



## Violence has to stop right away

Urges 'concerned citizen' group to pave the way for talks; 13 members to push the initiative forward

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of eminent citizens yesterday called for an immediate end to the continuing acts of terror to pave the way for dialogue between the two major political parties.

"The atmosphere for dialogue will not be created unless violence is stopped. Besides, it's an international practice that violence should be ceased before any such initiative gets underway," former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said on behalf of "concerned citizens".

"Peace has to be restored first. To do so, petrol bomb attacks, violence on the streets and indiscriminate killing of common people will have to be stopped," he said during a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

Enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6 over a dozen demands, including an early parliamentary election, the non-stop blockade



ATM Shamsul Huda

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Modi talks cricket with Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday phoned Sheikh Hasina to wish Bangladesh success in the 2015 Cricket World Cup beginning today in Australia and New Zealand.

Though the diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi described Modi's move as "cricket diplomacy", they believe the two premiers reviewed the status of Indo-Bangla ties.

Modi is understood to have told Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that India was committed to resolving the longstanding bilateral issues including the

## It's cricket time

All eyes on Down Under to see 14 countries lock horns for World Cup; Tigers begin campaign Wednesday

STAR SPORTS DESK

For the first time in almost a quarter of a century, the cricket World Cup is back Down Under. For the traditionalists and newcomers alike, it is a long overdue return to one of the sport's spiritual homes.

The long wait for cricket's showpiece event in New Zealand and Australia is over and the mood is infectious with millions of cricket fans around the world for Saturday's opening matches.

The first weekend has all the makings for a blockbuster. On Saturday, New Zealand host Sri Lanka in Christchurch and only a few hours later, across the Tasman Sea, Australia face England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the same sprawling venue where the two great rivals staged the first ever One-Day International, in 1971.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



**TOP!**  
QUOTE

"When we lose, they [Bangladesh cricket fans] cry and sink in frustration. So we'll have to perform at least for their sake."

**ANAMUL HAQUE BIJOY**  
NATIONAL CRICKETER

## UN WORRIED AT VIOLENCE Taranco starts off with Biswal update

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN secretary general's deputy Oscar Fernandez-Taranco and US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal have expressed concern over the violence in Bangladesh and stressed the need for peaceful de-escalation of the situation.

They discussed the matter at a meeting in Washington DC on Wednesday afternoon, Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, told a press briefing in New York on Thursday afternoon.

Earlier, Taranco was assigned by the UN secretary general to liaise with the government and opposition leaders in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

বিস্তারিত জানতে: [f/closeupbangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/closeupbangladesh)

closeup

কাছে আমার গল্প

আহ্মেদ

