



## THAI-BANGLA VENTURE

Meghna Group and PM Group to set up polypropylene factory in Narayanganj

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## NO TO RELIGIOUS HATRED

Modi vows to protect all religious groups after attacks on churches in Delhi

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## THE TIE KNOTTED

Cumberbatch confirms Valentine's Day marriage to Sophie Hunter

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## 48-HOUR HARTAL, AGAIN

# Act tough even before ruling

HC spurs govt on deadly agitation; details of directives come out; today's SSC tests on Friday

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Amid the mindless violence that has already killed at least 71 people and disrupted education and businesses, the High Court has asked the government to take all necessary steps to prevent deadly blockade and hartal.

"Pending hearing of the Rule, let the State functionary ... be directed to take all necessary measures to prevent the unconstitutional

deadly oborodh [blockade] and equally deadly and fierce, compulsive, coercive, homicidal and threatful hartal," the HC said in an interim order on two petitions pending before it.

In response to the petitions, the HC had on Sunday issued a rule upon the government and the leaders of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, including BNP chief Khaleda

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## HARTAL OR BANDH HAS NO LEGITIMACY IN INDIA



Kerala High Court in 1997 declared forced bandh (or hartal) illegal

Indian Supreme Court in 2002 declared forced stoppages of public activities illegal

Bombay High Court in 2004 slapped Rs 20 lakh fine on Shiv Sena & BJP for bandh

Kolkata High Court in 2004 declared Bandh illegal asking Trinamool Congress to withdraw its call

Gauhati High Court in 2010 declared Bandh illegal and unconstitutional

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Democracy for the dead?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

At least 71 people have been killed so far with many of them burnt alive in arson attacks. The economy continues to bleed and academic life of students is in peril.

All this is happening in the name of agitation that the BNP termed a movement for "restoring people's democratic and voting rights."

The crucial question is: can the right to personal life and liberty be sacrificed for the sake of any other democratic or voting rights?

Analysing fundamental rights in his book Constitutional Law of Bangladesh, eminent jurist Mahmudul Islam writes, "No right is so basic and fundamental as the right to personal life and liberty, and exercise of all other rights is dependent on the right to personal life and liberty."

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## It's battle time

Tigers open World Cup today against Afghanistan

BISHWAJIT ROY from Canberra

The moment is finally here. There have been plenty of talks regarding Bangladesh's first match. Some of them were nervy, some of them confident while some anxious; all that however, will be forgotten after today's contest at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

The Tigers, most of who sounded and looked extremely confident during their last training session prior to the World Cup, will have to prove themselves in the middle now. With regards to their team, it seems as though slow left-arm Arafat Sunny, pacer Al-Amin Hossain and middle-order batsman Nasir Hossain might be dropped for this match.

As of yesterday 10 out of the eleven spots in the team were confirmed with the lone position being a choice between pacer Taskin Ahmed and slow left-armer Taijul Islam. The weather forecast is for rainfall in Canberra and as a result the team management will wait till today morning before making the final decision.

If Bangladesh do pick Taskin, then they will have the option of four seam bowlers, a strategy that the Tigers rarely tend to use. While Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Rubel Hossain are expected to open the bowling, the Tigers can also make use of Soumya Sarkar who has a good arm as well.

Soumya, who is expected to play his second ODI today, was one of chief selector Faruque Ahmed and company's surprise selections and it will be a big occasion for the youngster if he manages to make the team today.

The rest of the team is likely to feature the usual suspects with Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haque opening the innings, followed by Mominul Haque, Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib Al Hasan. Mushfiqur Rahim, who was Bangladesh's highest run-getter in 2014, will be looking to shut down the nightmares of the Asia Cup -- which saw the Tigers lose to Afghanistan under his captaincy -- with a good knock in the game.

The Afghans, led by the inspirational Mohammad Nabi, are all fired up for their first ever match in World Cup. They have nothing to lose and are

KIWIS SURVIVE SCOTTISH SCARE - PAGE S2

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## Solution to crisis exists within Bangladesh

US ready to help if requested: Bernicat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat yesterday said the solution to the ongoing political crisis exists within Bangladesh, and mentioned that foreign friends, including her country, are ready to help if requested.

