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French-led troops seize the airport in Timbuktu  
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DSE launches two price indices to reflect market activities accurately  
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**'BOLIVIA IN SAO PAULO'**  
Brazilian tells migrants' story in Dhaka photo exhibition  
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## Jamaat, Shibir strike terror

*Attack on police across country, blast bombs, smash 200 vehicles in protest against war trial*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday unleashed terror on police in the capital and elsewhere to mount pressure on the government to stop the war crimes trials.  
Once again, their hit-and-run assaults caught the law enforcers off guard in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Joypurhat and Satkhira.  
The Jamaat-Shibir mayhem left at least 70 people, including 50 cops, injured. A policeman and an auto-rickshaw driver in Chittagong suffered bullet wounds as Shibir activists opened fire.  
They smashed around 200 vehicles across the country. Neither Jamaat nor its student wing had called a programme for yesterday.  
But around 10:00am yesterday, the Jamaat-Shibir men brought out militant processions simultaneously in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi cities, welding firearms,  
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Vehicles set alight by Jamaat-Shibir men during a clash with law enforcers in the capital's Motijheel area yesterday morning. Inset, police take their colleague injured by the rioting activists.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Political 'offenders' safe

*Dhaka, Delhi sign landmark treaty to extradite criminals; ease visa provisions*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
In a major breakthrough, Bangladesh and India yesterday inked Extradition Treaty to hand over the convicted and criminals hiding in each other's countries.  
The deal, however, excluded the political asylum seekers, accused of political crimes and the offenders awarded with less than one year's jail term.  
According to the agreement, those who are charged with murder, culpable homicide and other serious crimes would come under the purview of the deal.  
Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and his Indian counterpart Sushilkumar Sambhaji Rao Shinde signed the agreement at the end of their bilateral talks. The dialogue also yielded a revised travel arrangement, through which Dhaka and Delhi have eased their visa regimes under several conditions.  
"The agreements will enhance ties in the areas of security...and people-to-people contact," said Alamgir and Shinde at a joint press conference after the deal signing at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.  
The extradition treaty will not, however, make way for instant deportation of Anup Chatia, jailed general secretary of United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), as he had moved court seeking political asylum in Bangladesh on security grounds.  
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PHOTO ON PAGE 20  
FULL TEXT OF THE TREATY ON STAR ONLINE

## Cancelled weeks after approval

*Govt puts off Harbin deal amid allegation of foul play in Barapukuria coal power plant tender*

SHARIER KHAN  
Two weeks after approving a power contract to controversial Chinese company Harbin, the Cabinet Purchase Committee has suspended its decision following allegations of foul play in selecting the company to build a coal-fired 250 megawatt power plant in Barapukuria.  
Sources say the Cabinet Division on Sunday received a brief on the purchase committee's January 9 meeting where it approved  
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## Go tough

*PM spurs law enforcers on Jamaat-Shibir violence*

HASAN JAHD TUSHER  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the law enforcement agencies to take stern action against the Jamaat-Shibir men for creating violence across the country.  
She asked all the agencies including the intelligence to remain alert as the anti-liberation forces would become more violent in the coming  
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## BNP rejects president's observation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
BNP leaders yesterday rejected the speech President Zillur Rahman delivered on Sunday and ignored his call for returning to parliament.  
It would have been better if the president had asked the prime minister to hold a discussion over the issue of the caretaker government, instead of blaming the opposition for creating anarchy, they said.  
"The president confused the people by holding the opposition responsible for the government's faults," said  
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## BEYOND THE LAW



The building that unlawfully houses an industrial unit in the capital's Mohammadpur area is a residential one. Top right, an operator stitches a garment at the factory with piles of fabric seen illegally stored overhead. Bottom right, fabrics and other materials are seen stuffed partly blocking the exit. The photos were taken yesterday.

