



TIGHTER SECURITY FOR ATM

BB orders in the wake of suspicious transactions, sparking concerns

PAGE B1

IMRUL IN FOR ASIA CUP

The left-hander replaces father-to-be Tamim Iqbal in 15-man squad

PAGE 14

JUDGE'S DEATH SHAKES USA

A political showdown in the run-up to the presidential election

PAGE 8

ALLEGATION OF THEFT

2 kids tortured inhumanly

13 sued in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In yet another incident of cruelty against kids, two teen boys were tortured badly in Rajshahi over a flimsy claim that they may have stolen a mobile phone.

They were beaten all over for hours even as they protested their innocence, howling in pain and screamed in pain -- "O ma, ma go, ma go" (O my mother, O my mother).

But nothing could stop their tormentors, including an army soldier and a Rab member. They also swore at the kids -- Zahid Hasan, 15, and Emon Ali, 13, police said, quoting locals.

They released the two after failing to prove their involvement in the theft.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A couple walk hand in hand near TSC on the Dhaka University campus. Just a day after Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring, a large number of people went out to celebrate Valentine's Day yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Of love and living

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an atmosphere of fun, frolic and festivities, people across the country celebrated the Valentine's Day yesterday.

In the capital, thousands of couples, some with their friends, gathered on the Dhaka University campus and other popular hangouts in colourful apparels.

While most girls were found wearing saris and flowers carefully, and quite enchantingly, tucked in their locks, their male partners were wearing traditional panjabis and some carrying bouquets.

Though different programmes were organised in the city for the lovebirds and hotels, restaurants and cafés came up with various offers, it was Dhaka South City Corporation that took the centre stage.

It organised an innovative programme titled "Pranoshokha Dhaka - Love for Dhaka" at Shahbagh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



12 more defamation suits filed against Star editor

Another move to file sedition case; Sylhet, Khulna, Patuakhali courts summon him

STAR REPORT

Twelve more lawsuits were filed against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam yesterday in Dhaka and eight other districts for publishing reports based on information supplied by Task Force Intelligence Cell (TFIC) during the last caretaker government's tenure in 2007-08.

Besides, another complainant appealed to a Jamalpur court to bring sedition charges against Mahfuz Anam.

The complainants in four of the 12 cases also demanded compensation ranging from Tk 5 crore to Tk 10,000 crore.

A Sylhet court with which two defamation cases were filed summoned The Daily Star editor to appear before it on March 30, while two courts in Khulna and Patuakhali summoned him on March 29 and April 5.

With the 12 cases, a total of 16 lawsuits have so far been filed against Mahfuz Anam. Local BCL leaders filed two defamation cases in Laxmipur and Khulna on February 9 and two more in Gopalganj and Cox's Bazar a couple of days later.

On February 11, Mostafizur Rahman Dulal, assistant public prosecutor of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-9, placed an application before a Dhaka court for filing a sedition case against The Daily Star editor. The court later ordered police to seek government's permission for investigating the charge.

For the first time, the court yesterday summoned Mahfuz Anam in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

COMMENTARY

'Anamosity'

Must-see talk shows that rival fiction

MAHFUZ ANAM

A few days ago a new TV talk show series, called "Anamosity" (title given by my daughter), ran in town, which I hope the readers of this paper did not miss. If you are lucky a few more episodes may still be in the process of production.

The sponsors of "Anamosity" are dedicated to "restoring journalistic ethics" and exposing a man who has brought shame on this profession by admitting a lapse in his editorial judgment nine years ago. This fool of an editor thought that admitting one's own lapse as an editor is one of the highest forms of ethics. Well, editors, think again.

The series is being produced by the "Guardians of Media Ethics" who are determined to expose the person who has been posing as a journalist -- as an editor, for that matter, of the biggest English language daily of the country over the last 23 years -- but is actually a politician.

