

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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28 PAGES PLUS STAR INSIGHT PRICE: Tk 10.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXII No. 110 | BAISHAKH 22, 1419 BS | JAMADIUS SANI 12, 1433 HIJRI



**THE BEAUTY OF KATHAK**  
Isabella Anna presents dance recitals at La Gallerie  
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**WAY TO THE PAST**  
Syed Badrul Ahsan reviews Diaries of Justice Muhammad Ibrahim  
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**BUT NOT GREECE**  
Why the Queen never visited the birthplace of her husband Philip  
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## Friendship with US sees new era

Hillary due today; economic, security cooperation high on agenda

REZAUL KARIM  
Bangladesh hopes Hillary Clinton's visit will take Dhaka's political, economic and security cooperation with Washington to a new height and clear the clouds that recently shrouded the ties over  
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MORE STORY ON PAGE 20



**Japan for effective anti-graft measures**  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
Japan yesterday suggested that Bangladesh take effective anti-corruption measures for proper utilisation of its tax payers' money in development assistance programmes.  
The suggestion came from Katsuya Okada, deputy prime minister of Japan, during a press briefing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport before his departure for Colombo yesterday.  
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## Brac official killed in Afghanistan

Afghan police blame Taliban for attack at Brac office; target was to kidnap Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A Bangladeshi Brac official was shot dead during an attack on a Brac provincial office in Ghor of Afghanistan Thursday morning.  
Deceased Mohammad Mohiuddin, 41, hailed from Fulbaria of Mymensingh and was working as Brac's area manager in Chaghcharan, the provincial capital, said a Brac official statement.  
He left behind his wife Parveen Akhter,



son Ishfaq, daughter Mohana and a host of relatives. His body is likely to arrive tomorrow morning.  
Mohiuddin was killed when a gang of criminals launched an attack on the office early on Thursday, said Khandaker Ariful Islam, country representative of Brac Afghanistan chapter, a non-government organisation.  
However, Pajhwok Afghan News, quoting the acting police chief Col Murtaza Musleh, said Mohiuddin was killed when  
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**Five killed under train**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail  
Three children and two women were crushed under the wheels of a speeding train in Kalihati of Tangail Thursday night.  
The deceased were identified as Asma Akhter, 40, and her daughter Shanta, 12; Mamoni, 12; and Alechha Begum, 28, and her son Rabbi, 10, of Sherpur upazila in Bogra.  
Victims' relative Lebu Miah of Nordohi village in Kalihati said eleven people were going to attend a family programme at the house of his nephew  
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TALKS WITH HILLARY  
**Khaleda to raise Ilias, CG issues**  
RAKIB HASNET SUMAN  
The disappearance of party leader Ilias Ali, government's treatment of the opposition and restoration of the caretaker government will feature in tonight's talks when the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meets BNP  
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**PRANAB ARRIVES TODAY**  
**Teesta, boundary key issues for talks**  
REZAUL KARIM  
Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who is due in Dhaka tonight, will reassure the Bangladeshi political leadership that efforts are on towards a consensus within his country on Teesta water  
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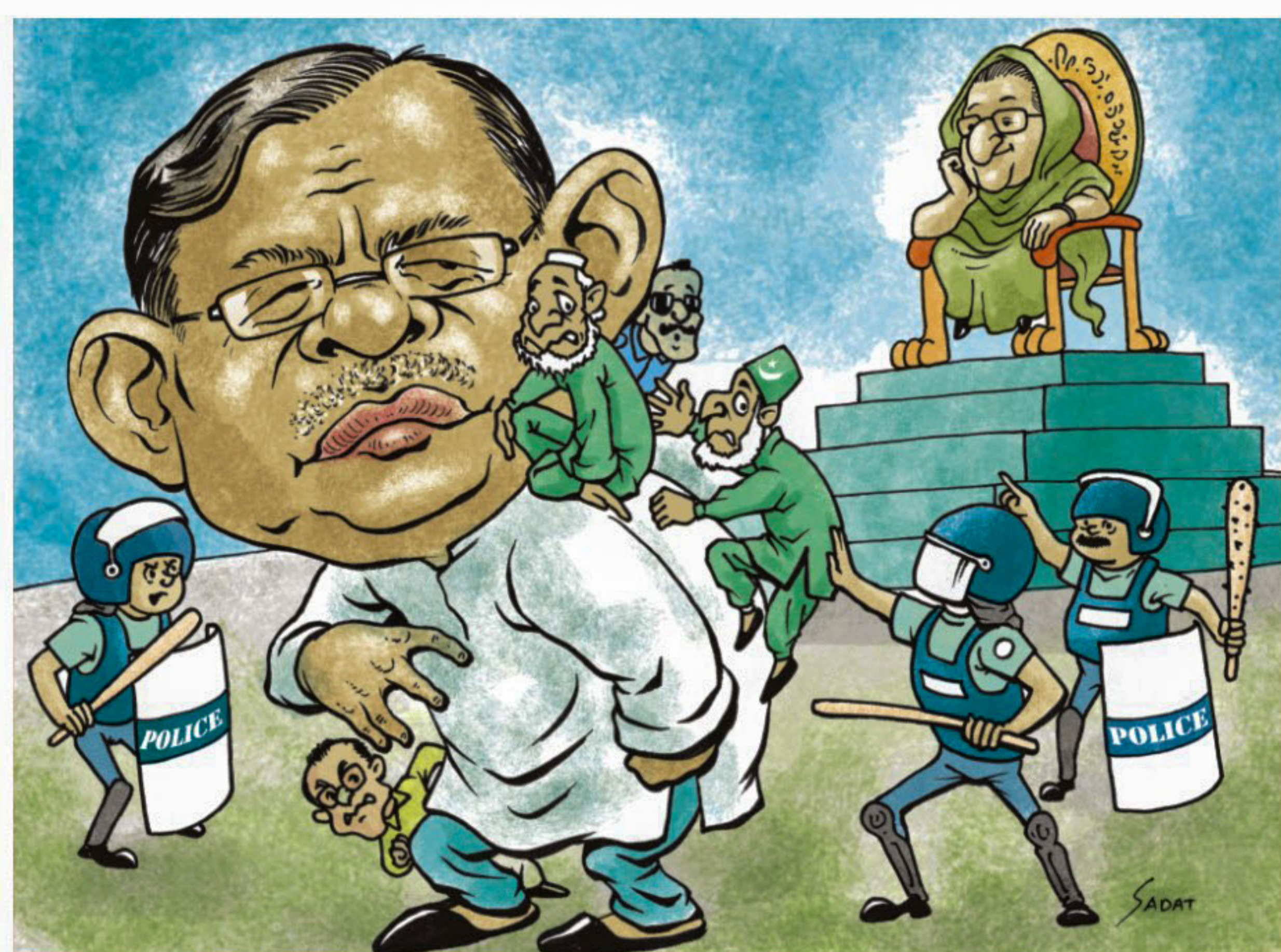
**DUTY WAIVER SINCE LAST NOVEMBER**  
**RMG export to India gets a huge boost**  
REEFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA  
Bangladesh's garment exports to India are increasing fast after the duty-waiver facility extended by the Indian government last year.  
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to Bangladesh announced the duty-waiver for 46 garment items on September 7 last year,  
mainly to minimise the ever-swelling trade gap between the two countries.  
In November, the director general of foreign trade of India announced duty waiver on all Bangladeshi products, except 25 products like alcoholic beverages, to the country as the Indian government trimmed its sensitive list for the least  
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**AGITATION OVER ILIAS ISSUE**  
**AL to go tough on opposition**  
HASAN JAHD TUSHER  
The ruling Awami League will take a tough stance if the BNP-led opposition parties enforce hartal or observe similar programmes against the government in the coming days.  
AL leaders said the party would take to the streets to curb the opposition agitation. In no circumstances, they added, the BNP and allies would be allowed to "hamper the government's development activities".  
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## Crackdown brings BNP, Jamaat closer

