



SAFF HEARTBREAK
Bangladesh turn a win against India into a 1-1 draw by conceding last-minute goal
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SEXAGENARIAN MAKES HISTORY
Diana Nyad becomes the first person to swim more than 100 miles from Cuba to Florida
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EVERGREEN APARNA
Short bio says why the filmmaker-actor is a cut above the rest
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Ramu incident shame for all

PM calls for communal harmony at any cost

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon people irrespective of caste, creed and religion to work together to protect communal harmony in the country.

The Ramu incident was a shame for all, she said adding that interfaith harmony, being nurtured for thousands of years, should be preserved at any cost.

The prime minister was addressing a function to mark the inauguration of 12 reconstructed Buddhist temples and monasteries in Ramu of Cox's Bazar.

On September 29-30 last year, zealots looted, vandalised and burnt 19 temples and monasteries in Ramu and Ukhia upazilas.

On the directive of the PM, the Engineering Corps of 17 ECB Battalion of Bangladesh Army in Cox's Bazar reconstructed the temples and monasteries



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Ferries operating at half their capacity on Paturia-Daulatdia route with low navigability and strong current in the Padma and amid fears of getting stuck in underwater shoals. The photo was taken from a ferry near Daulatdia terminal on Monday. Later at night, the services ground to a halt.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Give us security

Appeals Buddhist leader

MUHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, back from Ramu

When the Buddhist leader stood up before the microphone, there was little sign that he is 84. His resonant voice reverberated through Ramu's Buddhist neighbourhood. But an underlying tone of insecurity, even almost a year after the unprecedented attack, was evident.

"Please, give us security. We're a peace-loving people," Pandit Satyapriyo

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PATURIA-DAULATDIA RIVER ROUTE

Ferry service comes to a halt

STAR REPORT

Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia route have remained suspended since Monday night due to rapid formation of underwater shoals and fierce currents in the Padma, forcing hundreds

of vehicles to take long detours via the Bangabandhu Bridge on the Jamuna.

Roll-on roll-off ferry Bir Shrestha Matiu Rahman ran aground in Daulatdia channel around 9:45pm on Monday.

Although the ferry was extricated

around 7:00am yesterday, services could not be restored, said Abdul Matin, chief engineer of the dredging department of Bangladesh Inland

Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Bidyut Kumar Saha, manager (com-

merce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), said around 600 heavy and light vehicles, mostly trucks, were waiting on either side yesterday afternoon.

Three small K-type ferries tried to make a trip along the route around

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Curious buying spree

BASIC Bank chairman purchases deep-sea trawlers

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

In Chittagong's deep-sea fishing business, an entrant has created quite a ripple. He has little business background other than being the government-appointed chairman of the now troubled BASIC Bank.

Sheikh Abdul Hye Bachchu is snapping up deep-sea trawlers just like hotcakes. Gossips are making the rounds that if you have a trawler to sell, he is a sure shot.

Bachchu has spent around Tk 150 crore on 11 deep-sea fishing trawlers in less than two years, The Daily Star has learnt talking to one of his employees and industry insiders.

His shopping spree is drawing curious comments from the industry people who are in the business for decades.

Bachchu entered the business in 2011, buying two vessels -- Crystal 1 and Crystal 2 -- from Morshed Murad Ibrahim, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Later, he bought Karnatori 1 from the wife of Amirul Haque, managing director of Premier Cement.

He next bought Silum Chai 29 from Gazi Belayet Hossain Mithu, Silver Sea 1 from SK Group, and Speed 1 and Speed 2 from Sarwar Jamal Nizam, a former BNP lawmaker from Chittagong. Each of these vessels cost at least Tk 10 crore, according to the industry insiders.

