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2011 CRICKET WC
Bangladesh
to host two
quarterfinals

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host eight matches including two quarterfinals of the 2011 World Cup after the tournament's organising committee relocated Pakistan's matches in Mumbai yesterday.

Apart from the matches, Bangladesh have been confirmed to host the opening ceremony on February 18, 2011 after it was revealed that Sri Lanka wanted to host the ceremony and give Bangladesh a semifinal.

"Sri Lanka wanted to hold the opening ceremony, giving us the semifinal but we kept

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WHO helpless as swine flu spreads

Death toll rises to 152 as containment appears 'unfeasible'

AFP, Mexico City

World health officials admitted they were powerless to halt the spread of swine flu and ratcheted up their pandemic alert level as the number of affected countries rose sharply yesterday.

As Mexico, epicentre of the outbreak, said 152 people were now believed to have died from the virus, the number of known cases in the US more than doubled while six other countries said they had confirmed their first casualties.

The swine flu crisis deepened yesterday, with at least 16 countries far beyond worst-hit Mexico, including in Europe and Asia, report-

ing confirmed or suspected infections.

Authorities in Asia -- where memories of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 remain fresh -- tried to contain the spread of the virus, screening air passengers from affected areas and advising against non-essential travel to Mexico.

But the World Health Organisation (WHO) said border screenings "don't work," while the EU's health commissioner said there was no need for travel restrictions.

"Border controls do not work. Screening doesn't work," WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said in Geneva.

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People asked not to get panicked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday urged people not to be panicked about Swine Flu as it has taken precautionary steps to prevent the virus from entering the country.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday said the government has strengthened surveillance across the country as well as screening of incoming air passengers.

The Swine Flu, a new subtype of influenza that has the potential to cause a pandemic, is yet to hit the South East Asia region.

Training of airport health staff and immigration officials begins today.

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Hot spell to continue

1 more dies; power situation improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died of a heat stroke in Bhola yesterday while the diarrhoea situation continued to worsen in the capital and elsewhere in the country over the last 24 hours.

The country, however, experienced a slight fall in mercury during the period.

According to the meteorological office, temperature in Dhaka came down to 36.5 degrees Celsius yesterday from 39.6 degrees Celsius a day before, while the highest temperature was recorded in Jessor at 39.2 degrees Celsius yesterday.

The heat wave may continue for two more days, met office sources said, before an expected rainfall.

Yasin Patowary, 65, a dead writer, died of a heat stroke at Charfashon in Bhola after he fell sick at his office at Dalil Lekhok Office of Thana Road in the upazila town, reports our correspondent from Barisal.

The city dwellers got a little respite from the agony of frequent power outage with the slight improvement in the power-supply situation in the capital. But the acute crisis of water in many areas of Dhaka has compounded the sufferings of city dwellers.

The city thoroughfares witnessed a low presence of people yesterday as many people tried to stay indoors to seek refuge from the heat wave that has been sweeping the country for the past few weeks.

Cases of diarrhoea, cholera, viral fever, pneumonia, typhoid and jaundice have increased in the city and across the country due to the scorching heat and water pollution. Children are the worst sufferer of these diseases and hospitals have been experiencing almost double the patients than usual.

Many people were seen helping themselves to fruit juices or lemonades at roadside shops. Physicians though advise people to avoid

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Poachers do not spare even squirrels. They are regularly caught and sold at different animal trading points including Kantaban in the capital. Right now, there are at least a thousand squirrels kept in cages for sale at Kantaban shops. These squirrels trapped at Goods Hill of Chittagong City are being readied for shipment. The law forbids trading in wild animals and law enforcers are supposed to catch the culprits. But no-one bothers and the illegal trade thrives.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Khoka may return as city BNP chief

Meets with Khaleda

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP leadership will soon announce a new committee for the party's Dhaka city unit to resolve conflicts within the unit.

Party insiders said Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and former president of the city unit Sadeque Hossain Khoka might be made the unit's chief again.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia held an exclusive meeting with Khoka at her cantonment residence on Monday night. At the meeting Khoka accused party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain of causing rift with leaders of BNP's city unit, the most important unit of the party.

Party insiders said Khaleda listened to Khoka but refrained from making any comments and suggested that Khoka work together to make party programmes successful and strengthen the party in the city.

While talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Khoka, however, said they only discussed organisational affairs and the rally to be held on Saturday in the city.

Meanwhile, the BNP chief had a meeting with former mayor Mirza Abbas at her cantonment residence late at night. They discussed matters relating to city BNP, said sources.

According to party leaders, the BNP leadership has decided to announce a new committee for the Dhaka city unit soon and Khoka might be appointed its chief again. But it is not clear whether the high command will announce a convening committee or a fully-fledged committee to run party activities in the city.

At present Dhaka city unit of BNP is running without any committee.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Padma Bridge by 2013

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday said construction of much-awaited Padma Bridge would be completed by 2013 for which the necessary fund is ready.

The government would present inception report on the design of Padma Multipurpose Bridge tomorrow, the minister told the newsmen at a course launching ceremony of Brac

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Clarification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the article published in The Daily Star on April 27 under the headline "Students down under look down the barrel" the Australian High Commission in Dhaka Justin Lee has clarified his country's policy on international students.

In a press release, he said Australia grants student visas purely for education purpose.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

MPs readying for local dev work

Caretaker govt circulars being amended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is moving to ensure engaging lawmakers again in different rural infrastructure maintaining programmes that involve annual allocation of food grains.

The food and disaster management ministry has moved to amend the existing circulars to this end. The last caretaker government amended the previous circulars, keeping MPs away from the entire process of preparing and implementing projects under programmes including food-for-work and test relief.

The food minister informed us at a meeting that his ministry is working to amend the circulars to engage lawmakers in local development work under the food-for-work and test relief programmes," Sayadul Haque, chairman of the parliamentary

Assures law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is taking its time to start trial of war criminals as it is proceeding with caution to complete the job in a smooth, fair and transparent way maintaining international standards, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

Speaking at a press briefing at the ministry's conference room yesterday afternoon, he assured people that the trial will be held to punish the people who committed

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AL factions clash over mosque land grab

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

An intra-Awami League (AL) clash over possession of a land owned by a local mosque, resulted in an imposition of section 144 in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The section 144, banning gathering of more than four persons in the upazila, was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Melting woes of Bangladesh

Climate conference says glaciers melting faster than anticipated

PINAKI ROY from Tromso, Norway

Ice cap of the Himalayas and the heart of the Arctic ocean system are continuing to warm at a faster rate than the scientists previously anticipated, the speakers said at a conference with a call to the global leaders for acting quickly to arrest the global warming otherwise it would bring twofold difficulties in future.

Terming the glacier melting in the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau as major global concern it was said in the conference that it might hit millions more of the world populations far sooner. Nowhere else on the Earth outside of Greenland and Antarctica is such a concentration of freshwater stored as ice and snow.

Melting glacier in the Himalayas would hit Bangladesh as almost all the water of Bangladeshi rivers comes from it while its agricultural system mostly depends on river water, speakers told the conference held yesterday.

The speakers said it at the conference titled "Melting Ice: Regional Dramas, Global Wake-Up Call" aimed at discussing the

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Prayer Timing		
April 29		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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- এর কোমল উপাদানগুলো তুক রাখে মস্ত ও সজীব