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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXI No. 38 | FALGUN 9, 1417 BS | RABIUL AWAL 17, 1432 HJRI

40 PAGES PRICE: TK 10.00



HOW IT HAPPENED Mahbub Husain Khan recalls how Amar Ekushey became International Mother Language Day PAGE 15	LOCAL IS BETTER Domestic sari brands regain ground PAGE B8	TAMIM ON WC OPENER "When going gets tough, you have to stick around" PAGE 16
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AMAR EKUSHEY TODAY
Bangla earned thru' blood

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The Rubicon was crossed on February 21, 1952.

The imposition of Section 144 earlier by the provincial government, while it appeared to act as a damper on the spirits of some, by and large acted as a provocation for a majority of students and other young people determined to make their voices heard on the language issue. There was a clear difference of opinion between what could loosely be regarded as pragmatists and radicals on whether or not Section 144 should be violated. From the early morning on February 21, the Dhaka University campus of began to fill with students driven very much by a desire for a showdown, if showdown it had to be, with the authorities.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



Saving the handouts of two days Titu bought a jersey of Bangladesh cricket team. Taking a break from his usual activities, he was seen roaming proudly in Karwan Bazar area of the capital yesterday. The 18-year-old lost his legs in an accident but he still manages to support his two young siblings living in a shanty.

Toss dictates day's talks

Lankans, Kiwis thrash minnows

SAKEB SUBHAN

New Zealand decimated Kenya in Chennai and Sri Lanka did a similar job on Canada in Hambantota as the ICC Cricket World Cup rolls into other two host nations yesterday.

But fans here in Bangladesh were still reeling from Saturday's defeat to India by 87 runs at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in the opening match.

Although the crescendo has subsided, if only momentarily, even during this lull in the storm, the dominant topic of conversation has been the merit or demerit of Shakib Al Hasan's decision to field first against a powerful Indian batting line-up.

His decision saw India rack up a massive 370 and virtually win the opening match at the halfway mark. The reaction to the loss has been so strong that save the team management the general

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Saluting language heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman at 12:01 am led the nation in paying tribute to the Language Movement martyrs who laid down their lives for the mother tongue

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1
PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

Safety first, then import

HC asks ship-breakers again to go by rules, ensure protection of workers, public, environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said import of ships will not be allowed for dismantling unless public and workers' safety and environmental protection are ensured.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain said this during hearing of a petition filed by Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association (BSBA) seeking permission to import ships for dismantling.

The court directed the BSBA to submit a report by February 27 on experts' opinion regarding pre-cleaning of ships inside the country.

The court fixed February 27 for delivering an order on the petition.

The same bench on January 19 issued a suo moto rule directing the government to stop all kinds of ship-breaking until further order. The order came against the backdrop of an explosion inside a ship in Sitakunda that killed four workers on January 18.

Justice Shamsuddin, senior member of the bench, yesterday said, "We'll permit entry of ships into the country's territory for scrapping on a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Robbers captured upon car chase

Police uniforms, weapons recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a movie-like car chase, police yesterday arrested two criminals who commit robberies disguised as law enforcers.

They recovered weapons and police uniforms from their possession.

The arrestees are alleged ringleader of the gang Billal Hossain Belal, 45, of Chandpur and his cohort Shahid Peda, 40, of Shariatpur.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

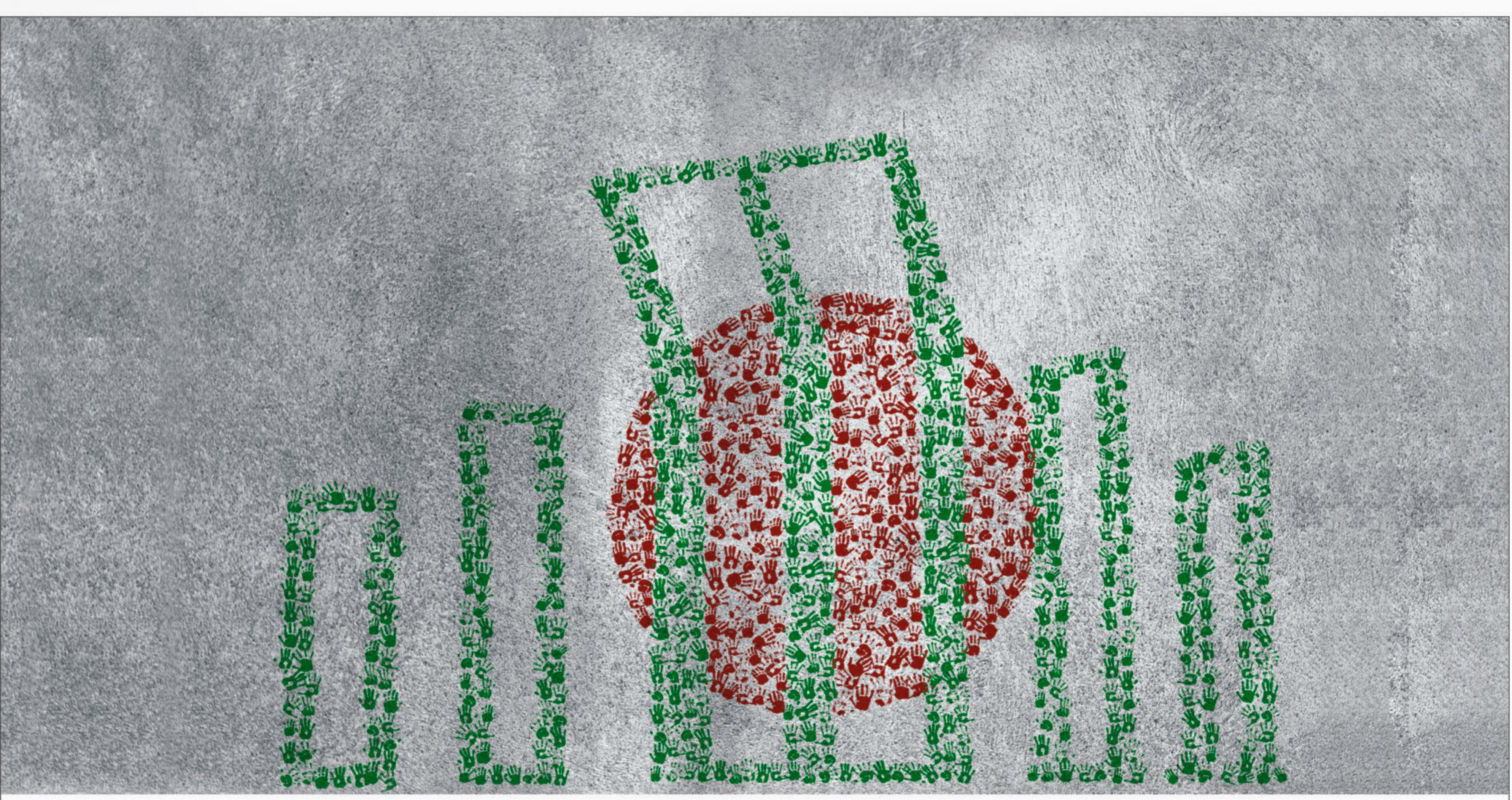
Yunus slates 'loan shark' microlenders

AFP, New Delhi

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has labelled profit-driven microfinance firms as 'loan sharks' who undermine the small-credit schemes that he pioneered to help tackle poverty.

Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for making loans available

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



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