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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



A CURIOUS CASE

Bad loans rise in 2014 despite conducive business climate

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HUMANS, BEWARE!

Attenborough sees end of species if population boom isn't tackled

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GOOD, BAD AND UGLY OF 2014

POSITIVE

Export recovers aided by pick-up in apparel exports
Remittance stages strong comeback
Inflation nears target

NEGATIVE

Political uncertainty lurks
Infrastructure bottlenecks persist
Default loans, mismanagement in banking sector

SHARIER KHAN

When we entered 2014 in the shadows of a yearlong political turmoil and the Rana Plaza disaster, it seemed Bangladesh may have been bracing for yet another bleak year. But the country's farmers, migrant workers, pharmaceutical sector and garment sector continued to fight as the nation's biggest winners bringing sunshine to the economy. It is reflected in the country's foreign exchange reserve that hit a new height of

\$22.38 billion in December. This reserve is sufficient to cover import payments for about seven months.

The economy would have performed way better had there not been an awful handling of the banking sector where massive default loans were concealed by so-called loan re-scheduling and big-time bunglers were allowed to go unpunished. The financial sector is perhaps the biggest loser of 2014, thanks to mismanagement all around.

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Revellers put on a dazzling fire show at TSC on the Dhaka University campus last night to welcome 2015.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

GREETINGS
The Daily Star
wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

Hold dialogue or face movement

Khaleda asks govt placing 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night placed a seven-point proposal, including holding of a fresh all-inclusive election as soon as possible, to end the political standoff.

"Now it is the government who shall have to decide whether it will sit for dialogue accepting our

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State of human rights alarming

'Crossfires', enforced disappearances saw rise last year, says rights body ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The year 2014 was alarming for the country's overall human rights situation despite progress in some areas, says an annual report by rights body Ain O Salish Kendra.

ASK launched the report titled "Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh 2014: Analysis of Ain O Salish Kendra" on the eve of the New Year at a press briefing in the capital's

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Halt vessel movement thru' Sundarbans

UN team advises govt; full report on oil spill impact in 2 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An expert team of the United Nations has suggested that the government take legislative measures to avoid shipping through the Sundarbans to save the World Heritage Site.

Emilia Wahlstrom, chief of joint UN-Bangladesh response mission on the Sundarbans, said this in a briefing at a city hotel yesterday following a

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PRAYER TIMING January 1

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Wishing you a year ahead that lets you make new bonds, add new colors in the ribbon of time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

THE NEW FACE OF OUR ETHERAL ETHOS

We have walked a long journey of 29 years. Went through many ups and downs. Earned quite a bit of experience. And that experience is our inspiration to move forward, to change our image to be in tune with the modern time. We have brought forward our new face and introduced a new and dynamic logo. Our newly built elegant corporate building, located in the heart of the Capital at Motijheel, carries the same sign of our new face – dedicated to you only. Without you, our journey would have been incomplete.

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