



SALUTE ... The prominent individuals who have been awarded by The Daily Star for their lifetime contribution to nation-building pose with President Abdul Hamid for photos at the inaugural function of the newspaper's 25th anniversary at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday morning.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A JOURNEY WITH PRIDE

The Daily Star celebrates 25th anniversary, honours 24 eminent personalities, one institution for their lifetime contribution to nation-building

Attack on the press a threat to democracy

President tells Star's silver jubilee programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said any attack on the press is a threat to democracy and that journalists must unite to fight the evil forces.

"The government believes in the freedom of the press. We want newspapers to exercise this freedom responsibly to serve the country. Any attack on the press is also a great threat to democracy. Journalists have to unite and fight against these evil forces," he said.

The president was speaking as the chief guest at a programme marking The Daily Star's 25th anniversary in the capital's Osmani Auditorium.

He hoped all newspapers would continue to contribute to the country's development through responsible journalism.

"They [newspapers] need to play a proactive role in preserving democracy and upholding the values of the country's constitution."

Terming newspapers the mirror of a country, Hamid said free flow of information and freedom of expression are important for proper

SEE FULL TEXT IN OUR ONLINE EDITION



SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday awarded 24 prominent individuals and an institution for their lifetime contribution to nation-building at its 25th anniversary programme.

President Abdul Hamid handed over the awards to the recipients at a gala event marking the newspaper's

silver jubilee celebrations at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the morning.

Appreciating The Daily Star's initiative to honour the noted citizens, he said, "Every year, The Daily Star honours distinguished persons from different fields, particularly business, climate change and arts and entertainment."

Specially mentioning The Daily Star awards to top

performing students of O-Level and A-level over the past 16 years, he said the newspaper's "efforts go further beyond awards though, as they have always strived to bring into light ... young entrepreneurs, encouraging the youth population of the country to contribute to the country. I applaud these initiatives and hope that The Daily Star will continue in their endeavours."

SEE MORE ON PAGE 2, 3, 7, 10, 16

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

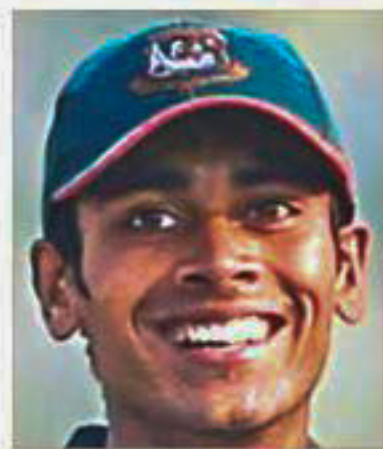
U-19s create history

Bangladesh move into semis in the ICC U-19 World Cup for the first time

NAIMUL KARIM

The Bangladesh under-19s yesterday made history by becoming the first cricket team from the nation to reach the semifinals of an ICC event when they beat Nepal in the ICC Under-19 World Cup quarterfinal. The Young Tigers beat Nepal by six wickets in a game that was more complicated than it looked on paper before the sides took the field in the pressure cauldron of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The Bangladesh youngsters would have learnt a valuable lesson from the hard-fought match -- at times it is not just skills that matter when faced with a pressure test. It was a test that they passed with flying colours. They were pitted against a side that they were expected to beat quite easily and in addition, it was the first time that they played in front of such a crowd.



Mehedi Hasan

72, they posted 211, their second highest total of the competition.

Faced with a task that all of a sudden seemed mountainous, Bangladesh's top-order crumbled. It seemed as though the initial plan was to spend as much time at the wicket as possible.

However, as the required run-rate increased, the plan backfired. Saif Hassan lost his patience and got trapped while attempting to play across the line. Joyraz Sheikh and Pinak Ghosh put on a 46-run

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

FIGHTING WEALTH INEQUALITY

Yunus urges global unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for a global unity to launch a fight against wealth concentration in the hands of a few as it is a threat to peace.

"Wealth concentration is a global threat. It has already entered the danger zone this year with 99 percent of wealth going to 1 percent of people," he told an event celebrating the 25th founding anniversary of The Daily Star at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

"Not only it is getting worse globally, it is getting worse within nations, and between nations. Wealth gap between nations is always a threat to peace."

The anti-poverty crusader said historically some nations had accumulated more wealth than others, sometimes taking unfair advantages.

SEE FULL TEXT IN OUR ONLINE EDITION

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



13th Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)
Death: 6th February, 2003

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director **Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)**. We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees

ABUL KHAIR GROUP

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-mature departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of their heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family