



CONCERN OVER COTTON

Indian ban on export to hurt local spinners

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SUPER TUESDAY

Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney hopes to keep up momentum

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'ANARCHY' ON MAR 12 Ministers warn of stern action

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday warned of stern actions against anyone found involved in any kind of anarchy during the BNP's March 12 grand rally in the capital.

"BNP leaders are delivering provocative speeches only to create panic among people. But the government will not spare anyone if any anarchy is created during the rally," Dipu Moni said

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Saudi embassy official shot dead

Police yet to find out motive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official of the Saudi embassy in Dhaka was shot dead some 30 yards off his house in the city's Gulshan early yesterday.

Khalaf Al Ali, a Saudi national who joined the embassy about two years ago, was shot once in the left chest, Nurul Alam, assistant commissioner (Patrol) of Gulshan Division, told The Daily Star.

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Al Bussairi identified the man as a diplomat.

Mustafa Kamal, the acting for-

eign secretary, said Ali was on the non-diplomat list of the foreign ministry.

The ministry in a statement last night said, "As per records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the deceased had been working as an administrative staff of the Royal Saudi Embassy."

Police are yet to arrest anyone or find out the motive behind the incident, said Khandker Lutful Kabir, deputy commissioner of Gulshan Division.

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Investment outlook stable

Rating agency S&P says about Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday won an investment grade with a stable outlook from the leading credit rating agency Standard & Poor's for the third straight year.

The S&P rated Bangladesh to "BB-" with a stable outlook, the US-based company said in a statement.

The company linked the rating to the country's strong growth prospects, adequate external liquidity and donor support.

The S&P however identified polarised and adversarial political setting as a potential risk to the country's stability.

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CARETAKER SYSTEM

Time limit to be 30 or 90 days

Khaleda may propose BNP's model of interim govt

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP plans to unveil a model for the caretaker or interim government system at its March 12 rally and issue an ultimatum to the government for restoration of the system to oversee the next parliamentary election.

And if the government does not respond, the main opposition party may launch tougher programmes like non-cooperation movement and sit-in for an indefinite period in Dhaka, highly-placed sources in the party have said.

From the capital's Paltan Maidan rally on that day, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia may give a 30-day or 90-day ultimatum for the government to restore the caretaker system, the sources added.

Titled "Dhaka Cholo" (Let's March to Dhaka), the BNP predicts this to be one of the biggest ever gatherings of the leaders and activists of the four-party alliance, which includes the Jamaat-e-Islami.

"The party chairperson will announce a tougher movement, including an ultimatum, from the rally if our demand is not met before that," said Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, a standing committee member.

In whatever name or form, there must be a non-partisan government to supervise the election, he told The Daily Star.

The government scrapped the caretaker system in

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7TH MARCH

Bangabandhu, in sublime oratory

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The die was cast. On this day in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led the Bangalee nation across the political Rubicon. At a time when the nation and observers abroad expected him to make a unilateral declaration of Bangladesh's independence, he trod a fine line and made it clear to the world that while he was not about to announce a UDI, he was leaving no one in any doubt that the

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Power cut to get worse in summer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power situation in the country could worsen during the approaching summer and officials yesterday said there could be as high as 1,000 megawatts of electricity shortage a day during peak hours.

"There could be up to 1,000MW of power shortage during the summer. But we may be able to manage and keep it between 500MW and 700MW," Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka.

Power cuts have become very

common for people across the country during the summer as demand goes up, even though the government claimed to have added 3,000MW of electricity to the national grid since assuming office three years ago.

On an average, Bangladesh produces 5,000MW of electricity and yesterday's load-shedding was 629MW, said an official of Power Development Board.

The official, however, did not think that there would be a repeat of the frequent power outages

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UTTAR PRADESH POLLS

Thrashing defeat for Mayawati

Mulayam set to be chief minister; Rahul takes responsibility for debacle

TIMES OF INDIA, Lucknow

Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi Party swept to power jolting Congress party and BJP in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, the results of which are a setback to Rahul Gandhi, who acknowledged the "defeat".

SP dethroned Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati by getting an absolute majority by



Mayawati

comfortably crossing the required 202-mark in the 403 member



Rahul

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Help arrest unknown people

Urges Qamrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday asked the leaders and workers of his party Awami League to help law enforcers capture "unknown people" in the capital as, what he said, they might cause violence centring the opposition's March 12 rally.

He claimed that different militant outfits were gathering in the city ahead of the BNP rally. The opposition was trying

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'The Daily Star Odommo Chattagram' festival was scheduled to start from tomorrow, 8th March 2012.

Due to unavoidable circumstances the event will now be held from **30th March 2012 to 6th April 2012.**

Programme details will be announced later



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