

STOCK EXPOSURE

Banks may get two more years to cut investment in capital market

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READY FOR SOCCEROOS

Bangladesh gear up to host Australia tomorrow in World Cup Qualifier

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FIGHT ISIS, NOT MUSLIMS

White House hopeful Hillary Clinton urges war on extremists, not on Islam

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Three hurdles for 8pc growth goal

Development partners suggest energy sector reform, infrastructure development, more competitiveness to achieve targets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday sought more support from international partners to help attain its ambitious development goals for the next five years and beyond, while donors pointed out three major challenges facing Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has to raise its investment-GDP ratio to accelerate economic growth to 7-8 percent from the average of 6 percent, said Martin Rama, chief economist for South Asia at the World Bank, speaking at the Bangladesh Development Forum 2015.

The two-day high-level forum, which began at Bangabandhu International

Conference Centre yesterday, brought together ministers, top government officials, representatives of development partners and civil society to find the areas of strengthening partnership for the country's development.

Speaking at a panel discussion on the macro-economic management, Rama said the targets in the Seventh Five-Year Plan were ambitious and would not be easy to reach them.

Increasing investment faces challenges from three aspects: energy, infrastructure and competitiveness, he said.

"Pricing policy has to reform to attract

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Stand beside us

PM opens Bangladesh Development Forum, seeks dev partners' support

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the hardworking and resilient people of Bangladesh will be the "development miracle" in near future if they get support from her development partners.

She said her government is committed to ensuring broad-based development of the people by ensuring effective use of resources.

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INDO-BANGLA HOME SECY MEET

Dhaka to seek handover of top criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would request repatriation of top criminals hiding in India at the home secretary-level meeting between the two countries beginning in Dhaka today.

It was only on November 11 Bangladesh deported Ulfa leader Anup Chetia, and a day after that India handed over prime accused of the sensational seven-murder case of Narayanganj Nur Hossain.

The two events are making Bangladesh hopeful of bringing back some top criminals hiding in India, said a key official of the home ministry.

According to law enforcement agencies, around 40 top criminals are either in Indian jails or are hiding in that country.

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DONALD TRUMP

US REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON THE PARIS ATTACKS

Now Hasan Azizul gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Eminent fiction writer Hasan Azizul Haque yesterday received a death threat from an unknown caller over the phone reportedly for his views on freedom of expression.

The call was made at 4:30pm when he was resting at his home, Haque told this correspondent.

Haque lives with his two daughters in a house at Bihash, a small housing plot owned by university teachers near Rajshahi University.

"The caller asked me if I would change. I asked him back how I would change and what exactly I should change about myself," Hasan continued.

"Then I wanted to know who he was and asked him to meet me in person if he



A woman cries at a memorial site for the terror attack victims in Paris yesterday. *Bottom left*, a letter reads "Rest in peace - we weep but we are not afraid" near Bataclan concert hall. *Bottom right*, flowers in bullet holes in a window of a bar, another crime scene.

PHOTO: AFP



UNESCO FORUM
PM's visit to Paris cancelled

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to France has been cancelled following Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris.

"In view of the evolving situation in France, the official visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been postponed in consultation with the French government," PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said yesterday.

She was scheduled to fly to the French capital this morning to attend the two-day Leaders' Forum of

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HUNT ACROSS EUROPE
One attacker identified

Kalashnikovs found in abandoned car; 7 held in Belgium over Paris carnage

AFP, Paris

Belgium issued an international arrest warrant Sunday for one of three brothers linked to the brutal attacks in Paris that killed 129 people, as the probe spread across Europe.

As thousands gathered in central Paris in mourning and solidarity, authorities in at least five European countries scrambled to tie together leads and hunt down possible accomplices.

Security sources said one of the three brothers died in the Bataclan concert hall where the worst of the bloodshed took place, while another had been detained along with six other people in Belgium.

Seven gunmen wearing suicide belts died during the attacks, which have been claimed by the Islamic State group -- either at the Stade de

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US, France to step up anti-IS campaign

AGENCIES

The Paris terror attacks are likely to galvanise a stronger global military response to Islamic State, as a US-led air war that has lasted more than a year has failed to contain a group now proving itself to be a growing worldwide threat.

The defence ministers of France and the US agreed yesterday on "concrete steps" to intensify cooperation against the Islamic State group, said the Pentagon.

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and French Defense Minister Jean-Yves le Drian discussed by telephone the actions they are taking in response to Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris that killed at least 129 people, according to AFP.

"They agreed on concrete steps the US

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Neville Madziva has his eyes firmly on the ball, which he dispatched for a six straight over the bowler Nasir Hossain's head in the penultimate delivery of the match to get Zimbabwe to a three-wicket win over Bangladesh in the second and final T20I in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tutul won't stop
Recovering from the trauma of Oct 31 attack, the young publisher vows to continue his pursuit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Still recuperating, Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, proprietor of Shuddhaswor, remains unflinching in his commitment to publishing. He says he will not compromise his principle to publish books necessary for the "awakening of people".

"May be I'll face tougher challenges when I get back to work, but there is no way I'm going to move away even a little bit from my commitment," he said in an email correspondence with The Daily Star.

"I dream of a modern, democratic and progressive Bangladesh -- a society that is safe for freethinking based on knowledge. Everything I publish is aimed at realising that dream," he continued.

He has been released from Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday, but he is far from recovering from the trauma of the horrendous attack.

"I still can't get rid of the image of somebody stabbing me while screaming, 'Allahu Akbar,' he said.

Besides, he finds it difficult to talk because of his hearing loss caused by blood seeping into his ear, forming clots.

"But the most difficult task of my life now is to pass the time. I can't wait to go back to my office," said Tutul.

Tutul and two writer-bloggers Ranadipam Basu and Tareque Rahim were brutally attacked at his Lalmatia office on October 31. In another grisly attack on the same day,



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