

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**



**BSRM**  
innovating safety

**SHAH CEMENT**



**40% EXTRA STRENGTH PROVEN!**

Superior performance proven in 100 months of continuous BUET test

# No care for resources

White clay being plundered, authorities 'take no action'

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Indiscriminate extraction of white clay, also known as *Sada Mati*, has continued unabated for long in hilly areas of Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila and the authorities concerned have apparently been looking away.

Locals said the plundering began years ago and hundreds of Sal trees had also been cut down to collect the clay from five hillocks in Bhedikura area, causing immense damage to the local environment and ecology.

White clay is used as a raw material for making ceramics products which have huge demand at home and abroad.

Currently, Bangladesh Agro-ceramics Company is taking white clay from one of the hillocks at Bhedikura. The firm has been working in the area for several years.

Quoting workers and officials at the company, Gaziur Rahman, chairman of Dakshin Maizpara Union Parishad, said, the quantity of white clay being extracted by the company was much higher than it was mentioned in the Demand Order (DO) letter.

The DO, issued in December last year, permitted the company to collect 16,000 sacks, each containing 50kgs of white clay, but it took approximately 60,000 sacks, he claimed.

The company refuted the allegation.

Its local representative Mohammad Ainuddin said they were working following the DO issued by the ministry concerned (Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources).

He, however, admitted that they had not yet collected the clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE) in the district.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



The sorry state of a hillock after loads of white clay had been extracted from it in Bhedikura area of Dhobaura in Mymensingh. The photo was taken last year.

PHOTO: FILE

## 2 Bangladeshis 'abducted' in Libya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Unidentified men abducted two Bangladeshi youths from a kitchen market in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Friday, complained a victim's father.

One of the abductees is Asad Ali Russell, 27, of Kudra Gargaon village in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon.

Talking to The Daily Star, Asad's father Abbas Ali said his son went to Libya in June last year.

Asad's co-worker Shamim Hossain phoned Abbas on Saturday noon to inform him that some unidentified men abducted the youth along with another Bangladeshi worker around 8:30am on Friday when he was buying daily essentials at the kitchen market. Four other Bangladeshis, including Shamim, were at a nearby shop.

Riding a pick-up, the abductors went to the market; picked up the two and left the area. The identity of the other victim could not be confirmed.

Twenty-eight-year-old Shamim, also a roommate of Asad, said they informed the local police of the matter.



## Independent bids adieu to print edition

AFP, London

The final print edition of The Independent newspaper went on sale yesterday, ending its 30-year appearance on British newsstands with an exclusive on an assassination plot against a former Saudi king.

A poignant wrap-around front page carried the words "STOP PRESS" in red lettering on a white background, followed by the words "Read all about it in this, our final print edition - 1986- 2016".

The newspaper will now be available online only, with its final editorial claiming history would be the judge of its "bold

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Thank you, Bangladesh

Leading Indian security analyst lauds Dhaka's role in regional peace, urges Dhaka-Delhi-Naypyidaw joint move to combat terror

SUHAS SHANKAR CHOWDHURY

Bangladesh has played a significant role in battling militancy in the region, especially in the Northeast of India, and the Sheikh Hasina-led government should be thanked for that, says leading Indian security analyst Jaideep Saikia.

"The [1947] partition has made the northeastern states closer to Bangladesh than it has to the rest of India. So, our fortunes and misfortunes are somehow interrelated with Bangladesh, willy-nilly," said Saikia, who is originally from Assam and now in Dhaka on a two-day visit, during an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

"And we are fortunate that we have a partner in Sheikh Hasina. I, on behalf of the people of Assam, thank Bangladesh, Hasina in particular, for her uncompromising stance against terrorism of any sort."

With over two dozen published and presented academic papers on security and strategy, Saikia is an expert on militancy in South Asia, especially in the Bangladesh, Northeast India, Myanmar, and China region.

