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EU worried about RMG

Envoy warns of image crisis due to political violence, bad working conditions

International buyers might stop purchasing garment items from Bangladesh because of political violence and bad working conditions that threaten to hurt the country's image abroad, said a top EU diplomat yesterday.

"You are in a danger of spoiling your image; you are in a danger of spoiling your brand. I think that's clear," said William Hanna, ambassador and head of delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, alluding to Tuesday's street violence.

Hanna, however, did not elaborate on it.

The absence of trade union for ensuring workers' rights at factory level created worries among the buyers from the EU and US, and sullied Bangladesh's image abroad, said Hanna.

He was speaking at a discussion on social compliance in the ready-made garment sector in the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Hanna said the employers should change their attitudes towards the workers, as some owners are setting bad examples.

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Thousands of Bangla speaking people from both sides of the border gather near the barbed wire fence at Dhantala of Baliadangi in Thakurgaon to meet their near and dear ones on the occasion of Kali Puja. They exchanged greetings, good wishes and talked with their relatives yesterday. They also gave each other small gifts like biscuits, chanachur, pens, clothes and towels. After partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947, meeting among relatives separated by the border became hard, especially for those who cannot afford the cost and formalities of a trip abroad. The border guards of Bangladesh and India usually allow people to meet at the fence on every Kali Puja.

Heart patient among 3 dead as truck hits ambulance

A cardiac patient, his wife and the driver of an ambulance carrying the patient were killed on their way to a hospital as the vehicle collided with a sand-laden truck in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar early yesterday.

The dead are Nilu Pathan, 50, his wife Farzana Pathan Lipi, 40, and driver Ansar Ali, 35.

The crash left a son and four relatives of the deceased couple injured. They are Nilu's 22-year-old son Nabil Pathan, a student of Uttara Rajuk School and College, three brothers Milu Pathan, Liton Pathan, and Manik Pathan and nephew Sajeb Pathan.

All the injured were first rushed to Dhaka Medical

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you support Finance Minister AMA Muhith's comments defending political appointments to the boards of directors of the state-run banks?

Yes (7%)

No (91%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 298

Do you agree with Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir that opposition BNP was involved with the recent countryside violence and attacks on police by Jamaat-Shibir activists?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

War tribunal told of torture at Goods Hill

A prosecution witness yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that student leader Mahbul Alam of Chittagong was tortured in the presence of war crimes accused Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury that led to his death during the Liberation War.

Faiz Ahmed Siddiqui, who was a guer-

rilla leader of the Communist Party in 1971, said he had heard from an eyewitness that Alam was forced to lie on a bed of nails at the 'Goods Hill' residence of SQ Chowdhury's father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong.

Faiz in his deposition in the case against SQ Chowdhury said Alam, vice-president of Rangunia Collage Student

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Prosecution gets boost

12 new lawyers join team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has added 12 more lawyers to the prosecution team engaged with crimes against humanity trials as new cases were in the pipeline and more manpower was needed during closing arguments of trials.

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Central bank turns to tech

ABNORMAL TRANSACTIONS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has decided to introduce modern technology to detect highly abnormal transactions like that of Hall-Mark.

"We will introduce a dashboard in Bangladesh Bank by next month to see different indicators, including abnormal transactions, of banks," SK Sur Chowdhury, deputy governor of the central bank, said at a discussion on the situation in the banking sector and macroeconomic challenges yesterday.

Dashboard is an electronic instrument where key banking indicators are displayed with different graphical elements, the BB deputy governor told the discussion organised by Economic Reporters' Forum at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

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MORE RELATED STORIES IN STAR BUSINESS



Diamond sold at record £13m

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A huge, internally flawless diamond from India's fabled Golconda mines was sold at auction in Geneva on Tuesday night for a record 20.35m Swiss francs (£13.5m), Christie's said.

The rare, colourless stone -- weighing 76 carats and roughly the size of a large strawberry -- once belonged to Archduke Joseph August of Austria (1872-1962), a prince of the Hungarian line of the Habsburgs.

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West Indies stalwart Shivnarine Chanderepaul, left, raises his bat upon reaching the double century, his second in Test cricket, on the second day of the first match against Bangladesh at Mirpur yesterday. He hammered 203 not out as the tourists declared their first innings at 527 for 4. In reply, the home side reached 164 for 3 at stumps. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM

Tanvir, Tushar confess again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hall-Mark Group Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and its General Manager Tushar Ahmed yesterday once again confessed to magistrates about their involvement in the Tk2,686 crore scam.

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PRAYER TIMING November 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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