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Some of the 1,915 high achievers of the O- & A-levels in country pose for a group photo at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur during The Daily Star 17th O- & A-Level Awards Presentation Ceremony yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

2015: tough year for minorities

Says report on their rights situation in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 24 people were killed, 25 raped and 1,562 families were affected in 262 incidents of minority persecution in the country last year, said a report of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad. The incidents include attack on religious minorities, abduction and rape, looting and destruction of households, business establishments and temples, land grabbing, eviction of minorities from houses, forced religious conversion and extortion. In most cases, the perpetrators used political power and influence, said the report titled "Human Rights Situation of Minorities in Bangladesh-2015". Involvement of some ministers, lawmakers and their followers in attacks on minorities has been

KILLED 24

RAPED 25

ABDUCTED 26

exposed by the media. But they haven't been brought to book yet, added the report, released through a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. "We have noticed that influential persons sheltered by the ruling party continuously committed these crimes in 2015," said Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of the Parishad, while addressing the press conference. Local activists of the ruling Awami League, the BNP and other political parties join hands together to evict minorities. All of them show similar attitude to minorities, said the report, based on write-ups in 14 newspapers and police information. Greed for land prompts influential quarters to

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3 YEARS OF TAQI MURDER No charges pressed yet

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Three years have passed since Tanwir Muhammad Taqi, a bright teenage boy, was brutally murdered in Narayanganj, but investigators have yet to press charges in the case. Talking to reporters yesterday in Narayanganj, Rab-11 Commanding Officer Lt Col Anwar Latif Khan said the investigation was going on. Regarding a draft probe report by the Rapid Action Battalion, he said, "There might be some changes in the draft report ... You will know once it is finalised." A draft of the investigation report was leaked before the first death anniversary of Taqi on March 6, 2014. Different



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Teesta deal finalised

Signing soon, says Gowher Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Teesta water-sharing treaty between Bangladesh and India is going to be signed soon as the agreement has been finalised, according to a government adviser. "We are confident that it will be signed soon. The agreement is ready. The ball is on India's court now," said Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He was speaking at a panel discussion on connectivity on the last day of a two-day Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue held at a city hotel yesterday. The Friends of Bangladesh organised the two-day event in association with the foreign ministry of Bangladesh and the India Foundation. Politicians, academics, think-tanks, former diplomats and senior journalists of both the countries attended the seventh edition of the dialogue. The Teesta treaty was drafted in 2010 and was supposed to be signed by the two countries in early September 2011.

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'MURDER' IN CITY Woman's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an "indigenous" woman at Gulshan in the capital yesterday morning. The body that bore marks of stab wounds in the

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PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 6
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A ROAD? ... A motorbike travelling on what appears to be a dirt road in Sylhet's Jaintapur upazila. But it actually is a river named the Boro Gaang, which is almost dead due to siltation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

ROAD ACCIDENT 5 Bangladeshis killed in KSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladeshi workers were killed and two others injured when a "trailer" hit a bus in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia yesterday morning. The accident took place around 5:30am (local time) when they were going to work, Golam Mushi, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told The Daily Star. The injured were taken to a hospital where their condition was stated to be critical, Mushi said.

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Abdur Rouf J.P has been elected honourable chairman of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. He is the chairman of Diamond Properties UK and St. Andrews University Cricket Club & also the member of St. Andrews Golf Club which is the 2nd oldest golf club in the world. He is also the chairman of Britannia Group in Bangladesh & also the adviser of Amirjan High School & Amirjan College which is named on his beloved mother. 2200 students, 86 teachers & the management of Amirjan High School and Amirjan College heartily congratulate him for such prestigious post of being a chairman of MTB. We also pray to the Almighty for his long life.

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