

Miladunnabi observed

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed in the country on Wednesday with religious fervour and due solemnity commemorating the birth of Great Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) on this day in the month of Rabiul Awal 1,441 years ago with divine blessings for mankind.

Muslims across the country joined special prayers and staged colourful street processions to mark the day which is also the day of 'Ufat' (departure) of the Prophet (PBUH).

Different religious, socio-political and cultural organisations drew up programmes in the capital and elsewhere in the country marking the day. The programmes included bringing out processions and arranging discussions and milad mahfil.

The city roads were decorated with national flags and colourful festoons inscribed with 'Allahu Akbar' and 'Kalima'. The day was a public holiday.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Anjumane Rahmaniya Maijbhandari brings out a colourful procession from the city's Institute of Engineers Bangladesh on Wednesday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

'Build language monuments at all edn instts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-five intellectuals, writers, scholars, poets and artists yesterday petitioned to the education minister to build language monuments at all educational institutions.

In a statement, they said the monuments at educational institutes would help the country keep away fundamentalism and revive the spirit and the ideology of the War of Liberation, read the petition.

Eminent scholar and philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, noted theatre personality Mamanur Rashid, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and poet Nirmalendu Goon among others signed the statement.

Sea port

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Fazlur emphasised on permitting transit facilities to fully utilise Chittagong Port and benefit from regional business, which would boost the country's economy.

He also opined to consider the ship-breaking sector as an industry and urged to ensure workers' safety and environmental preservation there. Fazlur, who was also a former chief nautical officer, stressed on developing the existing academic curriculum for mariners by adopting the latest international training methods, specifically by merging the courses on deck and engine.

Presently Marine Academy in Chittagong provides separate courses for the deck and engine cadets, he said.

Fazlur, arriving in Bangladesh on February 13 for a short visit, went to Western Marine Shipyard on February 14.

Child worker

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Sonia's mother Sheuli Begum rescued her child Tuesday night and brought her home after her employer called Sheuli over phone. Sonia was under treatment of a village doctor and shifted to RMCH.

The victim's father alleged that his child was forced to do all the household chores after an elderly female domestic help left the house. Sonia was beaten up as she expressed inability to shoulder heavy household burdens.

Manik alleged that none of Sonia's family members other than her mother are being allowed to see her at OCC and her parents were warned not to speak to anyone. Sonia's family is under pressure for not filing any case in this regard, he alleged. Journalists could not get comment from Sonia's employer, as the cantonment security did not allow access to them.

As a group of reporters went to RMCH, they were not also allowed to talk to the victim or her mother. "She is under treatment, you will get time to talk to her later", said RMCH Director Brig Gen Ashraful Alam Siddique.

He, however, confirmed the torture on Sonia and said he had talks with top officials of Rajshahi Cantonment who promised him monetary help for the housemaid besides expenses for her treatment.

Sonia used to read in class III at Vatapara Primary School. Her uncle Forma Ali and his wife Nasima Begum took her the job at the army official's house somehow after the Eid-ul-Azha.

Sub-inspector Nazma Begum, assigned police officer at the OCC, said no case was filed till last evening in this connection.

Declaring all forms of violence, torture and repression on domestic helps illegal, the High Court on February 15 ordered the government to ensure that no child aged below 12 is employed as domestic worker.

PM for more BAF policy makers in UN peacekeeping mission

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked every member of Bangladesh Armed Forces to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty.

She gave the directive while speaking as chief guest at the graduation ceremony of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) 2010-2011 Course at the Mirpur Hall of Mirpur Cantonment in the city yesterday morning.

Hasina also informed the function that the government will gradually implement housing scheme for GCOs and other officers.

The prime minister said she herself will talk to the United Nations authorities for increasing appointment of

Bangladesh armed forces' (BAF) officers to policymaking positions of the UN peacekeeping missions.

She mentioned that while addressing the UN General Assembly (UNGA) she already called for appointing Bangladesh armed forces officers at the policy making level of the UN peacekeeping missions.

She urged the officers to contribute their best towards building Bangladesh as a modern and digital country.

Earlier, on her arrival on the Mirpur Hall premises, the prime minister was received by the commandant of the college. This year a total of 175 student-officers attended the course. Of them, 90 officers were from Bangladesh Army, 19 officers from Navy, 27 officers from Air Force, and 39 officers from 18 friendly countries such as China, Egypt, India,

Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Ministers, Advisers to the Prime Minister, State Minister, MPs, diplomats, vice chancellors of different public universities, and high civil and military officials were present at the function.

