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Violence may hurt investors' confidence

Says int'l credit rating agency Fitch

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The political violence that erupted this month may dent investor confidence in Bangladesh, said Fitch, one of the three most important credit rating agencies in the world.

"Renewed political tensions and violence in Bangladesh in the first week of January may negatively affect foreign investor confidence, raising risks to growth over the long term," said Fitch Ratings yesterday.

If violence were to persist and directly disrupt economic activity, especially by inflicting long-term harm to the key readymade garment (RMG) sector, this would be credit negative, the Singapore-based US rating agency said.

Fitch is one of the three rating agencies which periodically do sovereign ratings of Bangladesh. The other two are Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

Fitch had highlighted substantial political risk -- linked to continued polarisation between the governing and opposition parties -- as a key source of uncertainty for Bangladesh's economic outlook when it assigned the country a "BB-" long-term foreign currency issuer default rating in August 2014.

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Colourful kites of different sizes, shapes and designs dot the sky above the Padma at Mawa in Munshiganj. Kite-fanciers here assembled there on the annual kite flying festival organised by Bangladesh Kite Federation. Though the Cox's Bazar beach is the usual venue for the festival, the organisers this year had to pick some place closer to the capital due to the ongoing countrywide blockade.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observes today the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu returned to independent Bangladesh after over nine and a half months' confinement in a Pakistan jail.

Millions of people had gathered at Tejgaon Airport to give a hearty welcome



SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Shamsher Mobin on 5-day remand

Cops unlock Khaleda's Gulshan office again, relax security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury on a five-day remand in a case filed in connection with a recent incident of violence.

The law enforcers had sought a 10-day remand.

Police showed him arrested in a case filed with Shahbagh Police Station in connection with the attack on ruling party's Netrakona-1 MP Chhabi Biswas at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on December 24.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Probe recent killings, stop arbitrary arrest of politicians

Amnesty, HRW ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have said the Bangladesh government should investigate the recent killing of protesters and stop "arbitrary" arrests of members of opposition parties.

The London-based Amnesty International in a report dated January 8 on its website also said the Bangladeshi authorities must free a "prominent journalist" arrested this week as part of an apparent crackdown against the BNP.

"The government of Bangladesh has a duty to launch an immediate, thorough and independent investigation into the deaths [of protesters] and bring those responsible to justice," Abbas Faiz, Bangladesh researcher at the organisation, said in the report.

"These arrests represent clear violations of the rights to freedom of

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FEAR OF 'UNREST' Islamic University closed indefinitely

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) authorities yesterday declared the university closed for an indefinite period and asked students to vacate the dormitories apparently due to fear of unrest on the campus.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the IU syndicate at the vice-chancellor's residence last night.

VC Prof Abdul Hakim Sarker said they made the decision for the "greater interest" of general students.

The administrative activities, however, will go on as usual.

The university authorities had information that students

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bomb hurled at minister's residence

On-duty Ansar hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals hurled a crude bomb at a house of Law Minister Anisul Huq in capital's Banani yesterday.

An on-duty Ansar member, Mominul, 28, was injured after the bomb exploded in front of the gate of the house around 7:30pm, said Sheikh Aminul, sub-inspector of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKI

Two people carry a sick person to hospital at a remote char in Fulchhari of Gaibandha yesterday. This particular area has no road access to towns forcing the duo to carry the patient like that. The photo was taken yesterday.

PRAYER TIMING		January 10
Fazr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Recharge in 2 minutes!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

New batteries could allow smartphones to be fully charged in two minutes. Ultra-fast battery chargers were shown off at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, USA. The batteries, made by StoreDot, have slightly shorter battery lives — but can still last about five hours on a two minute

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The Daily Star

16th 'O' & 'A' Level Award Presentation Ceremony, 2013-2014

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates
Private candidates who fulfil the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:
Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2013 to May/June 2014
Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2013 to May/June 2014)
Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Ashiqur Rahman at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215, with their original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 13, 14 or 15 January, 2015, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm.

Schools
Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Ashiqur Rahman at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at o.a.level.tds@gmail.com by January 15, 2015, with:
• The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly.
The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 4:00 pm of 15 January, 2015
NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

4 Qaeda militants killed in Pakistan

'Bangladeshi' among the dead

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani police yesterday said they had shot dead four regional al-Qaeda militants including a senior leader in an early morning encounter in the port city of Karachi.

The leader, named as "Sajjad" -- also known as Kargil -- was said to be a Bangladeshi who moved to Pakistan in 2009 and specialised in making IEDs and suicide jackets.

He was also the Karachi commander of al-Qaeda in South Asia, a new branch of the global militant outfit that launched last September, a local police official said.

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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, ৫ মহাম্মাদুল্লাহ হাফেজী হজুর রোড (ফুলবাড়িয়া), ঢাকা-১০০০
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

"সময়মত পৌরকর পরিশোধ করুন"
"আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন"

ইংরেজি নববর্ষ উপলক্ষে পৌরকরের উপরে আরোপিত সারচার্জ শতভাগ মওকুফ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নগরের সন্মানিত করদাতাগণের (বাড়ির মালিক) অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ইংরেজি নববর্ষ উপলক্ষে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন পৌরকর পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে আগামী ১০-০১-১৫ইং হতে ১০-০২-১৫ইং পর্যন্ত বকেয়াসহ চলতি ২০১৪-১৫ অর্থ বছরের সমুদয় পৌরকর একত্রে পরিশোধ করার ক্ষেত্রে বকেয়া পৌরকরের উপর আরোপিত সারচার্জ শতভাগ মওকুফ করার সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন নাগরিক সুবিধা বৃদ্ধি ও নগর উন্নয়নে সর্বদা সচেষ্ট রয়েছে।

০২। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে (বাড়ির মালিক) ইংরেজি নববর্ষ উপলক্ষে প্রদত্ত মওকুফ সুবিধা গ্রহণপূর্বক উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ হালসনের সমুদয় পৌরকর একত্রে পরিশোধ করে বকেয়া পৌরকরের উপর আরোপিত সারচার্জের শতভাগ মওকুফের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the new director general of the Rapid Action Battalion, Benazir Ahmed that his force would not take the responsibility for past criminal activities committed by its members?

Yes (12%)
No (88%)

TOTAL VOTES: 200

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Awami League leader Obaidul Quader that BNP is largely isolated from the people due to its violent politics?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net