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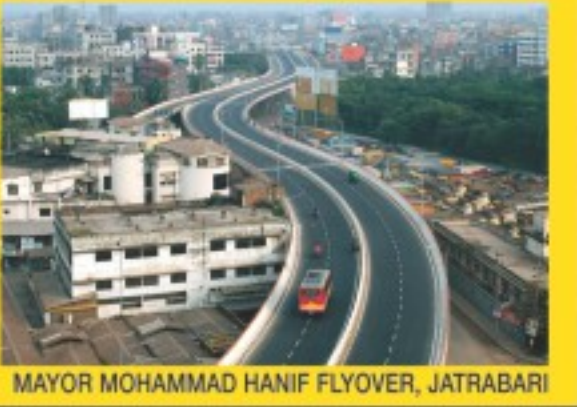
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Attackers of Hindus won't be spared

Warns PM at Satkhira rally

UNB, Satkhira

Issuing a strong warning against the criminals responsible for the recent attacks on religious minorities and pro-Awami League men, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said none of them will be spared and everyone will have to face punishment.

"Those who are responsible for these killings, those who played with the lives and properties of people, felled trees and destroyed roads across the country will not be spared.... We'll take action against each of them," she told a public meeting at Satkhira Boys High School ground.

This was Hasina's maiden visit outside the capital after taking oath as the prime minister for the second consecutive term.

The PM alleged that the BNP always do politics of terrorism and corruption, and the Jamaat, who had been involved in war crimes during the Liberation War, is BNP's companion.

On boycott of parliamentary polls by the BNP, she said its chief refused to contest the polls as her (Khaleda's) "beloved Jamaat can not participate."

The High Court, said the prime minister, in a verdict has declared illegal the registration of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami with the Election Commission. "She [BNP chief Khaleda Zia] decided not to take part in the election showing empathy with the Jamaat."

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina affectionately touches a child's chin at Satkhira circuit house yesterday when the family devastated by recent attacks on the Hindus in the district went there to meet her and receive financial aid.

PHOTO: PID

3 priorities in 6 months

Muhith tells of Padma bridge, anti-graft steps, strong banking sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's priority in the first six months of assuming power is to start work on the Padma Bridge, improve anticorruption measures and strengthen governance in the banking and insurance sectors, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"The order on the Padma Bridge construction will be issued within the next six months," the minister told reporters after a meeting with the chiefs of all regulatory authorities under the finance ministry, state banks and financial institutions.

The finance ministry's other priorities will include the insurance policy, Palli Sanchay Bank and the Financial Reporting Act.

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Mid-level leaders to soup up AL

Hasina wishes to keep govt, party separate

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina wants to bank on her party's mid-ranking leaders to overcome the organisational weaknesses it has been facing by depriving them of ministerial jobs.

The decision came at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, on Saturday, said party sources.

To implement the plan, Hasina, also the prime minister, is not going to include her party's three joint and six out of seven organising secretaries in the cabinet.

The joint general secretaries are Mahbub-Ul-Alam Hanif, Dipu Moni and Jahangir Kabir Nanak and the organising secretaries are Ahmad Hossain, Mezbah Uddin Siraj, BM Mozammel Hoq, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Abu Sayed Al Mahmud Swapon and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury. Of them, Dipu Moni and Nanak were in Hasina's previous cabinet while Hanif was the PM's special assistant.

Party insiders said the secretaries would be tasked to strengthen the AL grassroots ahead of the upazila parishad polls that begins on February 19.

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'Yes, I am an anarchist'

Delhi CM Kejriwal starts sit-in for police reforms

STAR REPORT

In an unprecedented face-off with the federal Indian government, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal yesterday started a sit-in demonstration demanding police reforms.

Addressing a crowd gathered outside Rail Bhawan in central Delhi, the leader of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), born last year as an offspring of an anti-graft movement led by Anna Hazare in 2011, said he would continue the sit-in for at least 10 days and further, if needed.



