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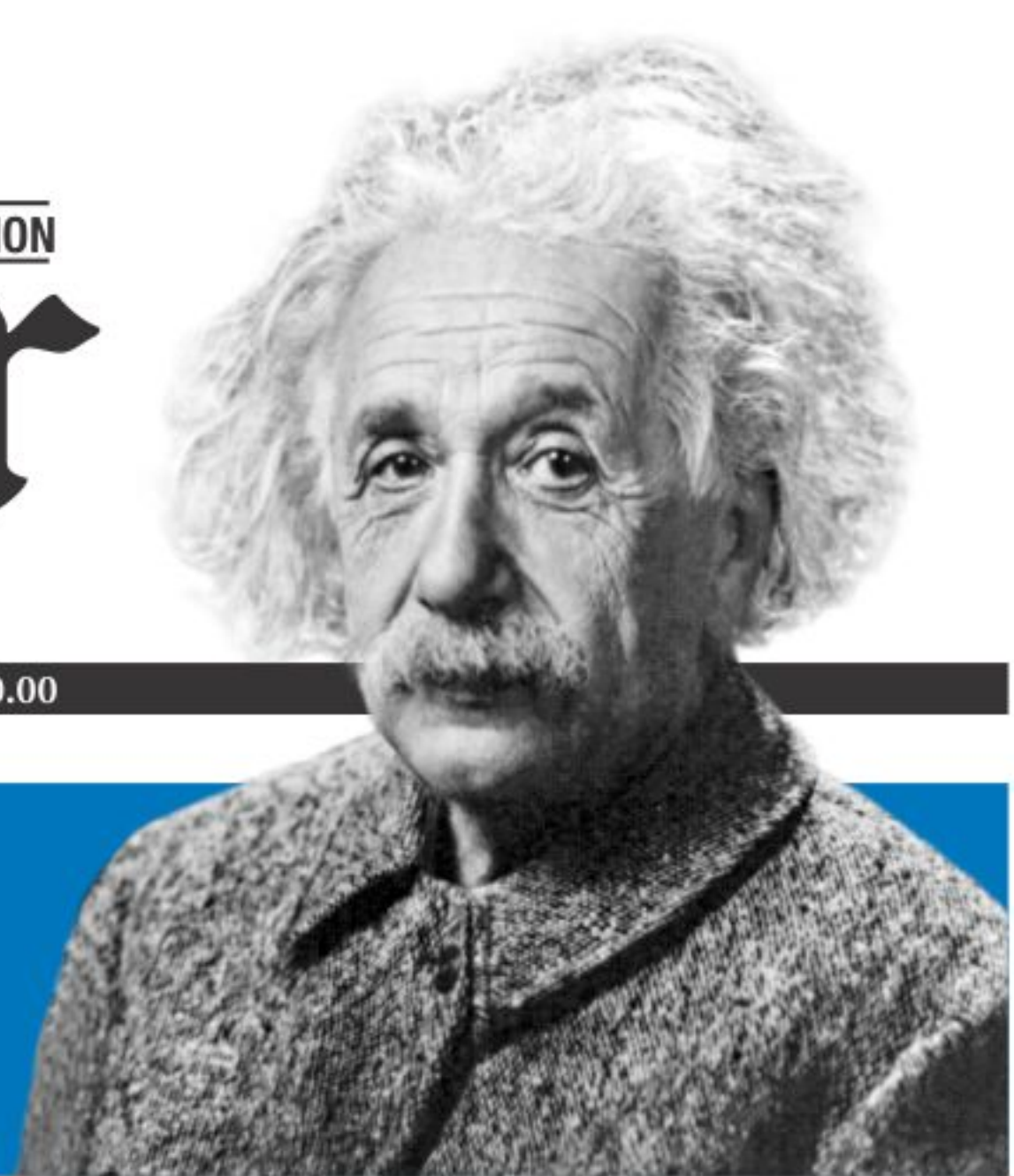
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BLASTS IN SYRIA
Simultaneous car bombing killed 38 near Damascus
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THE FACTORY FIRE
Arson theory pops up when the guilty are relatively influential
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EINSTEIN'S BRAIN
It is of an average size, yet exceptionally complicated
PAGE 7

Costly neglect

Govt sits 11 years on HC directive to ensure garment workers' safety; BGMEA unaware of it; top buyers too dodge global initiative for safety

SAJJADUR RAHMAN
The government has yet to move to form a national committee to ensure workers' safety in garment industries more than 11 years after the High Court directed it to make sure that all apparel plants comply with safety regulations. Even an effort from workers and non-governmental organisations to ensure fire safety in factories failed to see any progress due to reservations of foreign buyers of Bangladeshi garments. Workers and local and foreign NGOs proposed a pilot fire-safety programme for garment factories after a major fire

accident killed 29 workers at Spectrum factory near Dhaka in 2010. But the initiative is yet to make headway. Serious lapses in safety measures led to yet another devastating fire at a garment factory in Ashulia on November 24. At least 111 workers were killed in the blaze at Tazreen Fashions. Sultana Kamal, a leading legal and human rights activist, was shocked to see another fire accident in a relatively new factory. "The factory [Tazreen Fashions] doesn't have alternative staircases and fire exits. How did the factory get the
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MORE IN STAR BUSINESS



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Siam, less than three months old, is seen in his grandmother's lap. He cries almost all the time. Siam's mother Merina, inset, perished in the Tazreen Fashions disaster Saturday night in Ashulia.

