

**GATES GOSPEL**

Bill Gates says helping the poor is a good investment

ON CLOUD NINE

Bollywood actress Tabu exults over her election for Padma Shri

THE FIRECRACKERS

Tamim-Imrul pair is a terrifying prospect for WC opponents

Mayhem in Munshiganj

Cop killed, 100 others injured as over 30,000 people stage violent protest against airport in Arial Beel

STAR REPORT

A policeman was killed and about 100 others were injured when people protesting the proposed Bangabandhu International Airport in Arial Beel locked in a series of clashes with police on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Munshiganj yesterday.

Doctors declared Sub-Inspector Motiur Rahman, 53, dead when he was rushed to Mitford Hospital with critical injuries from the clashes.

The demonstrators torched a police outpost and a journalist's motorcycle at Hashara, Sreenagar.

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People protesting the proposed Bangabandhu International Airport in Arial Beel throwing brickbats at police, prompting them to retaliate with tear gas shells on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Munshiganj yesterday. More photos on page 5.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



Urdu or

Bangla?

Language issue came to the fore with partition of India nearing

SYED BADRUL AHSEN

If March 1940 was a time when Pakistan appeared to be turning into an inevitability, there was too the question of what language the people of the soon to be constituted state would express themselves in. It was pretty much obvious by July 1947, a month before the partition of

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STOCKMARKET CRASH
BNP demands reconstitution of probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday demanded reconstitution of the committee formed to probe allegations of stockmarket manipulation.

The party said market

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SSC exams start today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations begin today involving some 13,15,002 examinees from 26,297 educational institutions across the country.

Education Minister

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Whim drives govt from Trishal to Arial Beel

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government's plan to construct a modern airport in low lying Arial Beel, instead of a much superior place in Trishal, was taken without any prefeasibility study, and out of personal whims of some officials.

The vast swamp Arial Beel, with an average depth of 20 feet, serves as a major

flood plain and agricultural hub in Munshiganj area. It stretches across parts of Sreenagar of Munshiganj, and Dohar and Nawabganj of Dhaka.

The officials, who recommended the Arial Beel site for construction of the airport, made up their mind after only a couple of visits to that area in last November.

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More fishing in Bay

Govt to issue fresh licences skipping survey on dwindling stock; experts warn Bay may become fishless like Gulf of Thailand

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government is going to issue 30 fresh licences for mid-water fishing in the Bay of Bengal without any survey of the already dwindling reserve, which, according to experts, would be depleted further.

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The decision to issue new licences came in violation of an experts' committee recommendations. The committee submitted its report during the previous tenure of Awami League suggesting a survey of marine fish stock before issuing

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