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN  
The government's crackdown on BNP bigwigs seems to be helping bridge the gap that developed between the main opposition BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami after the last parliamentary polls.  
Jamaat leaders now plan to exploit the latest political developments in their favour, as they believe the crackdown on BNP leaders has given them an opportunity to get closer to BNP.  
Jamaat that opposed the country's independence has been facing a serious crisis following the arrests of its top leaders on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.  
The latest situation has prompted BNP policymakers to reassess the party's strategy for reshaping ties with Jamaat to intensify anti-government agitations from June after the expiry of the 90-day  
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deadline for the government to restore the caretaker government system.  
Jamaat, a key component of the BNP-led electoral alliance, is likely to be in a much better position to improve its relations with BNP in this fast-changing political situation.  
"We all nationalist forces including components of our alliance are now uniting to resist the government's repression. We will face it unitedly," ASM Hannan Shah, member of BNP standing committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.  
Police last week filed cases against opposition leaders and raided houses of some top BNP men in connection with hartal violence. Most BNP bigwigs went into hiding following the crackdown.  
Talking about the present political situation, Jamaat leader Mujibur Rahman said: "Our relation with BNP was strained but now it will take a solid shape."  
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**Buet teachers agree to call off strike**  
UNB, Dhaka  
The agitating teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) have decided in principle to withdraw their strike that brought to a halt the academic activities of the public university for the last one month.  
The decision came following a meeting of Buet Teachers' Association with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban last night.  
Association President Prof Mujibur Rahman led the 12-member delegation to the meeting.  
Education Secretary Kamal Abul Naser  
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**BREAKING: Khaleda gives govt four more days to find out BNP leader Ilias Ali, threatens to go for tougher programme if govt fails to trace him.**  
thedailystar.net

**BREAKING: BNP calls dawn-to-dusk hartal for Sunday, Monday for getting back its leader M Ilias Ali**  
thedailystar.net

**BREAKING: An hour after issuing a notification asking public servants to refrain from investing in stockmarket, government withdraws it.**  
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