No more such deaths, please

Jurain air thick with groans of pain

WASIM BIN HABIB
White clouds drifted across the sky. The sun, on a winter morning, kissed the barren ground below, where everyone stood in the warmth of its rays. At the edge of the otherwise deserted Jurain graveyard gathered a small crowd of people. Silent and shell-shocked, they were all staring at the graves of the unclaimed bodies of 53 garment workers of Tazreen
SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

My fault, but none alerted me

Tazreen MD tells Star
REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and SARWAR A CHOWDHURY
"It was my fault," Delwar Hossain, managing director of Tazreen Fashion Ltd, said yesterday. "But nobody told me that there was no emergency exit which could be
SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



Delwar Hossain

Dec 9 road blockade

Khaleda declares at rally; threatens non-stop hartal for caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday warned the government of non-stop hartal if it did not meet the opposition's demands, including restoration of the caretaker government system, by next month. In the meantime, the BNP-led 18-party alliance will observe various programmes, including a countrywide road blockade on December 9 to press home its demands.
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No fault of fate

Merina went to draw salary for her 3-month maternity leave; put to work instead; left to be buried unidentified

PINAKI ROY
At home waits two-month-old Siam to be fed when Ruhul Amin searches among the debris and in hospitals in Savar and Dhaka for the dead body of his wife and the mother. Five days into the deadly fire at Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Ashulia, Ruhul knows his beloved Merina will never come back to the family alive. But at least he could have it in his fate to lay her to rest. He asked the survivors about Merina, who was working on the second floor of the building when the fire broke out on Saturday night. But who would have remembered whom on that terrifying night when everyone was frantic in search of an escape route from that hell? After the fire fighters had put out the blaze, he ran around the charred building, turning over all the corpses. But most of those were
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UNIDENTIFIED DEAD Kishoreganj farmer first to try DNA test

SHAHEEN MOLLAH
A farmer from Kishoreganj, who lost his daughter in the Tazreen Fashions disaster, went to the National DNA Profiling Laboratory at Dhaka Medical College yesterday to give his blood sample in the hope of locating her grave. Suma Akhter, 16, daughter of Bakul Miah, 38, was on duty at Tazreen Fashions in Nischintapur of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital when the fire broke out on Saturday night.
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Workers stage demo in Ashulia

Vandalise factories, vehicles
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Garment workers of Ashulia yesterday blockaded the Dhaka-Tangail highway for six hours and vandalised vehicles and several factories following a short-circuit mishap in a factory. The demonstrators also clashed with police when the law enforcers tried to calm the situation down.
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Rising waters
Value of exposed assets \$ billion
Dhaka 11.1
Khulna 3.6
Chittagong 2.9
Source: OECD

SEA LEVELS RISE 60pc faster than forecast
AFP, Paris
Sea levels are rising 60 percent faster than the UN's climate panel forecast in its most recent assessment, scientists reported yesterday. At present, sea levels are increasing at an average 3.2 millimetres (0.125 inches) per year, a trio of specialists reported in the journal Environmental Research Letters. This compares with a "best estimate" by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, which
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Where to be born in 2013
STAR REPORT
Switzerland landed on the first place in the index on the best place to be born in 2013, says a recent study compiled by
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Launching Ceremony of Mobile Banking Services for Grameenphone Customers

Dutch-Bangla Bank Mobile Banking Services for Grameenphone Customers

Mr. Tore Johnsen, CEO of Grameenphone and Mr. Sayem Ahmed, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Dutch-Bangla Bank have jointly announced the start of the pilot run of the Dutch-Bangla Bank Mobile Banking services for Grameenphone customers on November 27, 2012.

Mr. Mahmud Hossain, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain Azad, Deputy Director and Head of Financial services of Grameenphone, Mr. K.S. Tabrez, Managing Director and Mr. Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Deputy managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank and senior executives of both the organizations were present on the occasion.

Recognitions of Dutch-Bangla Bank on Mobile Banking:

National Digital Innovation Award, Asian Banker Award, Mobile Money Transfer Award, e-Asia Driving Economy Award, The Computer World (USA) Laureate-2012 for Economic Development

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