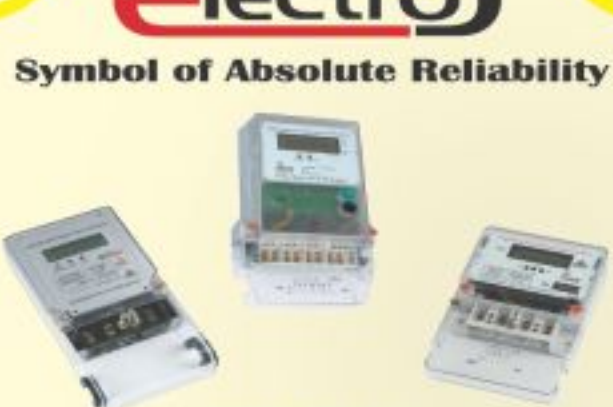


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DESOLATION CAGE

Bradley Manning admits to falling apart in detention

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WORLD AIDS DAY

A collective action can create a world without the disease

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TRIBUTE TO UDAY SHANKAR

The man who changed West's perception of South Asian dance and music

PAGE 10

Shahjalal airport braces for chaos

Runway repair to stop flight operations for 9 hrs every day in next 5 months

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The 24-hour Shahjalal International Airport becomes a 15-hour airport for five months from today, as its only runway gets a fresh coat of tarmac.

Airlines and passengers fear delays and chaos as the airport would have to handle around 185 flights, including 90 international flights, and around 15,000 passengers a day within that 15-hour window.

They worry that since the airport may not have the capability to handle such a rush, things could get worse in case of inclement weather, notably fog which is quite usual during the winter.

The runway will remain closed from

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



10,500-ft runway surface expired six years ago

The runway to remain closed from 11:00pm to 8:00am for five months

33 flights to change schedule

Passengers asked to report five hours before departure



Bangladesh's explosive opener Tamim Iqbal pulls one during his 51-ball 58 against the West Indies in the first ODI at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

RMG SECTOR Crisis managers in hibernation

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Tasked with resolving problems in the apparel sector, seven regional crisis management committees were formed in 2010. Ever since, these committees exist mainly on paper.

The designated committee for Ashulia zone has yet to sit even one after the Tazreen Fashions tragedy, the deadliest in the country's garment sector, officials said.

The silence of these committees has

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Top buyers press for fire safety

STAR REPORT

International buyers yesterday recommended the garment makers of Bangladesh immediately upgrade fire safety system at the factories to avert fire deaths.

They also suggested Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) strengthen its fire safety cell and train the owners first and then the

mid-level officials and workers.

The owners called on the representatives of buyers and globally renowned clothing brands at BGMEA building in the capital to clarify their position in the aftermath of Tazreen Fashions blaze.

The buyers also suggested keeping open all the collapsible gates at the factories for convenient exit of workers during any fire incident

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upgrade BGMEA fire-safety cell

Train owners first

Revise building code

Review fire licence

Listen to workers

Conduct fire drills

Assess power supply regularly

Tigers' teamwork crushes Windies

SAKEB SUBHAN from Khulna

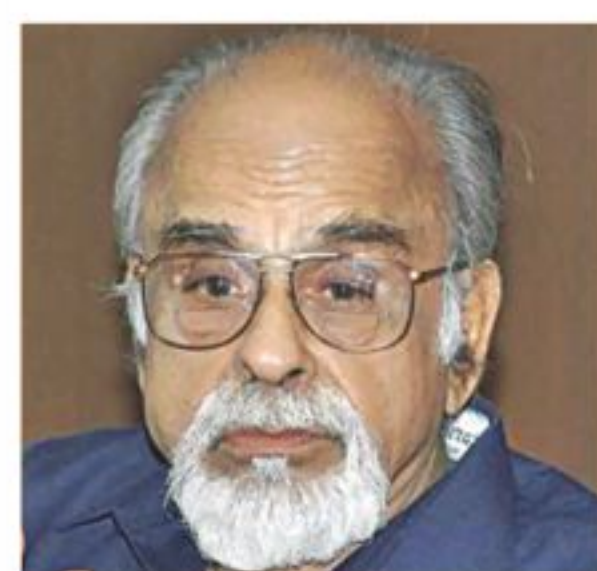
The Bangladesh team surpassed all expectations and confounded all pre-series predictions as they convincingly beat the West Indies by seven wickets in the first of five ODIs at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