The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), a separatist outfit operating in Assam, was allowed to use Bangladesh territory during the BNP-Jamaat rule between 2001 and 2006, which became a threat to the security of Northeast India, he said.

However, Hasina cracked down on the ULFA leaders after returning to power in 2008, following up on India's long-standing requests.

"The insurgencies in the region are under control to a considerable extent in the Northeast, except in the state of Manipur, he said, adding that after Sheikh Hasina acted against the Northeast insurgencies, they have all now

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Jaideep Saikia

## PROPOSED POWER PLANTS Reliance, Adani change plan

UNB, Dhaka

Reliance Group, an Indian conglomerate, will now set up a 750MW gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh instead of a 3000MW one due to "land constraints".

On the other hand, another giant Adani Group will set up a 3000MW power plant in India and sell its electricity to Bangladesh instead of its previous offer of setting up a 1600MW coal-fired power plants here.

As per the latest development, official sources said, the Reliance Group will set up its 750MW LNG-based power plant in Meghnaghat and set up a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali to import gas to supply to its own plant.

"Actually, Reliance's initial proposal was to set up 3000MW LNG-fired power plant. Such a gigantic project needs a lot of land which is not available and ready in government hand," said an official of the Power Division.

He said there is only a piece of land available at Meghnaghat near Dhaka to house a 750MW power plant.

According to him, Reliance was asked to purchase a land under a private initiative. "If they can do it, then the government

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## 'Truly the times are changing'

Rolling Stones rocks Cuba



AFP, Havana

Cuba had never seen the Rolling Stones before, and after Mick Jagger rocked and seduced hundreds of thousands in Havana on Friday, the communist island is likely never to be quite the same again.

A crowd flowed across the Cuban capital's Ciudad Deportiva, a huge sports complex with a capacity of 450,000.

The human tide then spilled further into the streets, some even standing thick on neighboring rooftops.

When fans raised their phones and cameras to get snapshots of Jagger strutting across the giant stage, the flashes looked like a new galaxy.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Child's body found buried at father's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a three-year-old boy was recovered from under the earthen floor of his father's home at Junaib of Pakundia in Kishoreganj yesterday.

Victim Md Imran's maternal grandfather Sultan Miah was looking for Imran and spotted a plugged hole on the floor of the house.

Imran's father Kashem, a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited  
Baitul Muamalat Bangladesh

**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-45	6-20
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25
				7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## ACC 'trying to understand' BASIC scam