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HEROIN SMUGGLING BD Foods boss asked to surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered Chairman of BD Foods Ltd Bodruddoza Momin to surrender before the trial court within four weeks in connection with a heroin smuggling case.

Motijheel police had filed the case against Momin and seven others on April 21, 2006 after recovering 21.5 kilograms of heroin from their possession at different times since 2004.

The Special Judge's Court-8 of Dhaka on December 26, 2012

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The bosses of three credit card companies of South Korea apologise to the people for losing credit card data. Details of almost half of the country's credit card clients were stolen and then sold to marketing firms.

PHOTO: AFP

Public apology for data theft

Korean credit card firm owners say sorry

BBC ONLINE

Credit card details from almost half of all South Koreans have been stolen and sold to marketing firms.

The data was stolen by a computer contractor working for a company called the Korea Credit Bureau that produces credit scores.

The three bosses of the credit card firms involved made a public apology for the breach.

The names, social security numbers and credit card details of 20 million South Koreans were copied by the IT worker.

The scale of the theft became apparent after the contractor at the centre of the breach was arrested.

Managers at the marketing firms which allegedly bought the data were also arrested.

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FALSE REPORT CASE Inqilab reporter remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Bangla daily Inqilab's diplomatic correspondent on a two-day remand in a case filed for publishing a false report on participation of Indian troops in Satkhira drive.

The court also rejected bail petitions of the daily's news editor and deputy chief reporter in the same case.

Ahmed Atique is the diplomatic correspondent while Rabiullah Rabi and Rafiq Mohammad are the

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the European Parliament that parties which turn to terrorist acts should be banned?

Yes

No

(74%)

(26%)

TOTAL VOTES: 274

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think government would respond to the call of BNP chief Khaleda Zia to create a congenial atmosphere for an acceptable election through dialogue?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

January 21

Fajr

5:30

6:05

Zohr

12:45

1:15

Asr

4:15

4:30

Maghrib

5:43

5:47

Esha

7:15

7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

ILLEGAL WORKERS KL crackdown starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia is set to start a nationwide crackdown today to flush out illegal workers from its labour market.

"The Malaysian police will raid different factories and expatriates' residences to detain illegal foreigners who are working or staying here without valid documents," said Mantu Kumar Biswas, labour counsellor for Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

Bangladesh nationals who are working here without valid documents will be sent back, may be fined and barred from visiting Malaysia later, he told The Daily Star over the phone.

Mantu, however, could not confirm the number of Bangladeshis working in Malaysia illegally.

Around 2.70 lakh Bangladeshis have been legalised under an amnesty programme declared by the Malaysian government in 2011.

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50pc salary hike for SC judges

Cabinet okays changes to law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has given the final nod to a 50 percent increase in the monthly salary of the Supreme Court judges.

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Act-2014 to provide the SC judges with special allowance, which will be 50 percent of their gross monthly salary.

The approval came at the weekly meeting of the cabinet at the secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said only the apex court judges would be entitled to the allowance.

The monthly salary of the chief justice currently is Tk 56,000 while an appellate judge receives Tk 53,100 and a High Court judge Tk 49,100. After the increase, their salaries will be Tk 84,000, Tk 79,650 and Tk 73,650 respectively.

The finance ministry on December 8 last year sent a letter to the law ministry, saying the monthly remunerations of the judges had been raised by 50 percent and asked the law ministry to take necessary steps to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Ordinance-2010 to give effect to the increase.

Earlier on June 15, 2011, the HC ordered the government to implement the recommendations of a parliamentary

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Sun slowing down? Scientists baffled

BBC

The Sun is doing something a little bit different, and it's really leaving scientists a bit confused. The Sun is slowing down.

"I've been a solar physicist for 30 years, and I've never seen anything quite like this," Richard Harrison, head of space physics at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, told the BBC.

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