No one expected a team with four debutants and without their best player to pull off a win against a team decidedly stronger on paper, much less one with 58 balls to spare. The bowlers, with the ever-more-impressive debutant Shohag Gazi leading the way with the best returns by a Bangladeshi debutant, set up the victory with a spirited and disciplined effort that the West Indians had no answer to, being skittled out for 199 in 46.5 overs.

The victory was dedicated by captain Mushfiqur Rahim to the victims of the garments factory fire in Ashulia and Manzarul Islam Rana, the Test cricketer from Khulna who lost his life in a motorcycle accident on March 16, 2007.

The Tigers also had to overcome the considerable handicap of playing without all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan for the first time in 83 matches and comprehensively outplayed an opposition that was thought to be streets

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



IK Gujral no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Former Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, better known as IK Gujral, who had championed the cause of the country's strong relations with neighbouring countries, died yesterday after a brief illness.

Gujral, 92, breathed his last at 3:27pm at a private hospital in Gurgaon after

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

PM donates money for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday allocated Tk 2 lakh to each of the families of those killed in a garment factory fire in Ashulia and a flyover collapse in Chittagong on April 24.

The families of the dead that have been identified are entitled to the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Looking for work and dreaming of a better future, this family of three came from Rangpur a few days before the Tazreen Fashions fire in Ashulia. They started living in a shanty near the factory. After the November 24 blaze had killed 111 workers, the couple thought they better leave Dhaka. The photo was taken as Mozammel and Morjina along with their kid were leaving Ashulia on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Western shoppers' habits not changed

AP, New York

Before purchasing a shirt, shoppers will run their hands over the fabric, look at the price tag and wonder how it will hold up in the washing machine. Some might even ask if it makes them look fat.

The one detail,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Tahera

'It will kill me!'

WASIM BIN HABIB

She cannot recognise anyone most of the times. She doesn't speak now, she screams, "There it is ... it will kill me!"

She is Tahera Begum, a machine operator who miraculously survived last Saturday's devastating fire at Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Ashulia.

The blaze killed 111 workers.

Tahera witnessed six to seven of her female

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Palestinians win UN vote

Statehood status upgraded despite opposition from Israel, US

AGENCIES

The UN General Assembly on Thursday overwhelmingly voted to make Palestine a non-member state, in the face of strong opposition from Israel and the US.

The victory for president Mahmud Abbas triggered scenes of joy in the occupied West Bank, where thousands celebrated with bursts of gunfire and cheers in the city of Ramallah.

Abbas claimed what he called a UN "birth certificate" for a Palestinian state and got the backing of 138 countries in the 193-member assembly. Nine voted against and 41 abstained, while five did not participate.

The limited diplomatic upgrade came on the 65th anniversary of the UN partition vote, when the world body first divided the Holy Land between Jews and

Arabs, who have battled over it ever since, most recently in this month's deadly Gaza fighting.

Apart from Israel and the US, those voting against were Canada, the Czech Republic, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Panama.

European countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Norway, Denmark and Switzerland all voted yes. Britain and Germany both abstained, with Britain say-

ing Abbas had failed to promise he would resume peace negotiations with Israel.

A Palestinian flag was unfurled in the General Assembly as the victory was pronounced.

The vote lifts the Palestinian Authority from an observer entity to a "non-member observer state" on a par with the Vatican.

Palestine has no vote in the General Assembly but can now

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

PALESTINIANS UN BID



Israel pushes settlements in East Jerusalem

NEW YORK TIMES, Jerusalem

As the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to upgrade the Palestinians' status Thursday night, Israel took steps toward building housing in a controversial area of East Jerusalem, where Jewish settlements have long been seen as the death knell for a two-state

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7