



The Daily Star

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CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Banks are raising their capital base to meet global standards

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THE STRUGGLE OF LIFE

Shilpakala Academy stages new play "Badh" based on Shawkat Osman's story

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VIRTUAL NERUDA

Forty years after his death, the poet once again "walks" Santiago streets

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Israel widens Gaza assault

Death toll hits 135; UN Security Council calls for ceasefire

AGENCIES

Israel widened its air assault against the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers yesterday, hitting a mosque, Hamas-affiliated charities and an Islamic home for the disabled, as Palestinians said the death toll from the five-day offensive rose to 135.

While Israel vowed to press forward with its 5-day-old campaign, it found itself facing growing international calls to stop.

In New York, the UN Security Council unanimously called for a cease-fire, while Britain's foreign minister said he would be discussing cease-fire efforts with his American, French and German counterparts yesterday.

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The terrible price Gaza kids pay

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

"She was the centre of our life, she was the most precious thing in the world to us, we had waited so long for her. Now we don't know whether she will wake up again; we don't know what has happened to her." Alla al-Masri buried his head in his hands - no longer could he bear to watch his nine-year-old daughter lying on the hospital bed, suffering.

He and his wife, Hanan, had craved a baby and Mariam

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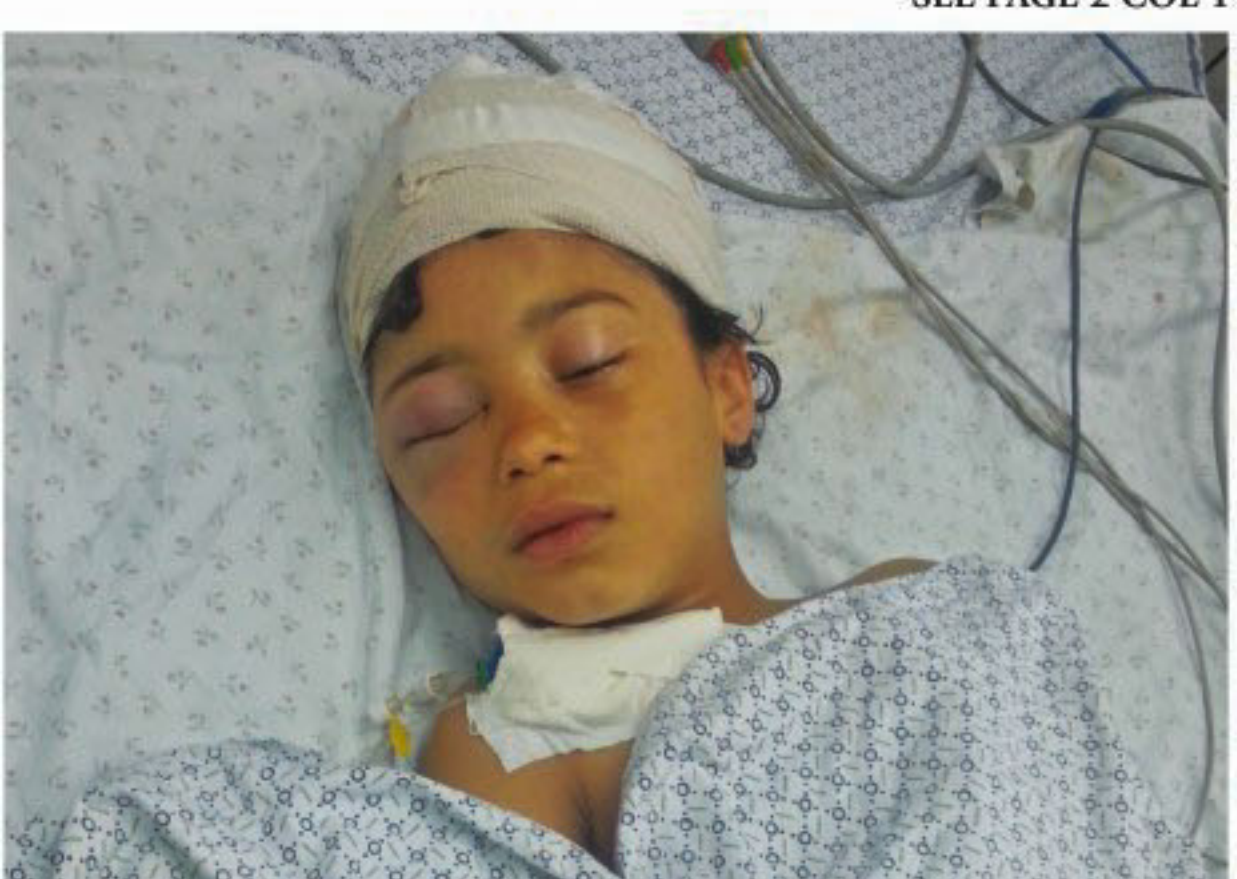


PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nine-year-old Mariam, a victim of Israeli air strike on Gaza, lies in intensive care at a hospital in Palestine.



