

NEWS IN  
brief

## Tutu rejects Nobel Prize for EU

AFP, Stockholm

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and two other Nobel Peace laureates have written to the foundation in protest at the decision to award the 2012 prize to the European Union.

The "EU is clearly not 'the champion of peace' that Alfred Nobel had in mind when he wrote his will", they said in an open letter.

The letter was also signed by Northern Ireland's Mairead Maguire, who won the prize in 1976, and Argentina's Adolfo Perez Esquivel, 1980. The three also called for the prize money of

## Britain suspends aid to Rwanda

AFP, London

Britain yesterday said it would withhold \$33.7 million in aid to Rwanda following concerns over its support of rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Britain meanwhile said it would give a further £18 million to provide 100,000 people in DR Congo with food, water, household items and emergency education, as the advance of M23 rebels sparks fears of a humanitarian catastrophe.

## Farc peace talks adjourned

BBC ONLINE

The Colombian government and rebels from the Farc concluded the first stage of peace talks aimed at ending five decades of conflict.

Top government representative Humberto de la Calle said the talks in Cuba were "advancing as expected". Farc negotiators said the atmosphere during the meetings was "very good", but stressed that there should be no rush to reach a peace agreement. The talks are now scheduled to

## DSK settles case with NY maid

AFP, New York

Disgraced former IMF chief and would-be French president Dominique Strauss-Kahn will settle out of court with a Manhattan maid who accused him of sexual assault, ending a sordid 18-month legal saga, reports say.

According to the New York Times, the 63-year-old French politician and the hotel maid, Nafissatou Diallo, have "quietly reached an agreement to settle" her lawsuit.

## Bush senior hospitalized

AFP, Washington

Former US president George HW Bush has been hospitalized in Texas because of complications from bronchitis, a hospital spokeswoman said Thursday.

Bush, who is 88, was in stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Houston and is expected to be released within 72 hours, the spokeswoman, Stephanie Asin, told AFP.

## Nepal ex-prince held in Thailand

AFP, Bangkok

Nepal's former crown prince Paras Shah has been granted bail after being arrested and charged with cannabis possession on the Thai resort island of Phuket, police said yesterday.

Shah, who as crown prince was unpopular for his playboy lifestyle, was detained along with a Thai woman on October 23 after the management of his condominium complained about his unruly behaviour.

## Yeddyurappa quits BJP

IANS, Bangalore

Former Karnataka chief minister BS Yeddyurappa yesterday quit the BJP and the assembly to launch his own party, denting the Bharatiya Janata Party's prospects in elections due next year.

The 69-year-old, credited with bringing the BJP to power for the first time in Karnataka and south India in 2008, will formally launch the Karnataka Janata Party Dec 9 at Haveri, some 400

## Former NBC chief to head CNN

AFP, New York

Former NBC top executive Jeff Zucker was named president of CNN Worldwide on Thursday, heading up the news media operation as it seeks to adapt to new technology platforms.

Zucker will start in January as head of the 23 news and information businesses including the CNN news channel, CNN International and CNN.com, parent company Time Warner said in a statement.

## Srinagar under indefinite curfew

THE HINDU ONLINE

In the wake of sectarian tension in Baramulla and Budgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday over an alleged sacrilegious marking on some shoes, the authorities imposed curfew in more than half of Srinagar on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar Baseer Khan told The Hindu that curfew was imposed in areas falling under the jurisdiction of nine police stations — Nowhatta, MR Gunj, Safakadal, Khanyar, Rainawari, Nigeen, Lal Bazar, Zadibal and Parimpora.

## 15 pc carbon cut needed for UN goal

AFP, Doha

The chances of hitting the UN's global warming target are diminishing, but the goal can still be met if greenhouse-gas emissions fall by 15 percent by 2020, scientists said yesterday.

In a study issued at the world climate talks in Doha, they cautioned against mounting pessimism that the UN's objective of curbing warming to a safer two degrees Celsius is now out of reach.

"The window for reversing emission trends is rapidly narrowing," the "Climate Action Tracker" report issued here said.

"Emissions must be reduced by roughly 15 percent from present levels by 2020 to be on a pathway holding warming below 2C" by 2100," it added.



