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DOOMSDAY COMING?
Asteroid 'Aphosis' could slam into Earth on April 13, 2036
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POLICY FOR THE POOR
Geof Wood explores fresh avenues for poverty reduction
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LEADER OF MEN
In talismanic Shakib Al Hasan, Bangladesh might just have found the perfect captain
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2 more die from Nipah
Death toll 29
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Nipah encephalitis claimed two more lives at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) early yesterday, raising the death toll to 29. Mim, 4, of Satighat village in Joldhaka upazila of Nilphamari, died at about 12:00midnight while Hamida, 28, of Nilphamari Sadar upazila, at about 3:00am. Hamida was admitted to the hospital with high fever on Thursday while Mim on Tuesday, said a

AL rebels to face music
HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Ruling Awami League (AL) is likely to take disciplinary actions today against the district and upazila unit party leaders who supported rebel candidates in the last month's municipal elections ignoring central command. An AL Central Working Committee meeting may also discuss councils at grassroots levels ranging from ward to metropolitan units. The meeting will be held at the prime minister's official

Mubarak finally steps down

Egypt erupts with joy as 3-decade autocratic rule ends amid mass upsurge; Mubarak leaves Cairo with family; power handed over to military council



Key moments in unrest

BBC ONLINE
Following more than two weeks of protests by anti-government demonstrators, President Mubarak stepped down after 30 years in power. What are the key events that led to this moment?
25 January: Protests begin in Egypt
Thousands of people join protests in several Egyptian cities after an internet campaign.
Clashes break out in Tahrir Square between riot police and protesters, who



REUTERS, Cairo
A furious wave of protest finally swept Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak from power yesterday after 30 years of one-man rule, sparking jubilation on the streets and sending a warning to autocrats across the Arab world and beyond. Mubarak, the second Arab leader to be overthrown by a popular uprising in a month, handed power to the army after 18 days of relentless rallies against poverty, corruption and repression caused support from the armed forces to evaporate. Vice President Omar Suleiman said a

military council would run the affairs of the Arab world's most populous nation. A free and fair presidential election has been promised for September. A speaker made the announcement in Cairo's Tahrir Square where hundreds of thousands broke down in tears, celebrated and hugged each other chanting: "The people have brought down the regime." Others shouted: "Allahu Akbar (God is great)."
The 82-year-old Mubarak's downfall after 18 days of unprecedented mass protests was a momentous victory for people power and was sure to rock autocrats throughout the Arab world and

beyond. Egypt's powerful military gave guarantees earlier on Friday that promised democratic reforms would be carried out but angry protesters intensified an uprising against Mubarak, marching on the presidential palace and the state television tower. It was an effort by the army to defuse the revolt but, in disregarding protesters' key demand for Mubarak's ouster now, it failed to calm the turmoil that has disrupted the economy and rattled the entire Middle East. The military's intervention was

Egyptian anti-government protesters celebrate at Cairo's Tahrir square yesterday after president Hosni Mubarak stepped down.
PHOTO: AFP

ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

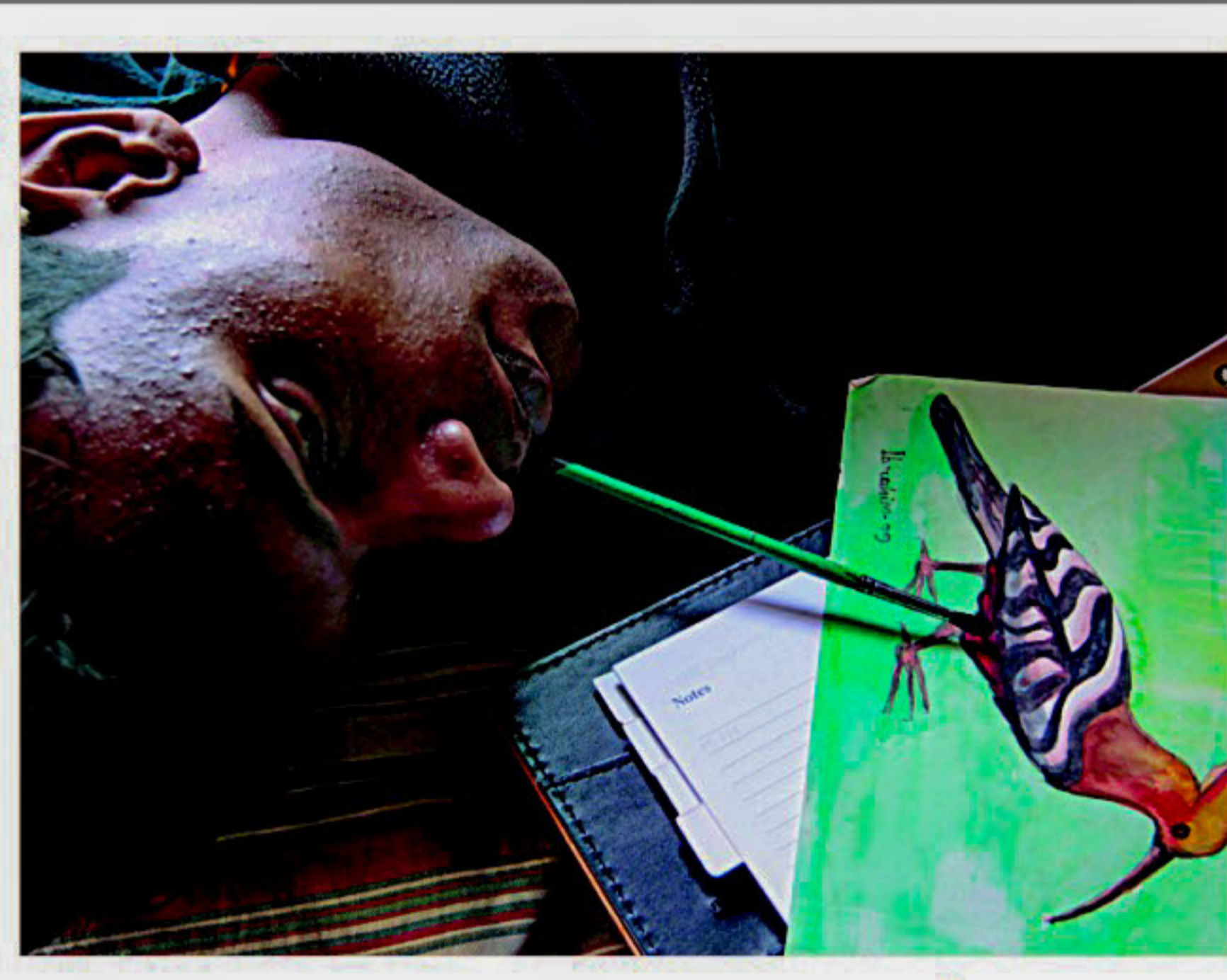
It all starts from here

SPORTS REPORTER
Frenetic construction work is underway at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong as hundreds worked overtime to prepare the venue to host the first practice match in the lead-up to the World Cup between hosts Bangladesh and Canada today. Bricks are being laid on the approach road to the stadium, even as a new coat of paint is being put on the outer walls. Outside it is all a cacophony of noise that hints at the amount of work that is being put into the last-minute preparations. Inside though, the two groups of cricketers toiling on the lush green under the sun, are seemingly oblivious to the work going on outside. They are readying themselves for a test for today, as the first warm-up match of the World Cup will be played between



Nazimuddin slated for backing Urdu

SYED BADRUL AHSAN
Reaction to Khwaja Nazimuddin's defence of Urdu as the future state language of Pakistan was swift and largely devastating. As already noted, Chief Minister Nurul Amin was taken by surprise with the prime minister's pronouncements, so much so that he subsequently questioned



Ibrahim Mallik has learnt mouth painting and become a busy artist. The photo was taken at CRP in Savar yesterday.
PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Artist defies disability

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Savar
With no arms and the back paralysed, he has overcome disability and discrimination to become a successful painter. Ibrahim Mallik can paint pictures using his mouth and his works sell at a good price and win competition. "It is a great pleasure for me that I entered a working life from nothing," said the 24-year-old. "Today everybody values me, because I am an artist." Six years back at Pally

GIRL WHIPPED TO DEATH Fresh case recorded in line with HC order

18 named, 10-12 unnamed people accused of rape, abduction, torture; Fatwa charge not pressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In line with the High Court order, police yesterday recorded a fresh case in connection with the death of rape victim Hena Akter against 18 named and 10-12 unnamed people on five charges. The accused are facing the charges of rape, abduction, hatching conspiracy, holding unlawful assembly and torture in the case filed by Hena's mother Aklima Begum. Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of Naria Police Station, said "We have recorded the case in accordance with the High Court order. We did not bring the charge of issuing Fatwa as there is no specific law in this regard."

"However, in the case we have mentioned the issuing of Fatwa and also its effects," he added. He said the six persons detained after filing of the first case would be shown arrested in the latest one tomorrow. On Thursday, the HC issued upon the government eight directives that include filing of the fresh case. Fifteen-year-old Hena Akter was flogged to death following a fatwa (religious edict) at Chamta in Naria, Shariatpur last month. The HC came up with the directives as an autopsy conducted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on exhumation of her remains found injuries all over the body.

Hospital in sickbed

MAHBUBA ZANNAT
Patients suffer badly for lack of care and facilities at the state-run Mitford Hospital in the capital. At the postnatal ward of nearly two-century-old hospital, newborns are left lying on mattresses on the floor. Cats move around, cleaners gather waste close to the infants and attendants wearing shoes walk past. And at the surgery department, many patients are accommodated on the corridor. A post-operative patient, Mohammad Dulal Hossain, 54, who was moved to a bed on the corridor immediately after his surgery, said "It's very cold here and I've caught fever, as an additional gift." Authorities said the 700-bed hospital has to accommodate more than double the capacity. They also said the hospital has inadequate resources and manpower. "The pressure of patients is very severe," said Shamsun Nahar

Patients at Mitford Hospital face bed shortage; emergency ward doesn't have necessary equipment; ICU inoperative

Begum, head of Gynaecology department. "We cannot refuse any mother going into labour. To make room for would-be mothers, we release those who delivered babies by caesarean section three days back. We are supposed to discharge them after seven days," she added. The premature discharge often causes infections in the patients' surgical wounds. Maya, 35, was readmitted with wound infection on January 5. She gave birth to a baby by caesarean

section 12 days back. "My suffering and expenditure increased manifold due to the readmission," she said. The emergency department has almost no equipment to stabilise patients' condition. Rather an emergency patient is addressed after being sent to the concerned department that takes at least half-an-hour. A trashcan is found right on the way to the ward from the main building. Used gloves and gauges smeared with blood and pus make the place stinky. Some vagrants are found sorting out blood bags and pipes and syringes to sell at Noya Bazar at Tk 35 per kilogramme. Contacted, Deputy Director Abul Hashem Khan said the dustbin would be removed in a month. The 10-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is yet to be functional. The deputy director said they were waiting for the health ministry's nod. "Though we receive cancer

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