



Victorious India team celebrate with the trophy of the Asia Cup T20 after beating Bangladesh by eight wickets in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

PHOTO: AFP

India tame tail-up Tigers

Win rain-curtailed final by eight wickets to clinch Asia Cup title for record sixth time

BISHWAJIT ROY

A very brief fireworks display took place after the final without any big cheers as by that time the stadium was nearly empty, following the early departure of the crowds. Nothing would have been sweeter for the partisan fans, who turned up at the ground from the early afternoon and then braved a thunderstorm, than to return home at midnight after being part of history but India re-

established their supremacy in the shortest format of the game to clinch the first Asia Cup T20 title with a comfortable eight-wicket victory over the Tigers. Instead the Tigers fans left the ground with only one sweet memory from the final -- a dazzling 13-ball 33 tornado from Mahmudullah Riyad who ruled the pitch after the actual storm played havoc last night and forced a reduction of the match to a 15-over affair.

Bangladesh fans however cannot be fully disappointed as a much better side ensured that they didn't give any chance to a much-improved T20 team. When India depart for their home and Bangladesh fly to the same destination today, yet another feather in MS Dhoni's illustrious cap will give them a boost ahead of the ICC World Twenty20, while the performance in the Asia Cup will give Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Co newfound confidence

in the newest format of the game.

The cheers from the stands continued even when India required 19 runs from the last 12 balls with eight wickets in hand in chase of a 121-run target, but the most successful India captain MS Dhoni silenced them in the very first ball of the penultimate over as the mighty right-hander got a perfect length ball on off stump from Al-Amin Hossain to cart it miles over midwicket.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 120 for 5 in 15 overs (Shakib 21, Sabbir 32 not out, Mahmudullah 33 not out; Ashwin 1-14, Bumrah 1-13)
INDIA: 122 for 2 in 13.5 overs (Dhawan 60, Kohli 41 not out, Dhoni 20 not out; Taskin 1-14, Al-Amin 1-30)
Result: India won by 8 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Shikhar Dhawan
Player-of-the-series: Sabbir Rahman

Star editor gets bail in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jessore court yesterday granted bail to The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam in a Tk 10-crore defamation case. The Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court fixed May 10 for the next hearing on the libel suit filed by Shahjahan Kabir, former president of Awami League's Chougachha upazila unit.

During the hearing on the bail petition filed by Anam, defence counsel Kazi Faridul Islam told the court that there was no defamatory element in the complaint.

The lawyer argued that the Star editor had earlier got bail from a Rangpur court in a similar case, and he should be granted bail in this lawsuit as well.

The prosecution opposed the bail plea.

After the hearing, Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Shahjahan Ali granted Anam bail upon the signing of a bond of Tk 5,000 with two guarantors.

Following the filing of the case in Jessore on February 16, the court summoned Anam to appear before it on March 6.

A case spree against the Star editor began days after he, at a TV talk show on February 3, made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgment in publishing some

UTTARA GAS FIRE TRAGEDY

Son all too lonely as mother also departs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 90 percent of her body burnt, Sumaiya Khanam had been fighting a grim battle for life for 10 days.

Her painful groans, coupled with cries of loss of her two little children and husband in a devastating fire, would fill the air inside the hospital she was admitted to.

Between the cries and groans,

Sumaiya would bemoan how her neighbours declined to help them when all her family members were on fire.

But yesterday, all her complaints and sufferings came to an end.

Sumaiya's brain stopped working around 11:45am and she was put on artificial life support. But she breathed her last at 3:15pm, said doctors at City Hospital Ltd where

she was transferred from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Tuesday.

She was aged around 40.

On February 26, a fire engulfed her apartment at Uttara Sector-5 in the capital when her husband Mohammad Shahnawaz, 50, lit the gas stove around 6:30am to make tea.

The couple and their three children

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Except Zarif, first from right, everyone of this family is now dead. A gas fire caused by a leakage in the burner burned them all on the early morning of February 26. Zarif's two brothers died on the very day and his father the next day. The mother, Sumaiya Khanam, lost her 10-day battle for life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

NEW POWER PLANT IN BHOLA

Unsolicited deal for Indian company?

SHARIEF KHAN

The authorities may award an unsolicited contract to an Indian company to build a medium-sized power plant in Bhola island that would run on gas from Shahbazpur gas field or on imported petroleum, according to a competent source in Power Development Board (PDB).

The Shahbazpur field is currently unable to supply enough gas to run a new 200 megawatt power plant that began commercial operation last year. The China-built Bhola power plant is currently producing and supplying 50 to 60 megawatt power to the national grid due to dearth of gas supply.

The Bhola plant requires about 30

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Diatribes against CJ continue

AG terms ministers' comments unconstitutional; SCBA, BNP for action against two ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For a second day in a row, Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque blasted Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam termed their comments unconstitutional and unprecedented, and urged all to refrain from making any hostile comment about the CJ.

Qamrul, also a joint general secretary of Awami League, once again alleged that the chief justice was openly speaking in the language used by BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and their lobbyists in their efforts to undermine the war crimes trial.

The food minister was speaking at a meeting organised by Dhaka city AL at its office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday.

The ministers' comments come at a time when the Supreme Court is scheduled to give its verdict tomorrow in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali.

Qamrul alleged Quasem spent crores of taka to make the tribunal and the trial process questionable and appointed

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TOP QUOTE

"The way women are progressing now, in near future they would not need any quotas. On the contrary, quotas for men might be needed to be introduced."

STATE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS
MEHER AFROZ CHUMKI
AT A HUMAN CHAIN IN CAPITAL