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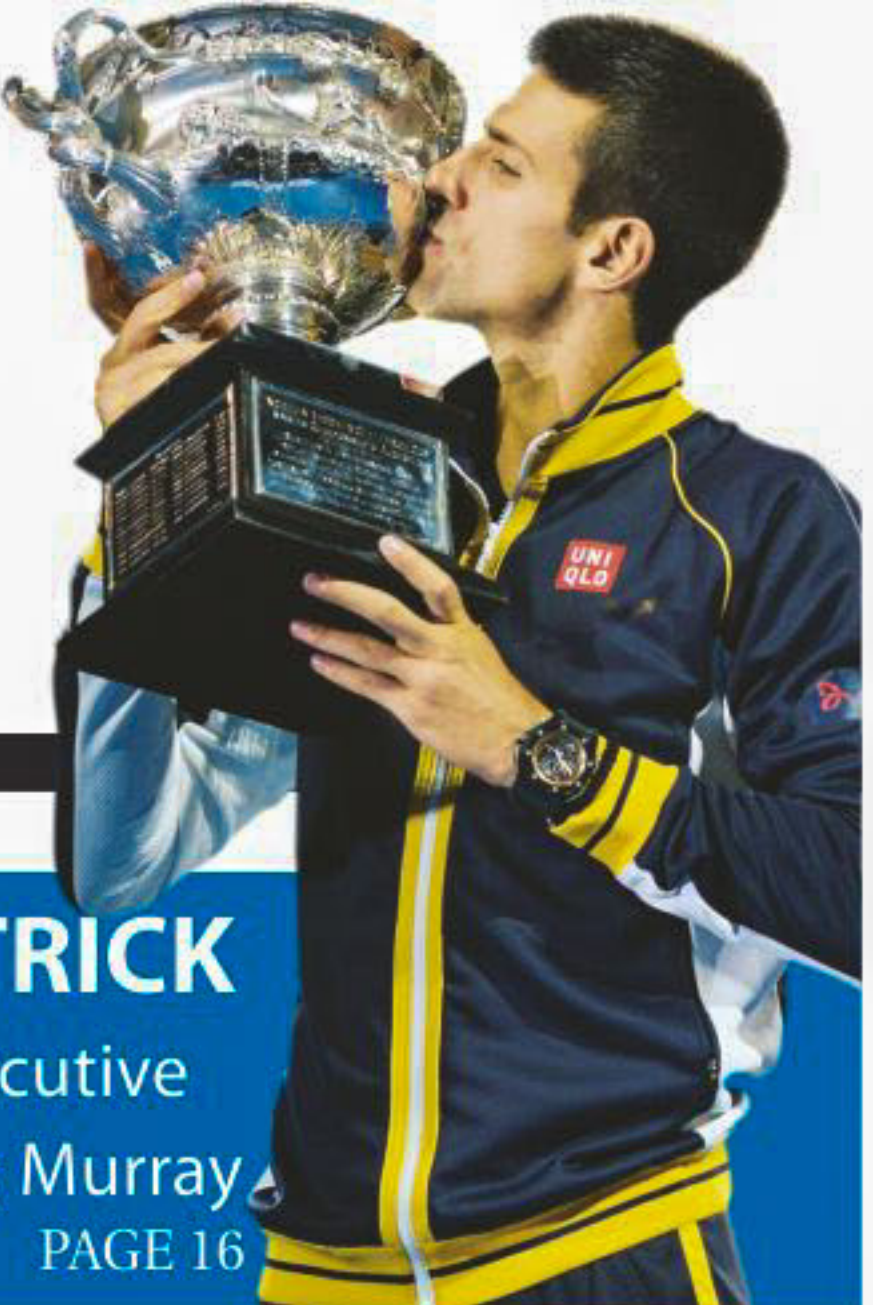
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'OPERATION LAST RESORT'

Anonymous hacks US govt site in response to Aaron Swartz's death

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GREATER DHAKA TRANSPORT

France will provide \$45m for 20km Gazipur-airport road construction

PAGE B1

DJOKOVIC'S HATTRICK

The Serbian wins 3rd consecutive Australian Open by beating Murray

PAGE 16

ILLEGAL

Building, factory set up unlawfully but manufactured products of top European buyers on subcontract

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK with SHAHEEN MOLLAH and REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

