



'A SEPARATION'

The Oscar winner bags four prizes at the Asian Film Awards
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PARLIAMENTARY CULTURE

Syed Badrul Ahsan wishes if wit were still a part of politics
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MAMATA WARNS

Her party will quit the ruling alliance "if humiliated"
PAGE 7

HISTORY

Tigers in final

MOHAMMAD ISAM

We are part of history today. The collective joy of 160 million people has finally been given a rightful place as the Tigers, the beloved Bangladesh cricket team, reached the finals of a major cricket tournament for the first time in its cricket history last night.

In beating Sri Lanka by five wickets, the country's most talked-about group of sportsmen reached the Asia Cup final where they will meet Pakistan tomorrow.

It is the fruition of several years of toil, tremendous hardship in the last decade and exasperation with one-off performances. The packed house at the Tigers' home of cricket, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, was the scene of history and at times it seemed every Bangladeshi was at the ground. When Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal walked in to bat, it seemed they did so



with every cricketer who ever played for the country; it wasn't baggage, it was responsibility that they carried with them. The two world-class cricketers delivered at the right time, winning a place in history and putting themselves on a different pedestal.

At 10:56pm, Nasir Hossain hit the winning boundary off the first ball of the 37th over in a stiff chase where they were asked to chase 212 runs in 40 overs following a 105-minute rain break. Sri Lanka were bowled out in 49.5 overs for 232 after a superb bowling performance by Nazmul Hossain and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

The crowd went absolutely nuts as the ball passed mid-on and into the boundary; the players ran in, the music was on full volume. A little while later, the Tigers took a victory lap with three flags surrounding them. It was

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THE PARTY BEGINS: Nasir Hossain (L) and Mahmudullah Riyad hug each other for joy after taking Bangladesh to Asia Cup final at Mirpur last night.

8TH WAGE BOARD Statement of Noab condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of journalists, press workers and employees associations yesterday strongly protested and condemned the statement of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) that urged the government to reconsider the formation of the eighth wage board.

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HASINA, KHALEDA FACE OFF AT SANGSAD

Opposition joins JS to save membership

Says PM, terms Khaleda's speech full of false information; mentions misrule during BNP tenure in 47-minute speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia and deputies from the opposition joined parliament session only to save their membership and continue to get financial benefits as lawmakers.

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Resolve caretaker govt crisis

Opposition leader says time is still there; also thanks govt over maritime role in 2-hour speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the government to settle the caretaker government issue through "an understanding" for the sake of the nation and the existence of democracy in the country.

"Election must be held under a non-party

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Islamic microcredit going great guns

Grows over 16 times in 2 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islamic microfinance has grown by more than sixteen times in Bangladesh in the last two years mainly due to an aggressive campaign by Islamic banks.

The number of Islamic microfinance clients has also more than doubled to 4.48 lakh last year from 2.11 lakh two years ago, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman told a roundtable on "Islamic Microfinance: An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation" at Hotel Radisson in the city.

The disbursement of Islamic microfinance has reached to Tk 4,620 crore or 8.38 percent of the total Islamic financing till December last year from Tk 282.38

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Reckless they all are

Quader says some people's representatives killing democracy like some drivers murdering people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some people's representatives are killing democracy with their reckless behaviour and indecent speeches in parliament, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

It is like killing people by reckless driving, he said, adding, "People's representatives are turning democracy into a corpse by continuously hitting it with their reckless behaviour and distasteful speeches."

"So, a reckless public representative is no less dangerous than a reckless driver," said Obaidul, while

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Bhutto in Dhaka

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Dr Kamal Hossain is the only surviving member of the Awami League team which engaged in the fateful negotiations with the Yahya Khan regime in March 1971. As he tells it, on this day in 1971, he was summoned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the morning. When he turned up at Bangabandhu's residence, he found the Awami League chief busy

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India now world's top arms importer

