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INFANT HEALTH

No alternative to breast feeding

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TAGORE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Five-day Rabindra Sangeet fest begins simultaneously at two venues in Dhaka

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IT'S SHOWTIME

Obama holds first rallies of 2012 presidential race

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Hold talks for credible polls

Hillary spurs political actors to sort out differences for democracy, slates disappearances, hartal; annual US-Bangladesh talks pledged

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday urged all political actors in Bangladesh to settle their differences through dialogue and plan for holding the next general election in a free, fair and credible manner.

She expressed concern about the disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali and the killing of a labour leader, and called for thorough and independent probe into the incidents.

"We urge all political actors to work together regard-

less of their differences. All political actors must work together for constructive dialogue so that democracy gets sustained path," she said at a joint press briefing at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Dhaka after a 75-minute meeting with her counterpart Dipu Moni.

The two top diplomats later signed the "Joint Declaration on Bangladesh-US Dialogue on Partnership" to hold annual dialogue on bilateral relations and

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pose for photographs after talks at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Onus is on parties

Hillary urges BNP for dialogue in or outside JS to find out solution for fair polls; US wants govt to take right steps; Ilias' daughter gives her a letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hillary Clinton yesterday said it is the responsibility of political parties to find out how a free, fair and participatory election can be held in Bangladesh.

"The US wants a free and fair election. Political parties have to find out the way through holding dialogue and it can be in or outside of parliament," Hillary was quoted as saying dur-

ing a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence.

BNP Vice-chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury briefed newsmen at the chairperson's Gulshan office about the meeting.

The meeting started at 9:25pm and lasted for an hour. Khaleda at the meeting accused the

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LETTER FROM ILIAS' DAUGHTER - PAGE 19

Hillary meets Yunus today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus would hold a meeting early today at the

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- Meeting Yunus, Abed
- Addressing youths
- Meeting civil society
- Leaving 12:15pm (expected)

Zero tolerance for terrorism

Hasina assures Hillary

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday requested the US to return Bangabandhu's convicted killer Rashed Chowdhury to Bangladesh.

She made the request when US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton paid a courtesy call on her

at the Prime Minister's Office in the evening.

Briefing reporters, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the prime minister told Hillary that she had lost 18 members of her family due to terrorism and personally faced 19 terrorist attacks. Therefore, as a matter of principle, she always shows zero tolerance for terrorism.

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Inflation at single digit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inflation edged down to single digit on a point-to-point basis in April due to a fall in rice prices.

Overall inflation declined by 0.17

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(READ MORE ON STAR BUSINESS)

AUDIT OBJECTIONS

Inaction spikes corruption

CAG says timely action could have curbed graft significantly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The level of corruption in the country would have been much lower had the successive governments cleared audit

objections timely, said Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Ahmed Ataul Hakeem yesterday.

"Secretaries [of different ministries]

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PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen in Rajshahi prepare their fishing gears as the rainy season is a little over a month away. During the season, rivers and other water bodies get recharged with water and fish stocks.

FM goes to Delhi tonight

JCC meeting tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni flies to New Delhi this afternoon to co-chair the maiden Joint Consultative Commission meeting tomorrow, in which the issues of Teesta water-sharing, extradition and implementation of land boundary accord will come up for discussion.

The meeting will coordinate and oversee implementation of the initiatives taken during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka last year and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's to New Delhi in 2010, official sources said

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BSF ears wide shut

Border killing goes unabated as Delhi's 'no-fire order' falls on deaf ears

M RAHMAN

Indian Border Security Force has killed two Bangladeshis and injured 10 others on average per month this year despite repeated pledges by their home minister not to open fire along the border.

"Under no circumstances would the Indian border security force fire upon anyone trying to cross into India from Bangladesh," Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram said on July 30 last year during his visit to Dhaka.

"The message has gone down to the last jawan," he added.

But after 25 days of his directive, BSF opened fire in Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira on August 25 injuring a Bangladeshi.

The brutal killings along the border had declined only for a few months after Chidambaram's visit to Dhaka as

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Pranab flies in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee will spend a busy day in Dhaka today -- the concluding day of his two-day trip.

He arrived at Shahjalal International Airport at 9:40pm yesterday. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni received him at the airport.

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CONGRATULATIONS



It stirs in us a great sense of pride to congratulate our Hon'ble Chairman **Mr. M.A. Sabur** on his being re-elected the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the **United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL)**. His rich lore of knowledge and experience will contribute largely to accelerate the pace of development of the Bank. May Allah bestow him with good health and continued success.



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Buddha Purnima today

UNB, Dhaka

Buddhists across the country will celebrate Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the community, today.

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