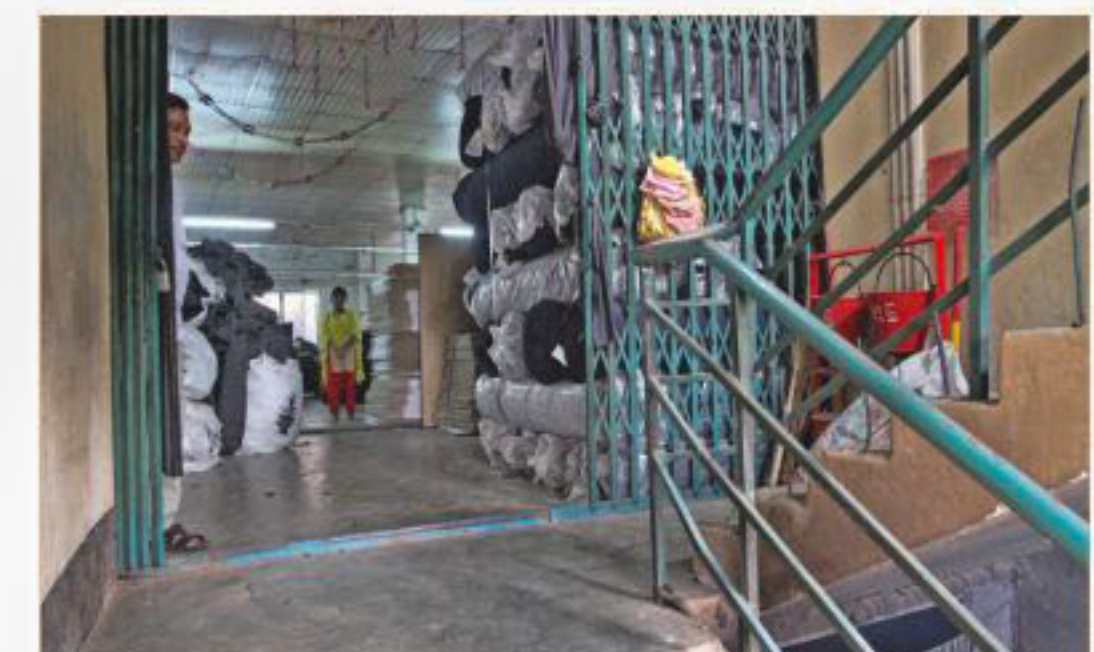


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Left in the lurch

*About 350 workers of Smart 'garment factory' look for help, find none*

SUSHMITA S PREETHA  
Their jobs are gone. Their employer went into hiding. The industry's lobbying group shied away from responsibility. The government is in silence. It now seems that they are confined to a bleak future.  
These are part of a tragedy now playing out in the lives of some 350 workers of Smart Export Garments Ltd, ravaged by a fire on Saturday.  
They are not even certain about getting this month's wages, let alone any compensation. Besides, they remain clueless about severance allowance, overtime and other benefits.  
"I want justice more than anything else," said Moyna Akhter, who lost her sister Kohinoor Akhter to the fire.  
"No one has contacted us or given us anything except for Tk 20,000 that we have received from the government. Is that what my sister's life is worth?" Moyna said, with anger in her tone.  
Sabuj, whose wife was severely injured in the fire, said he already spent around Tk 5,000 more than the medical allowance provided by the government.  
His wife, Rozina, 17, with blood-shot eyes, was showing signs of mental distress and trauma, he said, adding he feared that her treatment would not be  
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## Safety elusive for profit chase

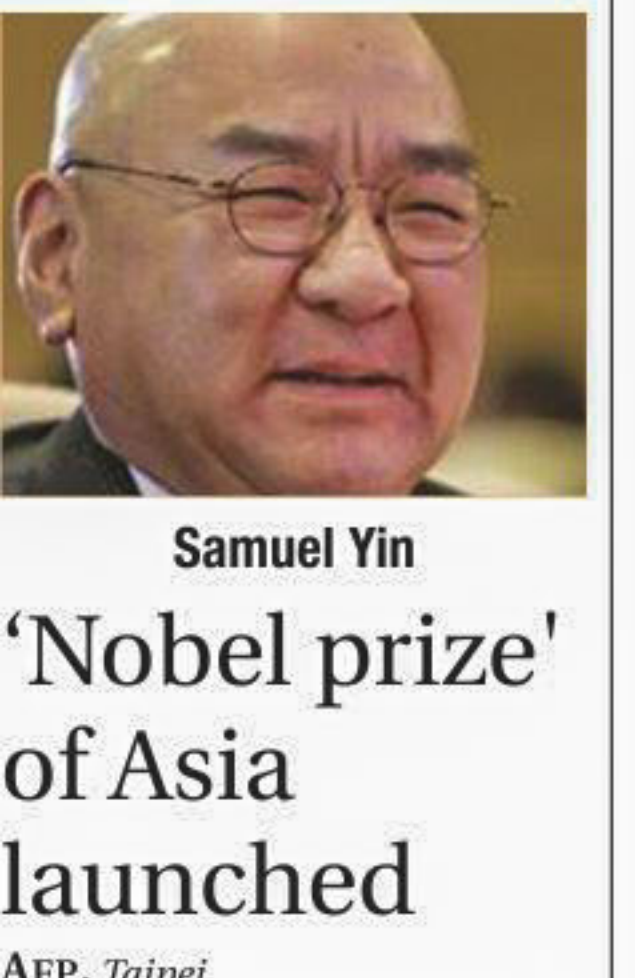
BLOOMBERG  
The second fatal fire at a Bangladesh garment factory in two months has intensified the debate over providing consumers with the latest fashions and putting lives at risk.  
Apparel sold by Inditex SA, a Spanish company that owns Zara and helped pioneer faster fashion cycles, was found at a factory that caught fire on Jan 26, killing seven people. As a precautionary measure, the company stopped doing business with two suppliers linked to the blaze, Inditex spokesman Jesus Echevarria said. Both companies denied handing off production to unauthorised suppliers, he said.  
Fast fashion has trained consumers to expect a steady flow of new garments in stores and has allowed the likes of Gap Inc and Urban Outfitters Inc to generate sales and profits in a tough economy. The challenge for apparel companies is how to  
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## WATERWAYS Govt moves to hike fare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The government has moved to raise launch fares across the country on grounds of increased fuel prices.  
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has already drafted a new fare chart and sent it to the shipping ministry for approval.  
Per kilometre fare will rise to Tk 1.78 from Tk 1.50 for the first 100 km travel, according to the proposal. And passengers will have to pay Tk 1.42 per km instead of Tk 1.20 for the distance above 100 kilometres.  
The minimum fare would also be increased by Tk 5 to Tk 20 if the proposal is approved, said an official of BIWTA.  
A seven-member committee comprised of representatives of launch owners, officials of BIWTA and the shipping ministry formulated the proposal.  
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## Busy in politics, not at hospitals

*JS body tells of doctors in govt service*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Doctors in government service remain busy with politics most of the time ignoring their patients, a parliamentary body said yesterday.  
The parliamentary standing committee on public assurance in a meeting asked the top officials of the health ministry and the director general of Directorate of Health Services to look into the matter and take stern action against the negligent doctors.  
"It is unfortunate that the government doctors spend most of their time in politics," Prof Ali Ashraf, chief of the committee, told the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.  
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Samuel Yin  
**'Nobel prize' of Asia launched**  
AFP, Taipei  
One of Taiwan's richest men yesterday launched what has been widely touted as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, and it is even more  
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