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Messi rocks big bowl

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

Lionel Messi dazzled in an otherwise underwhelming Argentina performance which still proved enough to negotiate an ultimately comfortable 3-1 victory over Nigeria in their international friendly match held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) in Dhaka yesterday.

Real Madrid striker Gonzalo Higuain claimed two of the goals, at least one of which was a stunning finish from a Messi chip behind the defensive line. Angel di Maria was the other scorer, but that goal too owed all but the final touch to Messi. The Argentine picked up the ball in midfield and as is his wont, put on a burst of acceleration that saw him sashay past numerous challenges. His placing shot was half-stopped by Nigeria goalkeeper Aiyenugba Dele, but Real Madrid winger di Maria was there to sweep home the rebound.

Nigeria fought back briefly, especially early in the second-half, as their strategy of hitting the ball beyond Argentina's high full-backs started to reap dividends. Hoffenheim forward and second-half substitute Chinedu Obasi provided a smart finish after great work from Chelsea midfielder John Obi Mikel early in the second-half, but with Higuain's finish the game was all but up.

The Bangabandhu National Stadium was almost packed to its 24,000 capacity when the side's kicked-off after an elaborate opening session that included

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THEY COULDN'T CATCH HIS MAGICAL FEET: Three Nigeria defenders try every means to stop Lionel Messi, as he weaves in to create the second Argentina goal during the international friendly at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Albiceleste clinched the game 3-1.

Nanak's son killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A son of State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak was killed while two others were injured in a road accident at Bendi Bazar of Chakoria in Cox's Bazar district last night.

The deceased Fahimur Rahman Sayem, 22, was a private university student while the injured were identified as Sayem's maternal uncle Pew and a local reporter Enamul Kabir.

Mohammad Farhad, officer-in-charge of Chakoria Police Station, said Sayem along with two others were going to Cox's Bazar by his car. The car hit the guard rail of a bridge on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway around 11:00pm which left Sayem dead on the spot and two others severely injured.

Sayem was driving the
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AL men clash over tender

22 arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested 22 Awami League activists after they clashed over dropping off of tender documents at the Water Development Board office in Rangpur city yesterday.

Following the incident, Rangpur Motor Sramik Union around 3:00pm suspended all vehicular movement to and from Rangpur, demanding unconditional release of the union's general secretary Abdul Majid who was arrested for his involvement in the clash.

Road communication was restored around 4:00pm after Majid, also labour secretary of AL Rangpur unit, was released.

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Khaleda's remarks 'contempt of court'

Says JS body

BSS, Dhaka

A parliamentary committee yesterday said the recent remarks of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia against former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque are "tantamount to contempt of court".

The standing committee on the ministry of law and parliamentary affairs

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Housemaid dies in 6-storey fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-year-old housemaid died yesterday after she fell on the road from the fifth floor veranda of a six-storey building at the city's DOHS Baridhara.

Bilkis Akhter might have fallen from the railing of the veranda while playing around 1:30pm, claimed her employer Zakir Ibne Saad, general manager of shipping firm CMS-CGM Agency, and his wife Dr Munmun Rahman of Pongu Hospital.

She was taken to United Hospital where she died around 3:30pm.

Bilkis, daughter of farmer Nuruddin of Haluaghat in Mymensingh, had been serving the family for the last six months.

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One more held for kidney trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested one more person in Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat district early yesterday for his alleged involvement in kidney trade.

The arrestee, identified as Saiful Islam alias Daud, is a key figure in the country's illicit kidney trade, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Joypurhat police

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First Bangladeshi Everest conqueror Musa Ibrahim writes while he is on his quest to reach the top of Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro



Getting free of fears

MUSA IBRAHIM

Over the past couple of days, it has been the sight of dark clouds across the skies in Dar es Salaam all early morning that have drawn my attention. You tend to get the feeling that the clouds will soon burst into rain. But no rain falls. The clouds somehow float away by 10. The locals have an

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BNP WITHOUT TARIQUE Khaleda agreed initially

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Soon after the imposition of the state of emergency in January 2007, the army had asked BNP Chief Khaleda Zia to send her elder son Tarique Rahman abroad and "clean up the party so that she could still lead the country."

Initially, Khaleda agreed but shifted her stance later, said a US embassy cable from Dhaka quoting the then BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. WikiLeaks, an anti-secrecy organisation, published the cable on its website on August 30.

The cable revealed how desperately the BNP chief tried to save Tarique and her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, who were detained on corruption charges during the tenure of the army-backed caretaker government in March and April, 2007.

Khaleda met the US ambassador in private at a local hotel on May 25. She requested the ambassador to support her embattled sons Tarique and Koko and said "she was ready to leave Bangladesh and not return."

In April, Tarique's wife Dr Zubaida

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UN warned army against coup

Leaked US cable discloses volatile situation in 2007 before president Iajuddin declared state of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations in January 2007 warned Bangladesh military that any extra constitutional action or involvement in one-sided parliamentary polls could jeopardise its participation in UN peacekeeping missions.

To avoid the consequences, the military leaders pressed the then president Iajuddin Ahmed to declare state

of emergency, resign as the chief adviser and postpone the elections planned for January 22, 2007, said an US cable released by WikiLeaks on August 30 this year.

A UN representative told US ambassador Patricia A Butenis in Dhaka that chief of army staff General Moeen U Ahmed had complained to her of the horrendous pressure he was under to step in, either under a state of

emergency or otherwise, and solicited a letter from the UN threatening loss of UNPKO duties should the military act extra-constitutionally.

"Moeen claimed that he could not 'stick his neck out' and approach the president/ chief adviser to beg off from any political role for the military without such benefit of proof of the dire consequences for the army," said the

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2 generals sought US support for coup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former army chiefs had aspired to see changes in "dynastic politics" courtesy a US-aided coup in 2004, according to a leaked diplomatic cable.

The cable sent to Washington by the then US ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas in late 2004 was published by whistleblower website WikiLeaks on August 30 this year.

It said the United States rejected the requests of the two army men. Former army chief and Awami

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Star dubbed as generally neutral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US diplomat in 2009 labelled The Daily Star as a "generally neutral" newspaper in Bangladesh.

Nicholas J Dean, the then charge d'affaires of the US embassy in Dhaka, thus termed the English daily in a cable sent on October 14, 2009, on the reaction in the Bangladeshi media to President Barack Obama's winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Saying that the local newspaper

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3 workers killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three labourers were killed and eight others injured early yesterday when a Dhaka-bound truck from Bogra, carrying vegetables, skidded off the road at Baipail of the city's outskirts Ashulia and plunged into a ditch.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to sack Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal as captaincy and vice-captain following the team's failure on the Zimbabwe tour is justified?

Yes (62.9%)
No (34.0%)
No Comments (3.1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 483

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think without Teesta water sharing treaty, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka will be fruitful?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 7

Fajr 4:30 5:05
Zohr 12:45 1:15
Asr 4:45 5:00
Maghrib 6:23 6:26
Esra 7:45 8:15

Sources: Islamic Foundation