



BANKS' CAPITAL
Their overall capital base went up 6.58pc in the third quarter of 2015
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INDIA LIFT SAFF CUP
Defeat Afghanistan 2-1 in the final after extra-time for their seventh triumph
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DEFIANT TRUMP
After the al-Shabab film, the Republican frontrunner says Obama, Clinton created ISIS
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Cities choke on air pollution

People exposed to health hazards; Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur among world's 25 cities with poorest air

PINAKI ROY
The quality of air in the capital is extremely unhealthy. The presence of pollutant particles in its air even on a normal day is more than six times the healthy limit. If this sounds scary, then you should know that the air in its neighbouring cities Gazipur and Narayanganj is even worse, according to the Department of Environment (DoE). The level of pollution in the three cities has gone so high that the World Health Organisation has placed them among the 25 cities with the most polluted air in the world. The DoE, under the Clean Air and

- Air quality in Dhaka extremely unhealthy, even worse in Narayanganj, Gazipur
- 90pc people of these cities in risk of developing cardiovascular, respiratory diseases including lung cancer
- Industrial smog, smoke from vehicles, brick kilns, and construction dust main culprits
- Level of pollution particularly high during winter
- Bangladesh fourth country with worst urban air quality in the world



An auto-rickshaw in a cloud of dust on a street in front of Dayaganj Municipality Market in Old Dhaka and brick kiln chimneys, inset, inside a residential area in Amin Bazar emit black smoke. Polluted air kills several million people across the world every year. The photos were taken recently.
PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/RASHED SHUMON



AL won't let BNP stage protests

DMP yet to decide on permission for Suhrawardy Udyan rally tomorrow

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE
The Awami League has instructed its leaders and activists to resist any attempts by BNP men to take to the streets tomorrow to create fresh controversies over the January 5, 2014, parliamentary election. The instructions came at a joint meeting of the ruling party and its front organisations yesterday, party sources said. However, party leaders believe that the Dhaka Metropolitan Police will not allow either party to hold rallies at Suhrawardy

Udyan, where both the AL and the BNP want to gather. The DMP is yet to announce its decision. DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia has said they would not allow any political party to hold any counter programmes on January 5. "There's no reason to obstruct peaceful programmes. But if the programmes are conflicting and threaten public safety, we won't allow such programmes," he told a briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.
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Economy stable, but lacks vibrancy

Private investment remains depressed, says CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue yesterday came up with a number of recommendations to boost the country's economy that has "stability but lacks vibrancy".

"It makes us worried that private investment has remained depressed despite low inflation and prices of global commodities, downward trend of lending rates in banks and a stable exchange rate," said CPD Distinguished Fellow

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reducing prices of petroleum products
- Cutting central bank's policy rates
- Reforms, continued efforts to curb militancy

Debapriya Bhattacharya. "So, we conclude that there is stability in the economy but it lacks vibrancy," he said at a media briefing in the capital's Brac Centre Inn. The CPD organised the event to release its review of the country's development, "The State of Bangladesh's Economy in FY 2015-16". The thinktank suggested reducing prices of fuel, especially kerosene, diesel and furnace oil. It proposed cutting
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3 kids burnt to death

STAR REPORT

A man allegedly burnt his three nephews to death after giving them multiple blows on the heads with a hammer due to a family dispute over money at Kabirpur in Shaikupa upazila of Jhenidah yesterday evening. Iqbal Hossain, 40, is a paternal uncle of two of the children and the maternal uncle of the third, police told our Jhenidah correspondent. Mostafa Shafin, 10, and Mostafa Amin, 5, sons of Delwar Hossain, and Mahim Hossain, 14, died after Iqbal torched their home. Mahim's mother Jesmine Khatun, 40, had critical burn injuries when she tried to rescue the three children. Iqbal's three nephews went to him around 5:30pm
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Two brothers carrying their ailing father on an improvised wooden stretcher from Sholmari, a char village surrounded by the Teesta river, to a hospital of Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila in the mainland. With the river dried up, people living on the chars now have to depend solely on their foot for travel.
PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bid to occupy BNP office & cops' role

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The BNP deserves better than the way it was treated by police on Saturday when a group of people under the banner of a so-called "real BNP" marched towards the opposition party's central office with an ulterior motive to occupy it. It is a legal entity since it has obtained registration as a parliamentary party with the Election Commission in 2008. Therefore, the police must protect the BNP's office by thwarting any move by intruders to occupy it. And as a law enforcement agency, it needs to do so to honour the law. On Saturday, the police unfortunately refrained from doing so. A group of activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatara Dal (JCD) and Jubo Dal foiled the move by the "real BNP" men to occupy the office. They chased them, sparking a clash. Even photographs published in newspapers show some policemen watching the incident of activists of both sides beating one another with sticks. They almost played the role of bystanders, limiting their actions to only firing some

The curious case of Asol BNP

RASHIDUL HASAN

Kamrul Hasan Nasim claims to be a member of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal in Jessore's Chaugachha. He now wants to occupy the BNP central office at the capital's Naya Palatan for implementing his plan to "reform" and "reorganise" the party. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the convener of "Asol BNP", literally meaning "Real BNP", vowed to make a fresh attempt to take over the office "any moment". "We will not back off from our plan to occupy the BNP office," he said over the phone.
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