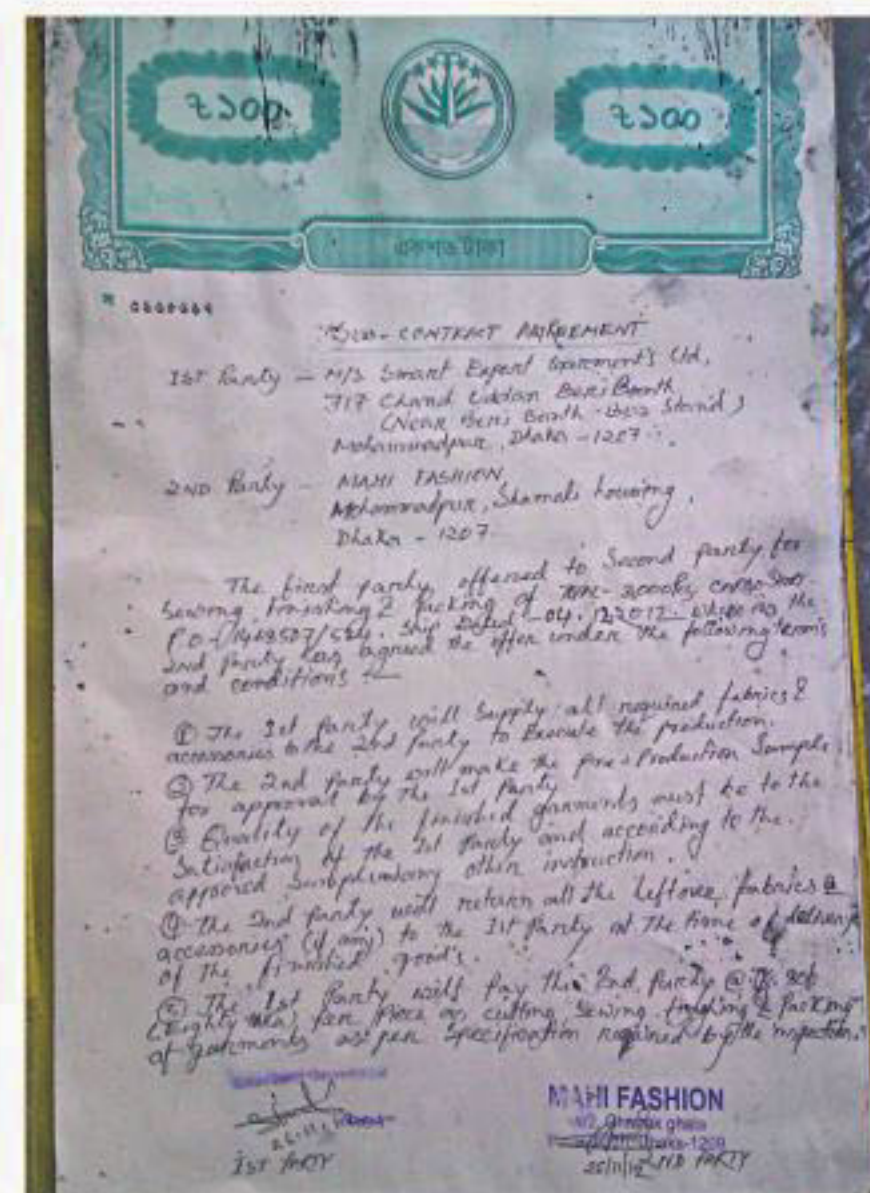
Smart Export Garments Ltd, where seven workers died in a blaze on Saturday, used to produce clothing items at an unlicensed factory for European brands under subcontract.

A visit to the factory in the capital's Mohammadpur revealed that there was neither any fire-fighting equipment nor any exit signs on the walls at the factory.

The owners of Smart Export Garments could not be contacted as they went into hiding soon after the blaze. They set up the factory on the second floor of a two-storey building owned by Nasima Khanam.

Nasima admitted that she did not have any approval from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) for constructing the building.

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Tags of European brands lie among the debris of fire-ravaged Smart Export Garments Ltd. Top right, an agreement paper showing the subcontract between Smart Export and Mahi Fashion.

PHOTO: STAR

Strike fire, building safety deal

3 labour rights bodies ask garment buyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three influential labour rights organisations have called on major garment retailers and brands to join a fire and building safety accord to prevent factory tragedies in Bangladesh.

The International Labour Rights Forum (ILRF), Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) and Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) made the move after Saturday's fire at Smart Export Garments Ltd in the capital, which

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Zillur critical of opposition role

Laments BNP's JS boycott spree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the main opposition BNP had failed to discharge its constitutional and democratic obligation by refraining from regularly participating in parliament over the last four years.

"If the main opposition considered themselves as people's representatives and servants, then it was its obligation to discharge its responsibilities by joining parliament and expressing views through constructive discussions in and outside parliament," he said.

The president was addressing the opening sitting of the New Year session of the House amid boycott by the BNP-led opposition MPs.