The scriptwriters of "Anamosity" series are very bold. They are not intimidated by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Take action against Ali for 'misconduct'

Chief prosecutor's office urges law ministry about war crimes prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Prosecutor Office of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday wrote to the law ministry seeking "necessary actions" against prosecutor Mohammad Ali for "breaching discipline and code of conduct, and serious professional misconduct".

A letter signed by Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo to this effect was sent to the law minister and the law secretary around 3:00pm yesterday, Prosecutor Zeed Al Malum told The Daily Star.

Copies of the letter were sent to the attorney general and the Tribunal registrar, he said.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the letter.

On February 4, the Chief Prosecutor Office withdrew Ali until further notice from all the war crimes cases he was dealing with. The order stated that this was done "in the public interest".

Yesterday's letter, however, said Ali had recently "disobeyed" his assigned duties

and "exerted illegal influence for securing bail for an accused in a case pending with the Tribunal".

Though the accused was not named in the letter, several prosecutors say that it was Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan, arrested last year for his alleged crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The Tribunal, however, denied him bail on February 4.

Although yesterday's letter did not mention how Ali worked in favour of Hannan but at least three senior prosecutors and a source working in the tribunal told The Daily Star that Ali met and offered a bribe to a judge on February 4 moments before the tribunal was to go into session to decide on the bail petition.

Immediately after the session, the chairman of the tribunal asked the chief prosecutor to take action against Ali. The chairman had said the tribunal did not want to see Ali in the tribunal anymore, the sources added.

On that very day, the chief prosecutor

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



TOP QUOTE

"I am looking forward to playing for the national team, which is an ultimate goal for any cricketer. But I have to make myself a complete cricketer to fulfil my dream."

BANGLADESH U-19 CAPTAIN MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ AFTER BEING ADJUDGED MAN OF THE TOURNAMENT IN THE ICC UNDER-19 WORLD CUP

5 of a family killed in Mymensingh road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least six people, including five of a family, were killed when an auto-rickshaw collided head on with a sand-laden truck at Dayarampur of Tarakanda on Mymensingh-Netrakona highway yesterday evening.

Monir Hossain, 35, his wife Popy Akhtar, 30, their daughter Meem Akhtar, 12, Monir's sister Asma Akhtar, 22, his sister-in-law Aysha Akhtar, 28, and CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Habibur Rahman, 30, died on the spot.

The family hailed from Palashkanda Nawpara village while the driver hailed from Gudaria of Durgapur, police said.

The collision around 6:00pm also injured two others, they said.

One of the two injured was identified as Arman Hossain, 35.

A two-year-old female

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



CLASS OF 2016... West Indies' youngsters joyfully hold aloft the ICC Under-19 World Cup trophy after winning the tournament for the first time, beating India by five wickets in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Inset, Bangladesh Under-19 captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz ensured the last day of the tournament had some local flavour as he was named the player of the tournament.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Successful event comes to a joyous end

NAIMUL KARIM

What began with a slight hiccup ended with a bunch of youngsters from the Caribbean jazzing up the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium with their funky dance moves.

It probably was not a finish that a majority of the Bangladeshi fans would have wanted, but the one thing that is certain is that almost everyone enjoyed the sheer determination shown by the young West Indians.

Unlike a majority of the other Under-19 World Cups, this was a tournament that garnered plenty of attention from the beginning and as a result there was a lot of pressure on the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Right from the start, talk of a domino effect were doing the rounds ever since Cricket Australia backed out from the competition citing security concerns. "Would the others follow suit?" was the question that had temporarily gripped the cricketing fraternity of the country.

Apart from handling the responsibility of hosting the biggest age-level cricket tournament, there was an extra onus of providing a flawless show in a bid to avoid any possible complaints.

And the way the tournament panned out eventually suggests that the BCB was quite successful in achieving its target.

From providing true wickets at the various venues to attracting thousands of spectators, there was plenty of enthusiasm throughout

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6