Hasina said her government is firmly determined to accelerating development of rural economy. "When economy of the villagers will be strong, our kiths and kin will live better lives in the villages," she said.

Said despite skyrocketing prices in the international market, the government is giving various incentives to keep the prices within the reach of commoners.

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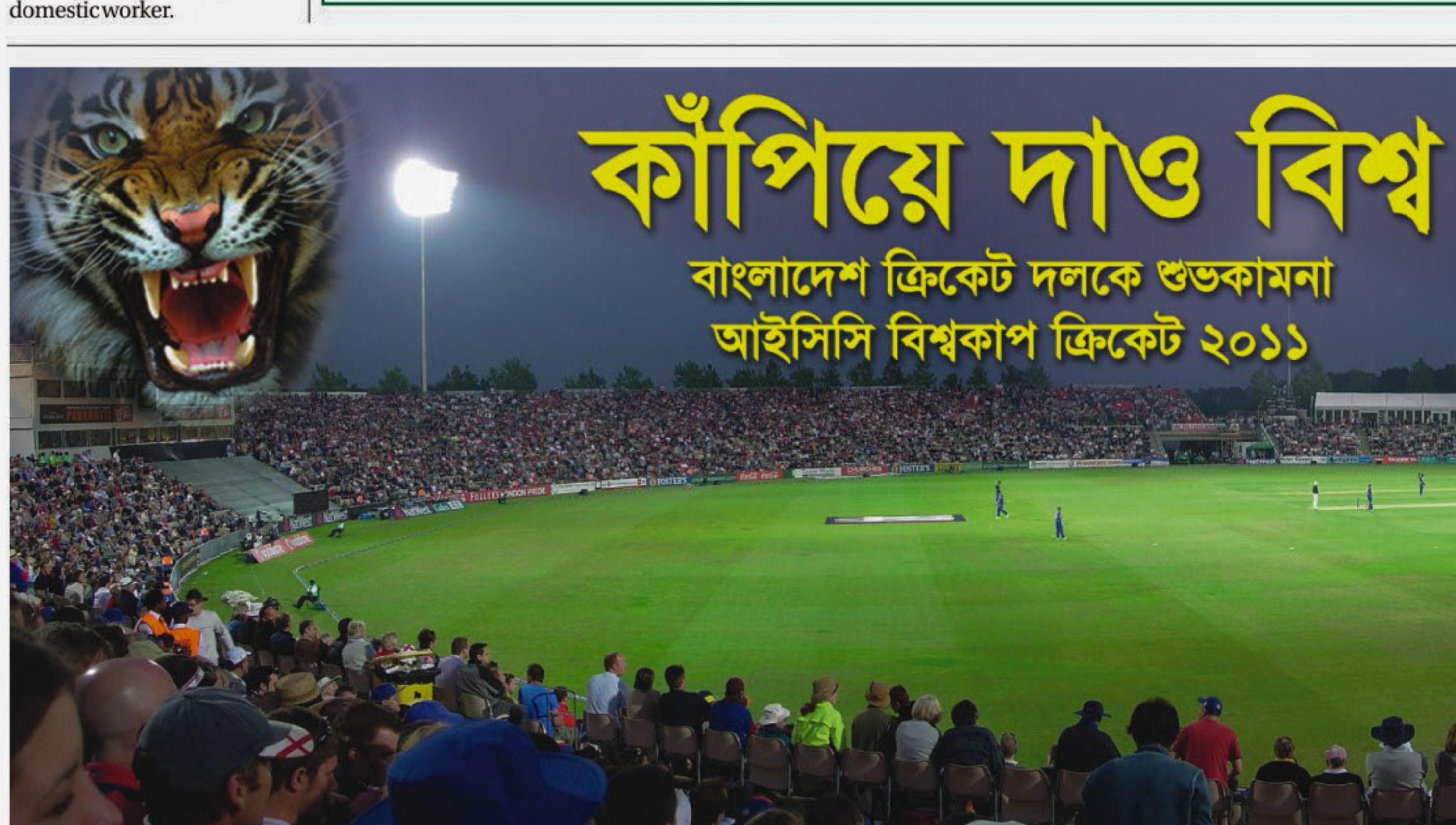
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