



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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ALARM!
Officials find 64 factories without fire licences and extinguishers
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THE NEGLECTED ONES
The country's blind cricketers are denied financial aid from authorities
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'WE HAVE A STATE'
Abbas tells cheering crowds on his return to West Bank
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PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT

Three may be sued

WB team meets ACC, says it is encouraged

M RAHMAN
The Anti-Corruption Commission is likely to sue tomorrow former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, ex-secretary of the Bridges Division Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and ex-director of Padma bridge project Rafiqul Islam for influencing the selection of a consultant for the project.
Apart from the three, certain top officials of Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Padma bridge project and the local agency of Canadian consultancy firm SNC Lavalin are to be sued, said several sources in the ACC.
Two SNC Lavalin officials are already facing trial in a Canadian court on charges of bribing Bangladeshi public officials to get the \$50 million consultancy job in the bridge project.
Preferring anonymity, an ACC high official said, "The enquiry into the alleged corruption conspiracy is nearing
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Bangladesh opener Anamul Haque wields his bat after reaching the magical century in the second one-day international against West Indies at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Picture perfect at Tigers' den

SAKEB SUBHAN from Khulna
Bangladesh off-spinner Shohag Gazi, playing only his second match, flighted the ball to opposite number Sunil Narine of West Indies, who tried to drive it through the off-side but did not connect well and the ball went at a brisk pace in the air towards cover. On another day the ball may have eluded Tamim Iqbal, but yesterday he leapt to his left and at full stretch pulled off a two-handed blinder to hammer the final nail in the Caribbean coffin.
Bangladesh, riding on a complete team performance and a century by newcomer Anamul Haque, won the second ODI of the five-match series against West Indies by their biggest victory margin yet -- 160 runs. In doing so at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, the Tigers have ensured that they maintained an all-win record in ODIs in Khulna, which can now be called the 'Tigers' den' because of the strong record of the Tigers here, the name the national cricket team have taken from
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Who will they turn to, now?

Parentless overnight in Tazreen fire, two kids in tears seek answer

TAWFIQUE ALI
In a tragic irony, the day before the deadly Tazreen blaze her father had called her from the capital and promised to stay for five days with her in Rangpur.
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Seema and her brother Zakaria.
PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Japan okays metro rail funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In a major breakthrough in building the country's first metro rail system in Dhaka, Japan has approved \$2.1 billion in soft loan for the \$2.7 billion project.
Finance Minister AMA Muhith disclosed this yesterday at his secretariat office after Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima handed over the approval letter to him.
"Japan government has approved the loan. They will give us \$133 million within the current fiscal year," he told journalists. Construction of the
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Ashulia region remains restive

Factories become target of protest by a group of garment workers; law enforcers act tough

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Stemming from the Tazreen Fashions disaster, garment and leather workers' agitations in Ashulia industrial belt continued yesterday as they attacked several factories and clashed with industrial police.
They halted traffic on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Jamgara for about 45 minutes.
Police had to resort to teargas, rubber bullets and truncheon charge to disperse them as the workers fought running battles with them.
Mitu, a staff of MD Jeans, lost consciousness when police charged truncheons.
The workers' unrest began since a fire on November 24 claimed 111 lives at Tazreen Fashions factory in Ashulia.
The demonstrations yesterday began around 9:00am when nearly 1,000 workers of leather factory Picard Bangladesh Ltd in Zirabo came out of their factory to protest garments workers' attack on their unit on Saturday.
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KL to recruit first in farm sector

Recruitment of 30,000 workers starts next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ending a four-year ban, Malaysia will initially recruit 30,000 Bangladeshi workers for its plantation sector from early next year.
"It will also recruit gradually workers in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture and service sectors. This is a milestone in the history of the country's manpower export sector," Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.
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