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi greets supporters from a car yesterday. Suu Kyi demanded an apology for monks hurt in a violent police crackdown at the Chinese copper mine protest, after she held talks with the two sides.

PHOTO: AFP

## Egypt charter finalised as opposition cries foul

REUTERS, Cairo

An Islamist-led assembly raced through approval of a new constitution for Egypt on Friday to end a crisis over President Mohamed Morsi's newly expanded powers, but opponents responded with another rally in Cairo against the Islamist leader.

"The people want to bring down the regime," they chanted in Tahrir Square, where hundreds had gathered, echoing the chants that rang out in the same place less than two years ago and brought down Hosni Mubarak.

Morsi said the decree halting court challenges to his decisions, which sparked eight days of protests and violence by Egyptians calling him a new dictator, was "for an exceptional stage", aimed at speeding up the democratic transition.

"It will end as soon as the people vote on a constitution," he told state television while the constituent assembly was still voting on the draft, which the Islamists say reflects Egypt's new freedoms. "There is no place for dictatorship."

The opposition cried foul. Liberals, leftists, Christians, more moderate Muslims and others

had withdrawn from the assembly, saying their voices were not being heard.

They have called for a big rallies across the country yesterday after tens of thousands protested against Morsi's decree on Tuesday. Demonstrations tend to gather pace later in the day.

Protesters said they would push for a 'no' vote in a referendum, which could happen as early as mid-December. If approved, it would immediately cancel the president's decree.

The assembly concluded the vote after a 19-hour session, approving all 234 articles including presidential powers, the status of Islam, the military's role and the extent to which human rights will be respected in the post-Hosni Mubarak era.

The final draft contains historic changes to Egypt's system of government. It limits to eight years the amount of time a president can serve, for example. Mubarak was in power for three decades. It also introduces a degree of oversight over the military establishment - though not enough for critics.

## 2 district AL leaders killed

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Meherpur district Bus Owners' Association.

Local AL leaders and activists blocked the Kushtia-Meherpur highway around 9:30am yesterday in protest at the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the criminals. They have planned to keep the blockade all day long today and call a hartal tomorrow.

A group of seven or eight men, whom the AL leader personally knew, approached his house near Bamundi bazar at about 9:15pm, said his domestic help Biplob.

One of them called Shahiduzzaman on his cellphone when he came out and took them in his house, Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman of Gangni Police Station quoted Biplob as saying.

The AL leader's wife and

son were not at home at that time.

After some small talk, one of the visitors shot Shahiduzzaman in the head and chest, firing thrice and leaving him dead there and then, said the help. The thugs fired some rounds in the air before fleeing the scene.

Former Meherpur-2 lawmaker Mokbul Hossain, Gangni upazila AL president Shahiduzzaman Khokon, general secretary MA Khalek, Gangni upazila chairman AKM Shafiqul Alam, Gangni municipality chairman Mohiuddin visited the spot that night.

In the Bogra killing, the victim is Sujanur Rahman Sujan, 53, youth and sports secretary of district AL, who lived in Malgram.

Sujan was returning home from Bogra town by rickshaw around 9:00pm. Some miscreants closed in on him in Khandar area and slashed him before

leaving him on the road, locals said.

Locals carried him to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir visited Sujan's house on Thursday night. The minister assured his family that the killers would be brought to book at any cost.

Police recovered machetes and other knives from the spot, said Inspector (Investigation) Riaz Uddin of Bogra Sadar Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge Sokir Uddin Bhuiyan of the police station said they have arrested six suspects and filed a case against them and some others in connection with the murder.

The arrestees are Mollik, 56, Manik, 20, Rahman Sheikh, 40, Hossain Ali, 20, Rana, 38, and Santo Bepari, 30.

## Muhith hints

FROM PAGE 20 getting banking service while the rest of the people are out of the purview of banking coverage, he told his audience.

There were 48 commercial banks operating all over the country, he said adding that more banks were being established to improve banking services.

The minister observed that online banking facilities should be reached to every people at the grassroots level as soon as possible.

Basic Bank Chairman Sheikh Abdul Hai Bachchu, Sylhet city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, lawmaker Shofiqur Rahman Chowdhury, among others, addressed the function.

## 'It will kill me!'

FROM PAGE 1

colleagues perish in the fire.

