

A TOUCH OF GREEN

Historic Victoria Park offers a patch of greenery in a concrete jungle

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STUDYING ANIMAL ECOLOGY

Signals from flying animals become a data source

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AT FEVER PITCH

Snapshots of jubilant cricket fans in the run-up to the India-Bangladesh match

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Tigers go down fighting

Put up a spirited chase after Sehwag, Kohli flay bowling attack

BISHWAJIT ROY

The euphoria about the World Cup opener is gone, and all that Bangladesh are left with is the disappointment of an 87-run loss against the might of India. One aspect of yesterday's game that will haunt the home team and its supporters for some time to come is the lapse in judgement in sending India in to bat after winning the toss.

Except some flashes with the bat, nothing went right for Shakib Al Hasan's men in the highly anticipated opening match of the ICC Cricket World Cup against favourites India at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

In front of a sell-out crowd the Bangladesh captain stunned everybody

by taking the decision to bowl in the day-night affair. He might have had the dew factor in mind when taking the decision, but the dew turned into a thunderstorm in the likes of Indian opener Virender Sehwag and World Cup debutant Virat Kohli, who toyed with the erratic and nervous Bangladesh bowling and eventually sealed the fate of the match at the halfway mark.

Riding on Sehwag's -- whose mission was to avenge their defeat in the 2007 World Cup in West Indies -- blistering knock of 175 and Kohli's well-composed unbeaten hundred, India put Bangladesh under a pile of runs with 370 for four in their share of 50 overs, to dampen the enthusiasm of an electrifying home crowd

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star Indian batsman Virender Sehwag bludgeons a ball through cover during his punishing innings of 175 against Bangladesh in the World Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Fair & Lovely
MAX Impression Moment



Demand for Bangla got louder after the killing

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Following the shootings of February 21, 1952, it became clear that the whole of East Bengal and indeed the entirety of Pakistan were numbed by the tragedy. But the most important lesson emerging from the incidents of the day was that the movement for Bangla as the language of the state had assumed a much bigger dimension than could earlier be conceived of by politicians in the corridors of power. After February 21, events moved with remarkable speed. On

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Education steps put brake on dropouts

Rate climbs down from 42pc to 29pc in 2 years

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government's policy of distributing free textbooks, widening the stipend coverage for students and training teachers seems to be paying off: the dropout rate at the SSC level has come down sharply in last two years.

In tune with the decades-old trend, around 53 per cent students did not sign up for the Secondary School Certificate examinations in 2007; the percentage was 54.10 in 2008, education ministry sources said.

The rate fell to a remarkable 42.15 per cent in 2009 and 36.05 percent last year. This year 29 percent students -- 4.25 lakh out of 14.56 lakh -- did not register to take the exams.

Female students have dominated in the dropout ratio since 2007.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said though the rate is decreasing, it is not



Nahid... not happy yet

satisfactory yet.

"We are waging a movement to slash the dropout rate. We are giving free textbooks and stipends to poor students to retain them in schools.

"It has been a longstanding problem and it would take time to be resolved as it stems from the socio-economic condition of the country," he observed.

Nahid said his ministry is conducting a survey to look into the factors responsible for students discontinuing studies.

Those who did not register are not necessarily dropouts as they can sit the exams as irregular students, he added.

Educationists and officials said given the socio-economic condition of the country it is not possible to solve the problem overnight, but it can be reduced to a certain level.

Parents' inability to pay fees, failure of

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HC RULES CJ discusses proposals for changes

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The chief justice in a full court meeting with High Court judges yesterday discussed proposed amendments to HC rules including provisions for

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Dhaka, Delhi move to swap enclaves

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh may soon gain over 10,000 acres of land from India, as Dhaka and New Delhi prepare to exchange 162 enclaves.

A resolution of the decades-old enclave issue is now a strong possibility with the two countries making serious efforts to

that end, said diplomatic sources.

Official record shows India has 111 enclaves or nearly 17,158 acres of land in Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Nilphamari districts of Bangladesh.

On the other hand, Bangladesh has 51 enclaves measuring 7,110 acres in Cooch Behar district of India.

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