"...the solution and the means for addressing the political differences that exist here are for Bangladeshis to come up with... I have every hope Bangladesh will find a way forward," she told a press conference at the American Club in the capital.

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## আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত



গভীর দুঃখের সঙ্গে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ড. শফিউদ্দিন চৌধুরী, প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান, সী রিসোর্সেস গ্রুপ গত ১৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি রাত ১২:৪৫ মিনিটে রাজধানীর ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ইন্ফার্মা...রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তার বয়স হয়েছিল ৮০ বছর। কর্মজীবনে তিনি ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মৃত্তিকাবিজ্ঞান বিভাগের চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন। এছাড়াও তিনি র‍্যাংকস টেলিকম লিঃ, র‍্যাংগস ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস লিঃ এবং ব্যাংক এশিয়া লিঃ-এর পরিচালক পদে দায়িত্বরত ছিলেন। তার রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনায় আগামী ২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ রোজ শুক্রবার বাদ আসর গুলশানে তার নিজ বাসায় (রোড # ৩১, বাড়ী # ৭, ফ্লাট # ৩০২, গুলশান, ঢাকা) কুলখানির আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। সকল বন্ধুবান্ধব, আত্মীয়স্বজন ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের এই অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত থাকতে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।



"What exam? People of the entire country are now in a tough test. The big challenge is to pass this test ..."

KHALEDIA ZIA'S ADVISER  
OSMAN FARUK  
AT A MEETING IN THE US

## 2 more killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

A Jamaat activist, the prime accused of the February 6 Gaibandha bus arson, was killed in a "shootout" with the Rab in the district yesterday morning.

Another "shootout" left an "outlawed party leader" dead in Jhenidah earlier in the day.

The Jamaat man was identified as Mostafa Manjil, 32, a former president of Gaibandha Sadar unit Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the party.

Alleging that the Rab cooked up a story after killing him, the district unit Jamaat in protest called a 48-hour hartal beginning 6:00am today.

Another victim was Rafique Uddin alias Chhoto Tareque, 40, resident of a cluster village in Bishoykhali Bazar under Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

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## Common people left in miseries

Violence on; another arson victim dies

STAR REPORT

Abdul Matin sells caps and books at a roadside shop in the city's Tejpuribazar area. His daily sale before the blockade was around Tk 1,000, which drastically dropped to Tk 400 now.

He lives in a rented house of two rooms at Tejpuribazar. To earn some extra bucks, he rented out one of the rooms where six people can stay, like in a student's mess. But only three people have been staying there since the blockade began on January 6.

"Very few people are coming to Dhaka nowadays due to the blockade and hartal," said Matin, who hails from Comilla.

