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AFTER THE ARAB SPRING

The people are still dominated by frustration, violence and conflict

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CIA-PENTAGON PICKS

Obama nominates Hagel as defence secretary, Brennan as CIA chief

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'THE GRANDMASTER'

Hong Kong director Wong Kar Wai returns with martial arts film

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Dhaka lodges protest over killings by BSF

Dipu Moni says move on to retain US duty-free access

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has termed the killing of Bangladeshi nationals on the border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) "unpardonable, excessive and very unfortunate".

"Killing is in no way pardonable ... it's not at all desirable," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told a press conference at her ministry yesterday.

Expressing Bangladesh's concern over the recent killing of its citizens, the minister

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Sand traders, under the very nose of the administration, continue to encroach upon the Shitalakkhya by dumping construction materials illegally. As a result, the river has been narrowed down almost to its half near Kanchpur bridge in Naryanganj. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

11 fishermen killed in Bay

Rohingya robbers threw them into sea after looting trawler on Jan 2, incident comes to light after arrest of a 'killer'

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged Rohingya robber on Sunday night described how five Rohingyas had hacked to death 11 Bangladeshi fellow fishermen on Wednesday near Sonarchar Dwip (island) in Barguna district and dumped the bodies in the sea.

Fisherman Hamidul Haque, 45, son of late Syed Akbar of Budichong area in Myanmar, narrated the gruesome incident to Ukha police of Cox's Bazar district in presence of journalists. He claimed himself innocent.

A Myanmar citizen, Hamidul has been living in Cox's Bazar town for long.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Sayeed Miah, also duty officer of Inani Police Outpost, said law enforcers of the outpost had recovered the attacked trawler and arrested Hamidul, who was then in the boat, from the coastal

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BNP likely to join next JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As parliament goes into the New Year session on January 27, MPs from the BNP-led opposition may return to the House, ending almost a year-long boycott to raise their voice on a number of issues of national importance.

President Zillur Rahman, who convened the session yesterday on the advice of the prime minister, will address the House at the beginning of its session.

"We are actively thinking of participating in the House proceedings. We will sit soon to take a

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Messi wins record 4th Ballon d'Or

AFP, Zurich

Lionel Messi added yet another record to his stellar list of achievements over the past 12 months yesterday when he won an unprecedented fourth, consecutive, Ballon d'Or at a FIFA gala in Zurich.

The accolade seals Messi's status as the greatest player of his generation after he saw off Real Madrid rival Cristiano

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CABINET OKAYS RIVER PROTECTION BILL

River commission to have little power

It can only recommend measures; greens doubt its effectiveness as grabbing, pollution go on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of river grabbing and pollution, the government is forming the National River Protection Commission which will only make recommendations but have no statutory power of implementation.

Green activists, who have long been pressing for a single river authority, say just another recommending body would not do any good.

The government has a legal obligation in this as the High Court on July 19, 2009 ordered forming a commission which would be the

highest authority in protecting rivers.

The cabinet at a meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday gave the final nod to the draft of National River Protection Commission Act, 2013 to form the commission. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The commission will advise the government and coordinate the activities of ministries involved in management of water and river, Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the secretary also said the river commission will be made of a

chairman and four members, including hydrologist, environmental expert and lawyer.

A new commission will be formed every three years and it will submit the annual report to the president by March 31 every year.

The National River Protection Commission Act will help the government take legal action to protect rivers from encroachment, pollution and unscrupulous use of rivers as well as other water bodies, Mosharraf said.

However, environmentalists doubt if the commission will make any difference.

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Good start, bad ending

A number of major diplomatic moves remained stalled

REZAUL KARIM

Despite a boost in bilateral relations with important countries like India and the USA after Awami League had assumed power in 2009, Bangladesh is recently having differences of opinion with them on some significant issues.

Issues like the Teesta deal and non-ratification of Land Boundary Agreement with India halted connectivity or transit. The unexpected gesture from the Indian



side had sent a wave of shock and dismay to the people of Bangladesh and cast a cloud over the Dhaka-Delhi relations, which had till then been marked by unusual warmth and cordiality under the Hasina government.

Diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the USA apparently suffered a jolt following the removal of Prof Muhammad Yunus from the office of the

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Congratulations

Mr. Jahangir Alamin, Chairman of Shamsul Alamin Group, Managing Director of Fuad Spinning Mills Ltd. & Director of FBCCI, has been re-elected as the President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) for the years 2013 & 2014.



Mr. Jahangir Alamin

We heartily congratulate and pray to the Almighty Allah for him and his newly elected committee members for good health and successful performance.

From the Board of Directors, Officers, Staff & Workers of



Shamsul Alamin Group

Alamin Centre, 25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000

TAZREEN FIRE JS body trashes BGMEA probe

Says report aimed to protect factory owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary watchdog on labour yesterday rejected a probe by the garment industry lobby group on the deadly fire at Tazreen Fashions, saying it was biased and intended to protect the factory owner.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in the probe report says the fire on November 24 last year-- the deadliest the country has ever witnessed -- was pre-planned.

"The report is a manifestation of their nonsensical and irresponsible nature," said Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and

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জনাব মোঃ মোতাহার হোসেন মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রীর নিকট থেকে সম্মাননা ফ্রেমট গ্রহণ করছেন।
ডাই-টেক্স ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এর স্বত্বাধিকারী, উইনী ইলেকট্রো-ট্রেড লিমিটেড এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এবং পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোঃ মোতাহার হোসেন এর প্রজ্ঞাশীল ও দূরদর্শী নেতৃত্বে পরিচালিত প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের মাধ্যমে সর্বোচ্চ আয়কর দাতা হিসাবে দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে বিশেষ অবদানের স্বীকৃতি স্বরূপ গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার করবর্ষ ২০০৯-২০১০ এর জন্য ব্যক্তি শ্রেণী করদাতা ক্যাটাগরীতে তাঁকে ট্যাক্স কার্ড (সিআইপি) সম্মাননা প্রদান করায় প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের সকল পরিচালক, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ হতে অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা। দেশে অর্থনৈতিক বিনির্মাণ ও সামাজিক উন্নয়নে নিয়োজিত থেকে ভবিষ্যতেও তিনি সবার প্রশংসনীয় দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ ও সম্মান অর্জনে সক্ষম হবেন, এই শুভ কামনায়-

BIRLA TYRES ডাই-টেক্স ইন্টারন্যাশনাল winne উইনী ইলেকট্রো-ট্রেড লিমিটেড
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(ইন্ডিয়ান ও অটোমোটিভ ব্যাটারী)

373

Countdown

419

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