He then went on to buy four big vessels from Peninsula Group, for about Tk 18 crore each. Two of these vessels have already been taken over by Bachchu's Eden Fisheries Ltd., and are now engaged in commercial fishing

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Abdul Hye Bachchu

Nokia exits mobile phone business

Microsoft to buy the Finnish company's devices unit for \$7.2b

BLOOMBERG

Microsoft Corp has agreed to buy Nokia Oyj's handset business and license its patents for €5.44 billion (\$7.2 billion), casting together the lot of two technologies companies trying to stay relevant against more fleet-footed rivals.

The deal changes the nature of both companies. Nokia is exiting from the mobile-phone business it once dominated, leaving it mainly as a network equipment maker. Microsoft, which became the world's largest software maker on the back of its Windows operating system, is moving into hardware.

The devices and services unit, which accounted for half of Nokia's 2012 revenue, along with 32,000 employees, will transfer to Microsoft, the companies said.

Nokia Chief Executive Officer Stephen Elop, 49, will return to Microsoft after a three-year stint running the Finnish manufacturer. The move stoked speculation he may be a successor to CEO Steve Ballmer, who said last month he'd retire within 12 months.

"The question is whether combining two weak companies will get you a strong new competitor: it's doubtful," said Paul Budde, a telecommunications consultant in Sydney.

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BISWAJIT MURDER TRIAL Rickshaw-puller identifies 8 BCL men

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday identified eight of the 21 Chhatra League men accused of killing Biswajit Das during a road blockade enforced by the BNP-led opposition on December 9 last year.

The 13 others are on the run.

"I could identify the rest too if they were in the dock," said Ripon Sardar, a rickshaw-puller, at a Dhaka court.

He appeared before the court to give his accounts of what had happened on that day before he took Biswajit to the capital's Mitford Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Ripon said he would not budge an inch even if anyone offered him Tk 1 crore.

Around 9:00am on the day of the incident, Ripon was near the Victoria Park in the old Dhaka. He saw activists of Chhatra League, a student body associated with the ruling Awami League, marching in procession in front of Jagannath University.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

PM'S NEW STANCE

Crisis to deepen

SHAKHAWAT LITON

It is clear that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has further hardened the government's stance on the polls by backtracking from her earlier announcement of holding the general election by dissolving the present parliament.

Around a year ago, on September 19 last, Sheikh Hasina announced in parliament that the next general election would be held after the dissolution of the House.

Her announcement had paved the way for the removal of at least one of the two hurdles -- scrapping the non-partisan caretaker government system and the constitutional provision for retaining

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Wasim Bin Habib yesterday talked to noted jurists and civil society members who observed that it is not possible to have a level playing field for the upcoming national election if the polls are to be held without dissolving the current parliament as announced by the prime minister.



DR KAMAL HOSSAIN

The eminent jurist stressed the need for holding a national dialogue to resolve the ongoing crisis and find a way on how to hold a free and fair election.

All political parties, members of civil society,

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DR AKBAR ALI KHAN

The former adviser to a caretaker government said the prime minister's recent statement is a reiteration of the Awami League's stance of holding the election under the incumbent government.

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M HAFIZUDDIN KHAN

The ex-adviser to a caretaker government said the premier's latest announcement contradicts what she had been saying for the last couple of months. She earlier said the next election would be held the way

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SHAHDEEN MALIK

The renowned jurist said if the 10th parliamentary election is held without dissolving the ninth parliament, it would hardly be a free and fair election.

He said the current members of parliament

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STOOP TO ADMIRE

Maldives players gather around during breakfast yesterday to take pictures and cheer on their coach Istavan Urbanyi as he kneels down before ginger-haired striker and captain Ali Ashfaq to slip on a new pair of boots on his feet. It was a unique show of gratitude and respect from a coach to felicitate a player who a day before had reeled off six goals in a 10-0 rout of Sri Lanka in their SAFF Football Championship match in Kathmandu. STORY ON PAGE 14



PHOTO: ATIQUE ANAM



CEC for extensive scrutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said the commission would examine whether a level playing field would be created for all candidates if the next general election is held with the incumbent MPs in office.

"It's a legal matter. We will be able to make

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