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Deccan new IPL champions

STAR SPORT DESK
Deccan Chargers were crowned Indian Premier League champions after their electrifying six-run victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the blockbuster final at the Wanderers in Johannesburg last night. They became the second IPL champions after Rajasthan Royals had lifted the trophy last year. Deccan were the bottom side in the first edition, making it a complete turnaround for their franchise. The Hyderabad side defended a modest score of 143-6 thanks to some brilliant bowling and fielding as Bangalore were kept down to 137-9 in 20 overs.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET
Govt short-lists six very urgent projects

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON
The government has identified six projects for implementation on a 'very urgent' basis under the proposed public-private partnership (PPP) budget. Except construction of a deep-sea port in Chittagong, the rest of the projects are estimated to cost \$11.05 billion or Tk 75,900 crore. According to a finance ministry working paper on PPP, the projects are Dhaka-Chittagong Access Control Highway at an estimated cost of \$3.023 billion, construction of a sky rail around Dhaka city at a cost of \$2.8 billion, construction of a

Dhaka city underground railway at a cost of \$3.1 billion, Dhaka city elevated expressway at a cost of \$1.23 billion, two coal-based 900 megawatt power stations at the coastal areas at a cost of \$0.9 billion, and the construction of Chittagong Deep-sea Port. Finance ministry sources said apart from these big projects, a list of some small projects has also been sought incorporating projects like construction of link roads, flyovers, and underpasses. Many local business groups already expressed interest in the big projects. For quick increase in investment in infrastructure, the government is going to take

some initiatives under the PPP. Most of the investments will be in the private sector and the government will participate in it. To that end, in the next budget the government is likely to allocate Tk 700 crore to Tk 3,500 crore depending on the volume of projects under the initiative. The working paper estimates an investment deficit of \$23 billion or Tk 1,58,700 crore in the period between the next fiscal year and 2013. An estimated investment deficit of \$2.16 billion or Tk 14,900 crore is expected to dog the next fiscal year. A new fund titled 'Bangladesh SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

HC asks govt to stop river encroachment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to take appropriate steps to stop encroachment, earth-filling, and construction of illegal structures on the Buriganga, Turag, Balu, and Shitalakkhya rivers. After hearing a writ petition, an HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Mamtazuddin Ahmed issued the ad-interim order and a ruling upon the government to explain within one week why it should not be directed to take initiatives to remove all illegal structures built on the earth-filled encroached upon sections of the rivers and on their banks. A section of the ruling also asked the deputy commissioners (DC) of Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur, the chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), and the director general of the Directorate of Land Records and Survey to explain why they should not be directed to determine the original spans of the rivers by conducting surveys after forming a SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Nazrul's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 110th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated across the country today. The government and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

15 injured as BNP men clash with cops

Memo submitted to DC to protest 'terrorism' on campuses
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between BNP activists and police in the city's Kotwali yesterday. Witnesses said the clash erupted when the leaders and activists of the main opposition were marching towards Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office to submit a memorandum. SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Law on cards to check crime using mobile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government is considering enactment of a law to curb crimes committed by using mobile phones, said Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday. A high-powered committee headed by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Brig Gen (ret'd) Zia Ahmed was formed yesterday to recommend SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Dist councils of Bandarban, Rangamati reconstituted

STAR REPORT
The government has reconstituted the Rangamati and Bandarban Hill District Councils. The government, however, did not bring any change to the Khagrachhari Hill District Council as a case is pending with the High Court in this connection. The CHT affairs ministry SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A dumpster left in the middle of the road, hawkers occupying pavement and beyond, and parked cars—all contribute to daylong traffic jam on the street in front of City Trading Centre in Gulistan. The photo was taken yesterday.

Troops battle to capture Swat's main town

18 militants killed in Pakistan fighting
AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's military said yesterday it had seized several key areas in the Swat valley's Taliban-held main town, as their battle to regain control of the northwest entered a crucial phase. Troops moved into Mingora on Saturday, fighting street-by-street with Islamist insurgents who last month flouted a ceasefire agreement and moved toward the capital Islamabad, sparking a fierce US-backed military retaliation. By Sunday, officials said several important intersections and squares in Mingora were under their control, including the notorious Green Square where the Taliban reportedly carried out beheadings late last year. Also Sunday, helicopter gunships and ground troops launched an attack in the nearby tribal area of Orakzai, killing eight militants as fears grew that the army offensive might mushroom into other northwestern districts. The ground assault on Mingora, a city with an estimated population of about 300,000 -- many of whom have fled -- marks the most critical part of the military's offensive against the Taliban in the picturesque Swat valley. The military said in a statement 10 militants had been killed in the last 24 hours, five of them in urban fighting in Mingora, and claimed to have wrested control of eight squares in the town from Taliban fighters. Another military official told AFP soldiers remained locked in street battles in Mingora, where Taliban insurgents have in recent weeks been patrolling with guns and rocket launchers, according to terrified residents. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

KSA-bound workers to be trained

PM tells Saudi ambassador; discusses hajj facilities
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh would send workers to Saudi Arabia after making them well-trained in profession-based skills, including sufficient knowledge of Arabic language. She made the remark when Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al Busairi paid a courtesy call on her at the prime minister's office in the morning. During the meeting, the Saudi ambassador handed over to the prime minister a letter of condolence from the Custodian of two Holy Mosques and Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud on the death of her husband Dr MA Wazed Miah, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist. The Saudi King in his message said, "We have received the news of sad demise of your husband Dr MA Wazed Miah. May Allah bless him." The king continued, "While sending to your excellency and your bereaved family our deep condolence and true consolation we pray to Almighty Allah to cover his departed soul with His generous mercy and forgiveness, grant him the spacious place in heaven and save you from all unpleasant things." PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

PRIMARY EDUCATION Body formed to unify curricula

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a review committee to unify primary textbook curricula and bring an end to the existing 11 types of primary education. The decision was made during a meeting at Ministry of Primary and Mass Education with Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair. Headed by Additional Secretary to the ministry Quazi Akter Hossain, the committee will review the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

2 extortionists beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mob beat two criminals to death yesterday as they tried to extort money from several houses at Amin Bazar on the outskirts of the capital. The deceased were identified as Aman, 26, and Mamun, 27 of SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

OnlinePoll ✓
Should the government form a special task force to save the rivers from encroachment?
 Yes (95.06%)
 No (4.65%)
 No Comments (0.28%)
 Total votes: 709
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you support the govt's decision to connect Bangladesh to the Asian Highway Network (AHN) through the present route?
 Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

এক্সিম ব্যাংক এর প্রধান কার্যালয় স্থানান্তর

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 নতুন ঠিকানা: সিমফনি (Symphony) প্লট নং এসই (এফ)-৯, রোড নং ১৪২, গুলশান এভিনিউ, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২

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