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A LOSS, UNEXPLAINABLE

Veteran film actor Haradhan Bandopadhyay passes away at the age of 87

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DELHI GANG RAPE

The incident poses a question: how shining is "shining India"

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'THE PERFECT AMERICAN'

Opera shows Walt Disney's fantasy world in a new light

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Bangladesh ahead of India

Amartya praises gender equality

STAR REPORT

Concerted efforts to promote gender equality have enabled Bangladesh to outperform India in all social indicators, said Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Saturday.

"The large number of women health workers or

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Bell rings for duty free access to US

Bangladesh's GSP facility might be scrapped if govt fails to show improved labour standards

INAM AHMED

After several years of warning to act on labour standards that fell on deaf ears, the US has finally initiated actions that may take away Bangladeshi products' duty-free access to the US.

The United States Trade Representative on December 21, 2012 sent a letter to Commerce Minister GM Quader stating that, "We are beginning to consider options that would affect Bangladesh's continued eligibility for benefits under

the GSP".

GSP or Generalised System of Preference is the facility that allows duty-free export from a country.

A commerce ministry top official said the US is going to have a public hearing on the cancellation of GSP in March, and unless the government can say something meaningful to pacify resentment in the US against low labour standards in Bangladesh, the duty-free facility would

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Khaleda feels insecure on hartal day

Skips proceedings of graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday ducked appearing before a Dhaka court in a corruption case for the 10th time citing security concerns.

The BNP-led 18-party alliance enforced a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday to protest the latest fuel price hike.

Khaleda's counsel Mahbub Uddin Khokon submitted a petition in

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Education sector shows rosy picture

WASIM BIN HABIB

In the four decades after independence, not that many governments had taken up measures that could be considered remarkable for development of the country's overall education system.

The plans worked out and being implemented by the Awami League-led government may not yield perfect impacts yet. But the education sector in the last four years has seen some major changes taking place, and with good results.

The number of enrolment at all levels

4 YEARS OF AWAMI LEAGUE GOVERNMENT

has shot up significantly, dropout rate declined considerably, pass rate in the public examinations leapt up, and above all, a massive awareness on education has grown among people.

The government with all seriousness has tried to put an end to the prevailing chaotic education system in its tenure so far.

It dared to take an ambitious step of distributing free textbooks among all students of primary and secondary levels

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Stray violence marks hartal

Vehicles torched, vandalised; 70 held

STAR REPORT

The nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance, protesting the latest fuel price hike, was marked by incidents of arson, vandalism, explosions, and chases and counter-chases yesterday.

At least 15 vehicles were vandalised, two were set ablaze, 35 homemade bombs exploded and three people were injured in Dhaka city alone.

Chases and counter-chases among

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Our tenuous democracy

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has described the activities of the opposition as irresponsible. He was of course referring to the hartal called for yesterday by the BNP-led 18-party alliance over the rise in fuel prices. While no one will dispute the truism that a hartal or general strike is an accepted political norm in a democracy, one is surely a trifle bewildered when a political party that has been in power more than once in the 41-year history of this country decides in cavalier fashion to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Handcuffed body of city BNP leader found

Relatives say Rab picked him up; Rab denies

STAR REPORT

Police recovered the handcuffed body of a BNP leader from Kushtia on Saturday night, around three hours after he was allegedly picked up by Rab members from Jhenidah.

The dead, Rafiqul Islam Mazumdar, was the general secretary of BNP's ward-56 unit of Dhaka City Corporation, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

He was also vice-president of Bangabazar Super Market in Dhaka and a resident of Shanir Akhara in the capital.

"The handcuff read "police". But we are



Rafiqul Islam



The handcuff

not sure what actually happened as this type of handcuff is available in the market," said Zoynul Abedin, additional superintendent of police in Kushtia.

"He [the victim] might have been killed over past enmity in the capital," added Zoynul.

Earlier on June 25, 2010, president of ward-56 BNP Chowdhury Alam disappeared never to be seen again in public.

Rafiqul, 39, went to Savar from his Shanir Akhara house on Friday morning

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অঙ্গিনন্দন

২০০৯-২০১০ কর বর্ষে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ জন ব্যক্তি করদাতার মধ্যে আমাদের প্রতিষ্ঠানের ৪ জন সম্মানিত পরিচালক ও উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ সম্মানিত হওয়ায় আমরা গর্বিত।

মোহাম্মদ ইউসুফ, পরিচালক, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত এর কাছ থেকে জাতীয় ট্যাক্স কার্ড ও সম্মাননা ক্রেস্ট গ্রহণ করেন।

মরহুম ডা. এম. এম. আমজাদ হোসেন, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এর পক্ষে আনোয়ারা হোসেন, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত এর কাছ থেকে জাতীয় ট্যাক্স কার্ড ও সম্মাননা ক্রেস্ট গ্রহণ করেন।

এম.এ. হায়দার হোসেন, পরিচালক, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত এর কাছ থেকে জাতীয় ট্যাক্স কার্ড ও সম্মাননা ক্রেস্ট গ্রহণ করেন।

লায়লা হোসেন, মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত এর কাছ থেকে জাতীয় ট্যাক্স কার্ড ও সম্মাননা ক্রেস্ট গ্রহণ করেন।

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