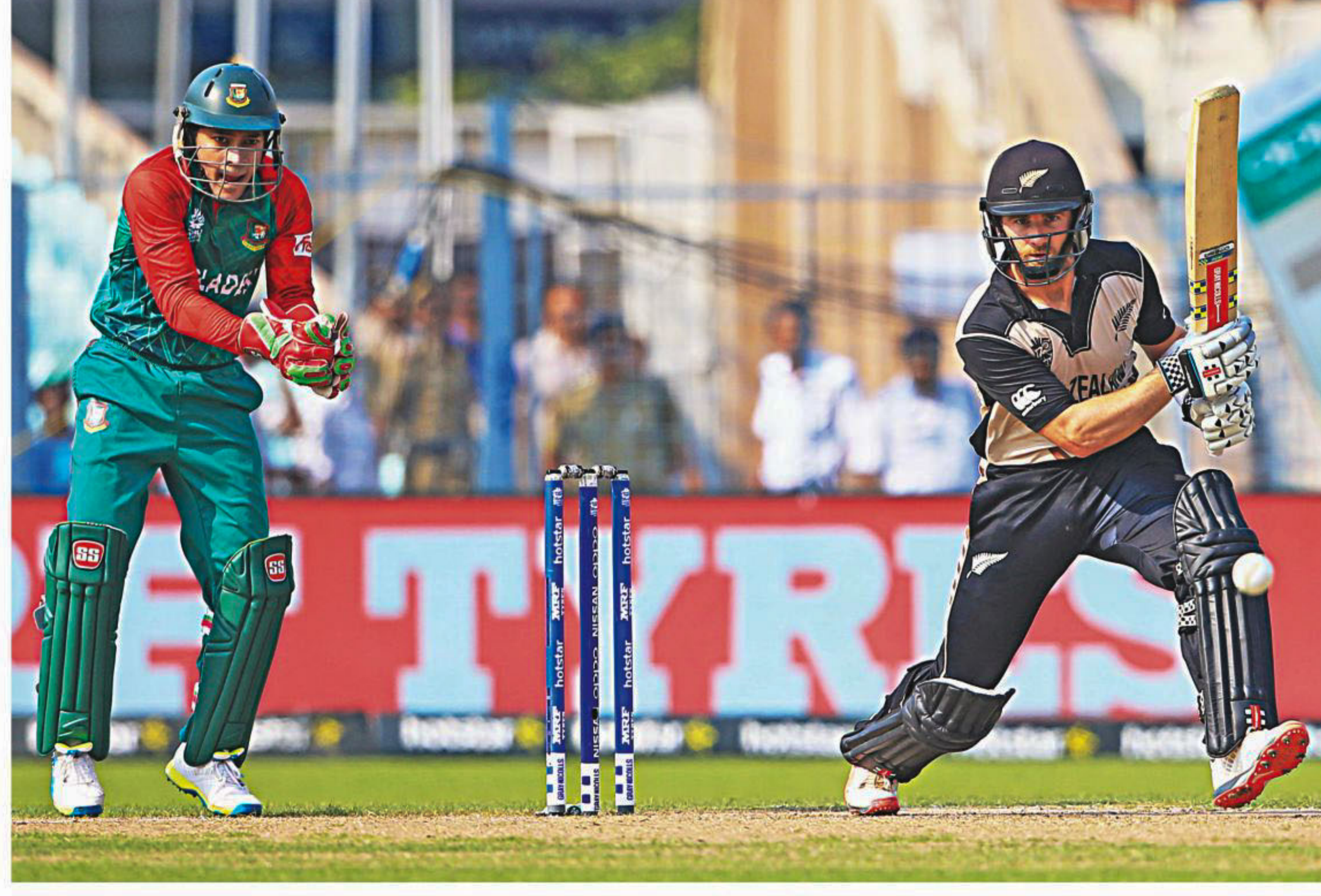
Says new boss of the anti-graft body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is "trying to understand" the BASIC Bank scam and allegations brought against the bank's former chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, said newly appointed ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud yesterday.

"We are trying to understand, trying to know," he told reporters at the ACC office when asked what measures the anti-graft body would take against Bacchu.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was one of the few batsmen from either side who could make head or tail of an Eden Gardens turner in Kolkata as his team walloped Bangladesh by 75 runs in their ICC World Twenty20 Super 10 match yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Belgium charges three men with terrorism

Reports say they include 'third airport bomber'

AGENCIES

Belgian federal prosecutors yesterday said they had charged three men, including a suspect Belgian media believe is a man captured on security footage with two suicide bombers at Brussels airport on Tuesday.

A huge manhunt netted the suspect officially identified as Faycal C -- and identified by local media as Faycal Cheffou -- and investigators are now working on the theory that he could be the man in a hat and white jacket pictured with two other airport bombers, but whose device failed to go off.

The prosecutor's statement said no weapons or explosives had been found during a search of his home.

Two other men, Aboubakar A and Rabah N, were also charged with terrorist activities and membership of a terrorist group.

Rabah N was wanted in connection with a related raid in France this week that authorities say foiled an apparent attack in Paris deepening the connections between the two events.

French police said Friday they had foiled a terrorist strike in France by 34-year-old Reda Kriket -- a man previously convicted in Belgium in a terror case alongside Paris attacks ringleader Abdelhamid Abaoud -- after arresting him and discovering explosives at his home.

Prosecutors also said they were holding a further man,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5