Like yesterday, the opposition lawmakers, belonging to BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party, were not present when he addressed the Jatiya Sangsad in the last three New Year sessions.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

PADMA BRIDGE KL back in game again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After nearly five months of silence, Malaysia has started communicating with Bangladesh, assuming that the World Bank might not provide fund for the much-hyped Padma bridge project.

Malaysia, the lone country that formally offered funding the project, did not reply to queries of the Bridges Division regarding inconsistencies in its proposal since September last year.

Kualala Lumpur submitted its "final proposal" on August 27 last year.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Fresh design in 6 months

PM vows to start construction of Padma Bridge within govt's tenure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would start constructing the Padma bridge in its tenure even if the World Bank fund was not available.

"We've already asked the Bangladesh Army, Buget and Bridges Division to complete within six months a fresh design for the bridge," Hasina said during a meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party at the Jatiya Sangsad.

The construction would begin once the designing was done, meeting sources quoted her as saying.

The World Bank cancelled its \$1.2 billion credit for the \$2.9 billion project on June 29 last year, saying it had credible evidence of corruption conspiracy involving

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Nightclub fire kills 232

AFP, Santa Maria

At least 232 people died early yesterday when a fire tore through a nightclub packed with university students in the southern Brazilian city of Santa Maria, police said.

Shocked survivors described a frantic rush to the exits as flames swept through the crowded club in the university town, with scores of young people getting tram-

pled and passing out from smoke inhalation.

Another 131 people were injured, and the death toll from the inferno had climbed rapidly as firefighters pulled bodies from the charred remains of the "Kiss" club, believed to have been packed with hundreds of revelers.

The tragedy appeared to be the deadliest such blaze in more than a decade,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Obituary Note

Mr. M. Sirajul Islam
1934 - 2013



With profound grief we inform you the sad demise of Mr. M. Sirajul Islam on January 27th, 2013 at 2.35pm in Apollo Hospital Dhaka at the age of 78. His Namaze- Janaza will be held Baad-Zohur at Azad Masjid, Gulshan 1.

Hailing from Old Dhaka City Mr. M. Sirajul Islam was a former MLA elected from Dhaka city in the General election of 1970. He was also one of the signatories of the first Constitution of Independent Bangladesh. He was the Governor of Lions Bangladesh, founder member of National Medical College Hospital, Chairman of UCEP & President of Dhaka Mahanagar Samity.

He was the life member of Bangladesh Lions Foundation, Anjuman Mofidul Islam, Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Bangladesh Diabetic Association, National Heart Foundation, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Life- Member, Bangladesh Tuberculosis Society, Liver Foundation of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital.

He was an avid philanthropist and worked in the various area of health care, education. He was awarded as "Ambassador of Goodwill" from Lions International HQ at USA for his remarkable contribution.

~ Family ~

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Govt cautioned

HC asks it not to harass Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government not to harass BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir for next two months by implicating him in cases "without the due process of law".



In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the government, seeking an explanation in two weeks as to why it should not be directed to desist from detaining the opposition leader in any more cases having no cognisable offences against him.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

2 more die of Nipah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nipah virus claimed two more lives in Pabna and Rajshahi yesterday, raising the death toll to eight so far this month.

"We identified three new cases of the disease. Two of them have died today," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

The first death from the disease this year was reported in Dhaka. People become infected with the virus after drinking raw date sap.

The symptoms of the infection include fever, sneezing and cough, hysteria and respiratory problems. The highly contagious virus spreads

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Dedication Ceremony Mundipharma Bangladesh

Mundipharma, Gazipur, Bangladesh

Dame Theresa Sackler, Mundipharma Group and Mr. Umesh K. Modi, Chairman, President and CEO Modi-Mundipharma dedicate, group's state-of-the-art pharmaceutical plant today (28th January, 2013) at Bangladesh.

This would manufacture world's leading products such as 'Betadine' and 'Continus' technology brands i.e. Unicontin, Nitrocontin, etc.

The group would also bring the world renowned formulations of their esteemed partners including Merz Pharma - Germany, Norgine - UK, Sigma Tau - Italy, IBSA - Switzerland and many more to Bangladesh.

Mundipharma Family wishes success to the group's first pharmaceutical manufacturing venture in Bangladesh.

Mundipharma Bangladesh

Mirzapur, J.L No.08, Gazipur, Bangladesh

আমরা শোকাহত

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত উদ্যোক্তা, প্রাক্তন ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক গোলাম ফারুক আহমেদ গত ২৬ জানুয়ারী ২০১৩, শনিবার বিকাল ৩:৩০ মিনিটে রাজধানীর এ্যাপোলো হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহে রাজেউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৬০ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, এক পুত্র, দুই কন্যা সহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স পরিবার গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং তাঁর শোক সন্তুষ্ট পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি।

জীবন বীমায় বিশ্বস্ত নাম

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড