

WC off to wow start



Bangladesh face India in tomorrow's opener of the 14-nation cricket fiesta

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

Outside, the blaring drone of a hundred makeshift trumpets held testament to the thousands who had queued up outside the stadium. Inside the Bangabandhu National Stadium, however, an explosive festival of colour, music, dance and unceasing noise signalled the start of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 which will be jointly held in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Amidst flashing strobe lights, fluttery LED kites and a thousand irresistible cheers both in and out of the stadium, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 officially open, thereby checking another box in a long list of achievements for a young nation. "On behalf of the people of Bangladesh, I welcome the World Cup to Bangladesh," said the Prime Minister. "Many thanks to the ICC [International Cricket Council] and the BCB [Bangladesh Cricket Board] for working so hard to make this possible. Cricket lovers and fellow citizens, thank you all for

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Magnificent fireworks light up the Dhaka sky during the inaugural ceremony of the cricket World Cup at Bangabandhu Stadium.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Huge support for Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Irish president Mary Robinson has joined the development partners, prominent personalities and corporations in vowing to protect Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus from "politically orchestrated" attacks. As many as 50 charities and public figures, including James Wolfensohn, former World Bank president, Jagdish Sharan Verma, former Chief Justice of India, and Yeardley Smith, a French born American actress, on Wednesday said Yunus

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Khaleda absent

BNP says 'she wasn't invited properly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia did not attend the inaugural ceremony of Cricket World Cup 2011 despite invite from organisers. She, however, expressed her best wishes for Bangladesh team last night and welcomed the

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GOVT'S STOCK MARKET STEPS Tax-payers made to pay?

INAM AHMED

Are we witnessing a deadly concoction of political compulsion and personal intent in the latest government move to prop up the share market? As the share index kept collapsing despite the finance minister's assurance that it would "stabilise" by last week, the government made some decisions. It doled out another Tk 200 crore to the state-owned Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to be active in the market and yank up the index. It also directed state-owned banks to buy shares. Earlier, when the market was on the slide, the central bank gave a Tk 400 crore fund to ICB for the same purpose. Every one knows if that worked. One source in ICB confided to this correspondent that a third of that Tk 400 crore already vanished

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Girl missing on Valentine's Day found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a 15-year-old girl from the Dhaka-Narayanganj-

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TRAIN HITS LORRY Three killed

No gateman at 'unauthorised' crossing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed and two injured after a passenger train rammmed a sand-laden truck on an unguarded level crossing at Sreepur in Gazipur yesterday morning.

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Yunus on leadership transition

AFP, Dhaka

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus said Thursday he would not be forced out of the pioneering microfinance bank he

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Cop firings shocked, outraged Bangalees

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Tragedy struck Dhaka, indeed the whole of East Bengal, on February 21, 1952 when the police fired on the student demonstrators gathering on the Dhaka University campus (Details relating to the happenings of the day will appear on this page of

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