GERMANY VS ARGENTINA FINAL TONIGHT

Continents collide

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

A Germany side chasing a place in history will attempt to wreck Lionel Messi's dream of a World Cup coronation with Argentina on Sunday as the month-long football carnival hits a climax at the Maracana Stadium.

The 64th game of one of the best World Cups of all time pits Europe against South America -- a duel between two football superpowers in one of the sport's most evocative arenas.

Germany are attempting to become the first side from Europe to win a World Cup in the Americas,

determined that a golden generation will finally gets it reward after a string of near-misses.

Messi, meanwhile, is seeking the triumph which will silence forever the remaining critics who argue that the absence of a World Cup title precludes him from a place alongside Diego Maradona in football's pantheon.

The momentum is firmly with Germany after their astonishing 7-1 semifinal demolition job of Brazil, through a combination of superb attacking play and defensive incompetence.

Ominously for Argentina, Germany say they quickly put the win

firmly in the rear-view mirror.

All German eyes are now on the historic Maracana and a chance to claim the ultimate prize after losing in either the final or the semifinals in their last four major tournaments.

"We enjoyed the game against Brazil, but we ticked it off after 24 hours," said Germany striker Miroslav Klose.

That same steely determination has characterised Germany's road to Rio, notably in coming from behind to snatch a 2-2 draw with Ghana in Group G and outlasting an awkward Algerian challenge in the last 16.

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No solace for Brazil

Hosts finish fourth after losing 0-3 against Netherlands

BRAZIL 0 : NETHERLANDS 3 (Van Persie 3-pen, Blind 17, Wijnaldum 90+1)

AFP, Brasilia

Brazil's traumatic World Cup ended with more pain on Saturday as they lost 3-0 to a superior Netherlands side in the third-place play-off at the Mane Garrincha National Stadium in Brasilia.

Still struggling to digest their record-breaking 7-1 loss to Germany in the semi-finals, Brazil had a similarly disastrous start against the Dutch, with Robin van Persie opening the scoring from the penalty spot inside three minutes.

With injured star Neymar watching on from the bench, Daley Blind then capitalised on more calamitous defending to make it 2-0 with 17 minutes played, and Georginio

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Two killed in 'shootouts'

They were outlaws, claim cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Two operatives of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party were killed in separate "shootouts" with police in Kotchandpur and Harinakundu upazilas of Jhenidah early yesterday.

The deceased are Abdur Rashid, 38, son of Younus Ali of Kotchandpur and

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Drive must focus on roots

Concerned at food adulteration, experts at BSRM-The Daily Star roundtable call for coordinated approach to ensure safe food for consumers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to clamp down on real culprits instead of chasing down petty traders in its drive against adulterated and contaminated food, experts and civil society members said yesterday.

Scattered initiatives against food contaminants will not help the government achieve its long term objec-

tive of safe food, they told a roundtable on "Harmful Chemicals in Food: Health Hazards."

Use of chemicals in food has become a serious concern in recent times. They suggested a coordinated approach involving the relevant government departments to ensure safe food.

BSRM, a top steel maker of the country, and The Daily Star jointly

organised the event at the Daily Star Centre in the capital.

"There is talk about food adulteration, but we see little action," said Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, director at the Centre for Nutrition and Food Safety of ICDDR,B.

Presenting the keynote paper, he said the authorities concerned had to go to the source of the problem.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Show highest political will

Enforce laws stringently

Launch a social movement

Promote good practices on pesticide and fertiliser use

Promote values on hygiene, food safety

Encourage ethical business practices

Control import and use of formalin and chemicals

Rejoinder, our reply

Former communication minister and managing director Syed Abul Hossain of Sahco has issued a rejoinder against The Daily Star report headlined "Failed company to get \$0.78b Padma job" published on Friday.

According to the rejoinder, the news item mentioned that Sinohydro was being backed by Sahco and the rejoinder claimed that it was not true. It also added that The Daily Star often

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