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BIMAN DODGES BOOTERS

Nepal-bound Bangladesh team returned from airport as flight was unavailable

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AJIT ROY RECALLED

Musical soiree, discussion mark the singer's death anniversary

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'RUSH OF REFORMS'

Manmohan defends new reforms despite protests

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MKA replaces Shahara

Cabinet put through major reshuffle

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN



MK Alamgir

With only a year left in her government's tenure, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reshuffled the cabinet in an apparent bid to reshape an administration plagued with a number of problems.

The shake-up came following the induction of seven new members in her council of ministers last Thursday. It saw nobody axed despite growing public demand for the poor performers to be dropped.

Hasina, who leads the AL-led alliance government now in crises stemming from issues like the stockmarket scam, graft allegations in the Padma bridge project and

Hall-Mark loan fiasco, replaced Home Minister Shahara Khatun with newly appointed Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Shahara seems fortunate. Despite controversies over her various remarks and near failure in improving law and order, she was awarded the posts and telecommunications, removing Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju.

The shuffle surprised many in the fastest growing sector.

Raju, who held the portfolio since Hasina took office in January 2009, was moved to the labour and employment ministry which had been under Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain for the past four years.

Mosharraf is now expatriate

welfare and overseas employment minister.

Newly appointed Mujibul Hoque, who was a whip in parliament, will lead the railways ministry, created in January through splitting the communications ministry.

Veteran AL leader Suranjit Sengupta was earlier appointed rail minister. But he was made a minister without portfolio following the April midnight recovery of Tk 70 lakh from his assistant personal secretary. Obaidul Quader then filled the position.

Another surprise is the information and communication technology (ICT) ministry. Mostafa Faruque Mohammad, one of the newest faces in the cabinet, has been assigned the job.

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PHOTO: REUTERS

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, believed to be the key person behind the anti-Islam movie that inflamed protests across the globe, is escorted out of his home by Los Angeles County Sheriff's officers in Cerritos, California, yesterday.

Abul's man gets Abul's ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Information and Communication Technology Minister Mostafa Faruque



Mohammad was Mostafa Faruque until a week ago managing director of SAHCO, a controversial company owned by his predecessor Syed Abul Hossain.

Mostafa's former company boss Abul Hossain was removed from the communications ministry following the World Bank's allegation of his company's involvement in a "conspiracy of corruption" in the Padma bridge project in November last year.

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PM urged to send Mashur on leave

Ashraf's plea echoed by many leaders at ALCWC meeting; Tofail comes under fire; Hasina rejects Menon's claim

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday requested Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to send her economic affairs adviser Mashur Rahman on leave in order to pave the way for a revival of the Padma bridge loan agreement.

Speaking at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee, he said there was still a possibility of reviving the loan if the government fulfilled the World Bank's remaining condition that the adviser be sent on leave.

"Since the Padma bridge is a popular demand, I humbly submit this request for your kind consideration," Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, was quoted as telling Hasina. The AL general secretary's request

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Anti-US outrage spreading

Dhaka condemns anti-Islam film; protests hit Australia; Pope calls for harmony; Afghan militants attack Nato base

STAR REPORT

The fury over an anti-Islam film targeting American diplomatic missions has spread to include a number of other Western facilities in the Muslim world, raising the spectre Saturday of a widening protest.

Attacks on German and British embassies in Sudan, the ransacking of an American school in Tunisia, a fire at a US-based fast-food restaurant in Lebanon and attacks against multi-national peacekeepers in

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ANTI-ISLAM FILM 'Maker' of global fury quizzed

LA TIMES, AGENCIES

Just after midnight, authorities descended on the Cerritos home of the man believed to be the filmmaker behind the anti-Muslim movie that has sparked protests and rioting in the Arab world.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies escorted Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, 55, to an awaiting car. The man declined to answer questions on his way out and wore a hat and a towel over his face.

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26kg 'heroin' seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday seized a consignment of 26.2 kilograms of powder, preliminarily detected as heroin, at the export cargo village of Shahjalal International Airport.

Talking to The Daily Star, Customs Commissioner Zakiya Parveen confirmed the haul.

The powder was packed in eight packets, which were put in four cartons.

Acting on intelligence that a gang was trying to smuggle heroin through

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A friend of nature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khurshida Begum, a young widow from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, has been selected for the Wangari Maathai Award 2012 for her co-management efforts and leadership in conservation of natural resources.

She started her

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