AGENCIES

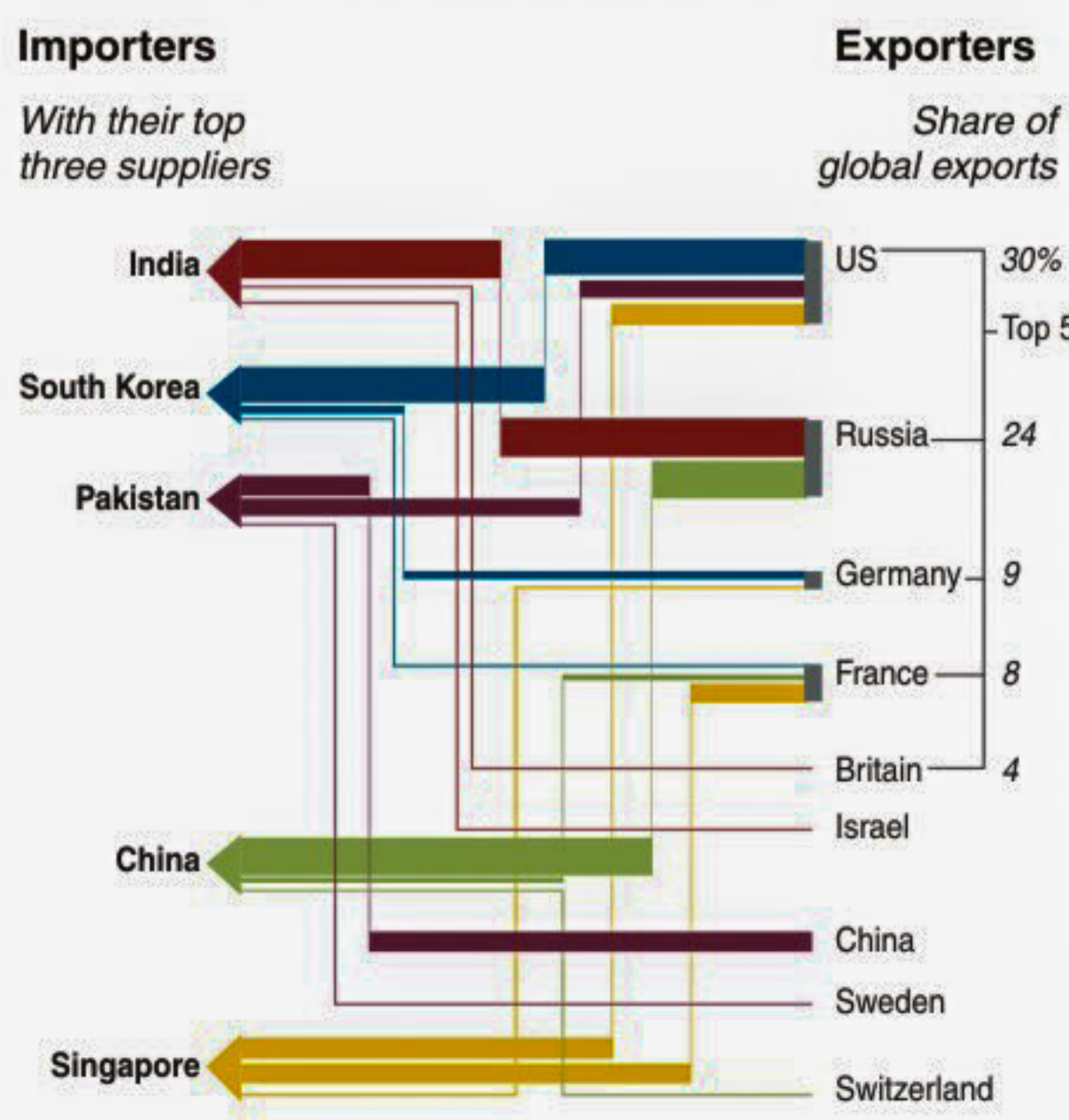
Modernising its armed forces along the borders with China and Pakistan, India has emerged as the world's largest importer of arms, a global think tank report said.

The report pointed out that China, which was the largest importer of arms in 2002-2006, fell to fourth place in 2007-11 due to decline in the volume of Chinese imports along with improvements in China's arms industry and rising arms exports.

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World arms trade

World's largest importers and where they import from



Source: SIPRI

AFP

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