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## WE MOURN



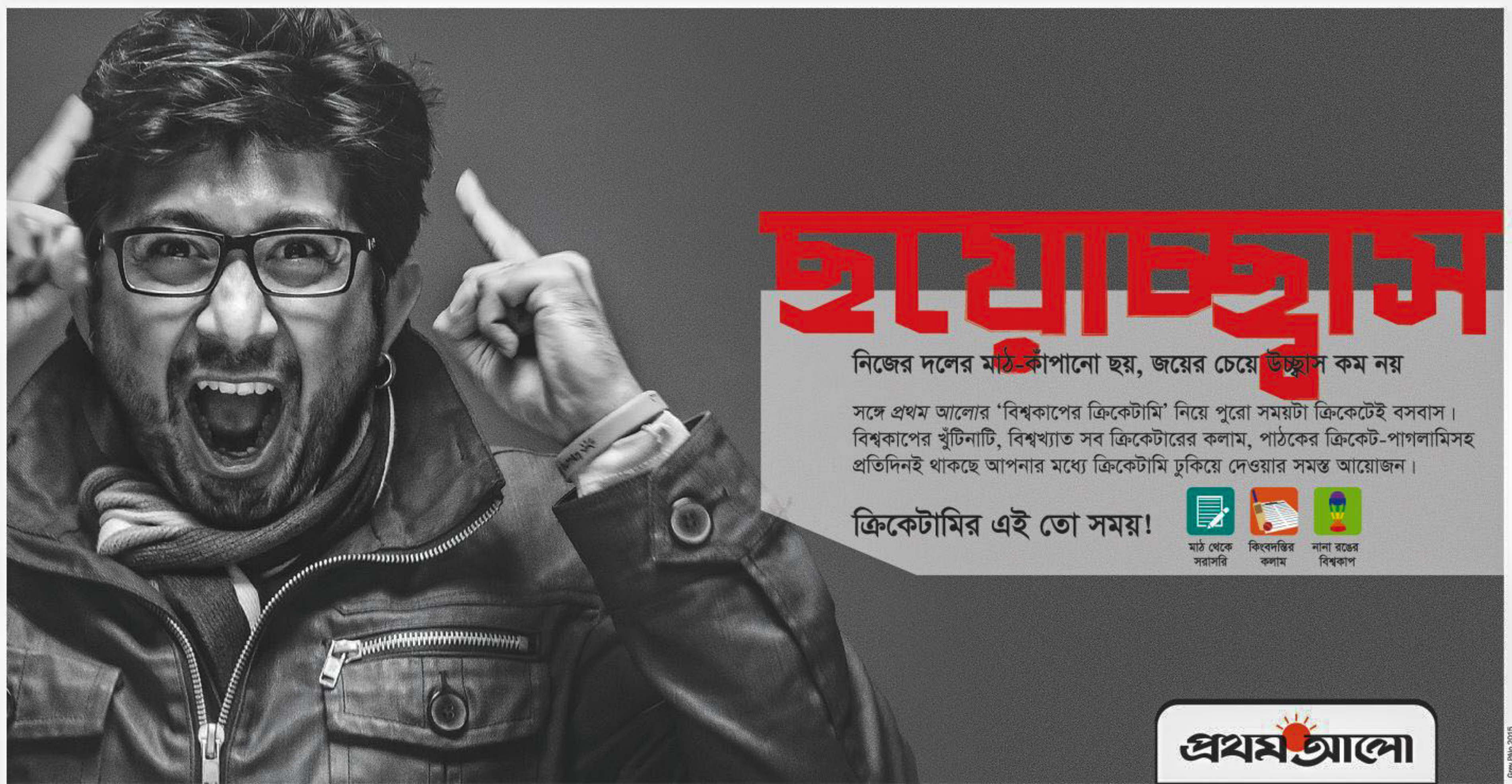
Dr. Md. Shafiuddin Chowdhury, former Sponsor Director of Bank Asia expired at United Hospital in the capital Dhaka yesterday (17 February, 2015). He was 80 years and suffering from old age complications.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Late Dr. Md. Shafiuddin Chowdhury was Chairman of Soil Science Department of the University of Dhaka. He was also Chairman of Sea Resources Group.

The members of Bank Asia family are greatly shocked at the sad demise of Dr. Md. Shafiuddin Chowdhury and pray to Almighty Allah for the eternal peace to his departed soul.

Bank Asia



নিজের দলের মঠ-কাপানো ছয়, জয়ের চেয়ে উচ্ছাস কম নয়

সঙ্গে প্রথম আলোর 'বিশ্বকাপের ক্রিকেটামি' নিয়ে পুরো সময়টা ক্রিকেটেই বসবাস। বিশ্বকাপের খুঁটিনাটি, বিশ্বখ্যাত সব ক্রিকেটারের কলাম, পাঠকের ক্রিকেট-পাগলামিসহ প্রতিদিনই থাকছে আপনার মধ্যে ক্রিকেটামি চুকিয়ে দেওয়ার সমস্ত আয়োজন।

ক্রিকেটামির এই তো সময়!



প্রথম আলো