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MOBILE MONEY

Transactions through mobile phones rose 47pc year-on-year to Tk 16,745cr in January

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A MURDER PLOT

Libya's Gaddafi plotted to kill former Saudi king: report

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BRAZIL DENIED

Uruguay striker Luis Suarez strikes to deny Brazil a win in WC qualifier

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebration evokes hope for prosperity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the road to economic prosperity, the nation on its Independence Day yesterday resolved to build a corruption-free, transparent society with democratic values.

With deeply embedded feelings of patriotism, thousands of people went to the National Memorial in Savar to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War. Many of them stressed the need for working together, irrespective of political views, to take the country forward.

"In the last 45 years, we have progressed a lot. On this Independence Day, we all should vow to work together for further advancement of the country, shunning malice and hostility," said Shahrier Karim who went there from Dhaka.

"We could have reached new heights had we been able to wipe out corruption and irregularities from our country. We must eradicate corruption for economic progress," said Sanjoy Paul, who works for a bank in Savar.

"Had our politicians worked in the greater interest of our nation, Bangladesh would have definitely transformed into Sonar Bangla [Golden Bangla] for which our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives," said Shahdat Hossain, a businessman, who went there from Dhaka.

Sabbir Ahmed, a university student, said, "We did not witness the Liberation War. But we can feel our freedom fighters' sacrifice in 1971. We want the country to be built the way our freedom fighters had dreamt of."

Thousands of people thronged the memorial on the outskirts of the capital from dawn to dusk yesterday. The entire area swarmed with people of all ages and many of them wore bandanas displaying patriotic slogans

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President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence while paying tribute to the Liberation War martyrs at the National Memorial in Savar on the Independence Day.

Get ready to lead

PM calls on kids

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the children to prepare themselves to lead the country in a better way in future.

"On the 46th Independence Day, I wish that our children would build themselves as worthy citizens to uphold the country's dignity," she told a rally of children at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The Dhaka district administration organised the programme to mark the Independence and National Day.

The PM said the children as the future leaders will have to be prepared to lead the country by taking education, obeying the guardians and taking part in sports and cultural activities.

"Our children must remember that we are a victorious nation. We've

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Mesmerising Mustafiz

SPORTS REPORTER

As Bangladesh's World Twenty20 campaign lurched from the heartbreak against India on Wednesday to the meek surrender against New Zealand at the Eden Gardens yesterday, there was one player who not only met expectations but exceeded them in the three matches he got to play. Mustafizur Rahman's arrival on the global stage took on the feel of the unveiling of a flagship product, and he has not disappointed in the slightest. He saved the best for last yesterday when he recorded the best bowling figures of this edition of the global event -- five for 22 -- even as his teammates imploded to a Bangladesh-record low score.

Such was the Mustafizur legend ahead of this tournament that it moved well-known sports journalist Barney Ronay of British newspaper *The Guardian* to write a gushing piece about the 20-year-old left-arm pacer from Satkhira in which he proclaimed Mustafizur to be his 'favourite international cricketer right now'. Apart from Ronay, he has received widespread praise from foreign correspondents who have witnessed his performances in the World T20 so far.

Perhaps the slightly jarring thing about the Mustafizur phenomenon so

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Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) puts an arm around his trump card Mustafizur Rahman, who recorded figures of 5 for 22 against New Zealand at the Eden Gardens yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Torn apart

Kiwis hand Tigers a crushing 75-run defeat

AL-AMIN from Kolkata

Bangladesh hit their lowest ebb in a T20 game when they were bowled out for 70 in 15.4 overs against New Zealand at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. In what was their last game of the ICC World T20, the Bangladesh batting simply lacked the discipline when they came out to bat against a three-pronged spin attack led by Mitchell Santner. Wickets fell at regular intervals once opener Tamim Iqbal was run out by a direct hit from Colin Munro for two. They were reduced to 44 for six in 10.4 overs and faced the ignominy of being bowled out for their lowest total, eclipsing their previous low of 78 in 17.3 overs in Hamilton, also against New Zealand, in 2010.

A sudden power failure came as a relief for the struggling Tigers. But when the lights returned and play resumed after around 15 minutes, the Tigers made sure they make an exit from the world stage in a most embarrassing fashion, despite a brilliant bowling performance from Mustafizur Rahman, who claimed his first five-for to restrict the Kiwis to 145 on a wicket that stopped a bit and took considerable spin.

Bangladesh's 75-run defeat was their second-biggest loss by runs and it served yet another stunning blow for them after

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT



Rab, detectives quiz Tonu's family

No suspect held even a week after the killing

STAR REPORT

The Rapid Action Battalion and detectives in Comilla yesterday quizzed the family members of Sohagi Jahan Tonu in connection with her murder a week earlier.

Her parents Yaar Hossain and Anwara Hossain, brother Nazmul Hossain and a cousin-sister were brought to the office of Rab-11 in Comilla city around 3:30am from their Mirzapur village home in Muradnagar upazila.

They went to the village to bury the 19-year-old college student.

Nazmul said the Rab men dropped them at their house in Comilla Cantonment around 5:00am after the interrogation. Khorshed Alam,

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HIKES IN LEVY, MEDICARE COSTS IN MALAYSIA

Bangladeshis look down the barrel

PORIMOL PALMA

The rights of some six lakh Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia are being seriously curtailed due to policies adopted by the Southeast Asian country as part of its efforts to combat a slowing economy.

It has abruptly hiked medical costs and levy on foreign labourers that will badly affect the Bangladeshis who sent home almost \$1.4 billion in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Malaysia's economy began slowing down about a year back and sees no sign of recovery anytime soon, according to economists.

The economy is expected to expand at a slower pace in 2016 due to the easing of private consumption growth, continuation of low oil prices, and the effect of low commodity prices on exports, the World Bank said in a report in December last.

It further said private spending is "not likely to pick up substantially" in the near future in Malaysia.

Now it takes more than 4 Malaysian Ringgits to buy one US dollar, which was around RM 3 early last year.

Sohel Rana, 35, works at a construction company in Penang. He said he used to send home RM 500 a month and his family would get around Tk 13,000 early last year, but now it is worth only Tk 9,000.

"My monthly wage is 1,100 Ringgit. If I send home Ringgits equivalent to Tk 13,000, I cannot manage my expenses here with the rest of my income. So, I am working

three to four extra hours alongside my 10-hour daily work," he told this correspondent over the phone.

"Now if the levy is increased, I will be in real problem because my company will deduct the amount from my salary," Rana said.

MEDICAL COST HIKE

In the budget for 2016, Malaysia withdrew medical subsidy for foreigners and the decision took effect in January last, in violation of a UN convention.

According to the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families-1990, migrant workers shall enjoy treatment not less favourable than that which applies to nationals of the state of employment in respect of health, wages, holidays etc.

Earlier, Malaysian public hospitals used to charge foreigners 50 percent of the actual cost of treatment. But now migrants have to pay 100 percent of it.

Malaysia is expected to earn an extra RM 40-50 million a year from the increased medical cost of the 2.1 million documented foreigners, Malaysian media reported.

"If a Malaysian pays 1 Ringgit, a Bangladeshi will have to pay 100, explained Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, regional coordinator of Kuala Lumpur-based NGO Caram Asia.

"I saw a Bangladeshi migrant who had come to a hospital with high fever, but gone back without treatment after learning about

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LUXURY POOL VILLA / 3000 SFT (actual image)

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