When The Daily Star correspondent met Tahera at her home yesterday, she was sitting in the balcony, showing almost no movement. Her eyes were fixed on the ground while her daughter was combing her hair. Flies were buzzing around her, some even tried to get into her nose; but Tahera remained stoic.

"We did not find any burn injuries on her body. When the fire broke out at the factory, she tried to get down from the fourth floor.

neighbours. Nothing can draw her attention these days, even when our baby cries out for motherly affection," said Tahera's husband Rashidul Islam, who works at another garment factory in Ashulia.

Tahera is now afraid of people, said Rashidul, whenever she sees people she screams for help. She does not eat with her own hand anymore, he added.

"I found her unconscious when I reached the spot. But before losing her

## Call for stronger ties

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identified but not resolved.

He said Bangladesh has addressed India's security concerns by handing over Indian insurgents and "there is no Indian insurgent in Bangladesh".

Tofail referred to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent visit to India and her remarks made in Delhi, saying "that means we are united, and terrorists would not be allowed to operate from Bangladesh territory".

"We may have differences among our political parties but we are one today when it comes to strengthening relations with India," he claimed.

Senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said "We must have a good working relationship with India to resolve all outstanding problems."

The relations between

India and Bangladesh had at times been "warm" and at times "cool" but they were never disrupted, he observed.

According to Moudud, Khaleda's recent visit to India "opened a new window for us by setting up the relationship not only between the peoples of the two countries but also between the parties".

On sharing the waters of common rivers between India and Bangladesh, Moudud said the non-signing of the Teesta deal has embarrassed the Sheikh Hasina government as much as the Indian government.

Both Tofail and Moudud voiced concern over border killings by BSF but acknowledged their number has come down considerably.

However, they wanted to bring it down to zero.

## 'Friends of Syria' to step up pressure on Assad

AFP, Tokyo

Delegates from more than 60 countries yesterday agreed in Tokyo to ramp up pressure on Bashar al-Assad's regime and urged the international community to unite to force change in Syria.

At a meeting in the Japanese capital, the group's fifth since its inception, they called for a full oil embargo on Syria, a move aimed at cutting off a rich source of currency for the regime.

The statement welcomed the formation of the National Coalition, a newly-united opposition group that has been recognised by Britain, France and Spain as the legitimate representatives of Syria.

## WIKILEAKS CASE

## Manning reveals his despair in 'cage'

AFP, Fort Meade

WikiLeaks suspect Bradley Manning admitted to falling apart during his detention and contemplating suicide, as he took the stand for the first time at a pre-trial hearing on Thursday.

The 24-year-old US Army private, facing possible life imprisonment over allegedly leaking documents to the secret-spilling WikiLeaks website, acknowledged he had suicidal thoughts initially when he was held in a "cage" in Kuwait in 2010.

Later on Thursday military judge Denise Lind said Manning could potentially plead guilty to lesser charges and avoid conviction for "aiding the enemy," which carries a



possible life sentence.

Manning, who has poor vision, said he had his glasses taken away, had to request toilet paper and was forced to remove his underwear at night and then sleep on an uncomfortable mattress designed for inmates deemed a suicide risk.

The boyish-looking soldier recounted how he was forced to stand at attention naked in his cell and encountered angry responses when he questioned his detention regime.

Manning, accused of the worst security breach in American history, faces a slew of charges over his alleged disclosures to WikiLeaks, which embarrassed the US government and its allies.

"We have been repeatedly assured by the Indian government about a stop to border killings, but the killings are going on", Moudud added.

Senior BNP leader M K Anwar said as far as Teesta deal is concerned, "the ball is absolutely in India's court".

Asked about Bangladesh granting India transit, Moudud said if it (transit) was mutually beneficial, then there should be no problem at all.

Replying to a question, Moudud said BNP is "actively considering returning to Jatiya Sangsad".

He said BNP standing committee members would meet either in December-end or the beginning of January to take a decision on whether to join parliament's winter session.

took her to a local doctor, who prescribed her some medicines, but they don't seem to be working. Some suggested taking her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but I don't know how much it would cost," said Rashidul.

He said he heard compensation was being provided to the injured but he did not know where or to whom to contact. With these words, he gave a blank look, not much different from that of his wife's.