh opened a full-fledged mission in Pretoria in the African country on February 26, 1995 to promote trade and commerce, export of its products and manpower.

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Fishermen make snapper (koral fish) jerky in Firingibazar of Chittagong yesterday as the catch is good this season in the Bay. The local demand for snapper jerky as well as the fresh fish is high.

PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS

Dhaka tipped off by Delhi

Report some foreign media on plot to overthrow govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the army announced foiling a "coup attempt" to overthrow the government, a number of foreign newspapers have reported that India played an important role in unearthing the plot.

The Daily Mail has reported that a "tip-off from India" helped Bangladesh Army pre-empt the conspirators.

"India has helped Bangladesh avert what could have

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JCD TO ANNOUNCE NEW BODY

Over 40-year-old 'students' active

PALASH RAHMAN

Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are lobbying hard for vital posts in its new central committee to be named soon.

Many leaders and activists of JCD, student wing of opposition BNP, have demanded picking young leadership to strengthen its activities.

The new committee comprised of dedicated and active leaders has already

been finalised, a BNP leader told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

The committee, now due for two years, will be approved by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Most of the leaders of the incumbent committee are aged between 42 and 48. They have been blamed for not joining party programmes regularly. Rather they were very much involved in business

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'Robbers' stab crew at port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Croatian officer of a Malta-flagged cargo ship was stabbed by suspected robbers at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port early yesterday.

The injured, Marko Skrobonja, 30, is the second officer of MV Hana, said Mizanur Rahman, manager of the vessel owners' local agent SS Services.

The unidentified gang might have boarded the ship for robbery, Chittagong Port Authority Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmad said.

Sources said Marko was stabbed in the head when he

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Islamists win Egypt polls

AFP, Cairo

The Muslim Brotherhood's party has won 47.18 percent of seats in the Egyptian parliament, the electoral commission announced yesterday as it gave the final results from marathon polls.

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Abducted BGB man returned

STAR REPORT

The member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) who had been abducted from the Comilla border area by Indian smugglers was handed over to BGB authorities early yesterday, nearly 20 hours after the incident.

Public Relations Officer Mohsin Reza of BGB

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CARE FOR THE ENDANGERED



A family in Mohammadpur found this barn owl, an endangered owl species popularly known as Laxmi Pencha, on their roof. Unable to find small mammals to prey on in the winter, the owl was starving and very weak. The family was feeding it roaches to help it regain strength.

PHOTO:
SHAWKAT JAMIL

BISWA IJTEMA Ankeri Munajat today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the offering of Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) today, the three-day second and last phase of the Biswa Ijtema at Tongi near the capital ends today.

Lakhs of devotees from home and abroad will raise their hands in prayers, likely to start between 12:00 noon and

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WIKI, GOOGLE-LED OUTCRY

US anti-online piracy bill finally put on hold

AFP, Washington

US congressional leaders put anti-online piracy legislation on hold Friday following a wave of protests led by Google and Wikipedia denouncing the bills as a threat to Internet freedom.

Senate majority leader Harry Reid said he was delaying next week's vote on the Protect IP Act (PIPA) and House Judiciary Committee chairman Lamar Smith said he would "revisit" the House version, the

Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).

"In light of recent events, I have decided to postpone Tuesday's vote on the Protect IP Act," Reid announced in a statement two days after a wave of online protests against the bill swept the Internet.

"There is no reason that the legitimate issues raised by many about this bill cannot be resolved," the Democrat from Nevada added. "I am optimistic that we can reach a compromise in the coming weeks."

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think that the police personnel involved with falsely implicating DU student Abdul Kadar should be brought to justice?
Yes ☒ (89.1%)
No ☐ (9.5%)
No Comments ☐ (1.4%)
TOTAL VOTES: 432

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) should be used in next general polls?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING January 22			
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:30	6:05	
Zohr	12:45	1:15	
Asr	4:15	4:30	
Maghrib	5:43	5:47	
Esha	7:15	7:45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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facebook.com/PepsodentLaptopOffer