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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



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ICT ICONS HONOURRED

4 individuals, 4 firms receive The Daily Star ICT Awards



LATE ABU YOUSUF MESBAH UDDIN AHMED
IBCS-PRIMAX Software (Bangladesh)
ICT Pioneer Award



MAHBOOB ZAMAN
Chairman of DataSoft
ICT Pioneer Award



SYED FARHAD AHMED
Managing Director, Aamra Group of Companies
ICT Business Person of the Year



ZIAUR RAHMAN
Chairman & CEO, TigerIT Bangladesh
ICT Business Person of the Year



SERVICINGNEBP
ICT Solution Provider of the Year
Award received by ASM Mohiuddin Monem



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS
ICT Solution Provider of the Year
Award received by Kazi Saifuddin Munir



BDJOBS.COM
e-Business of the Year
Award received by AKM Fahim Mashroor



HUNGRYNAKI.COM
ICT Startup of the Year
Award received by Tausif Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) yesterday honoured four individuals and as many information technology firms for their contribution to the country's ICT industry, now seen as the next big export sector after garments.

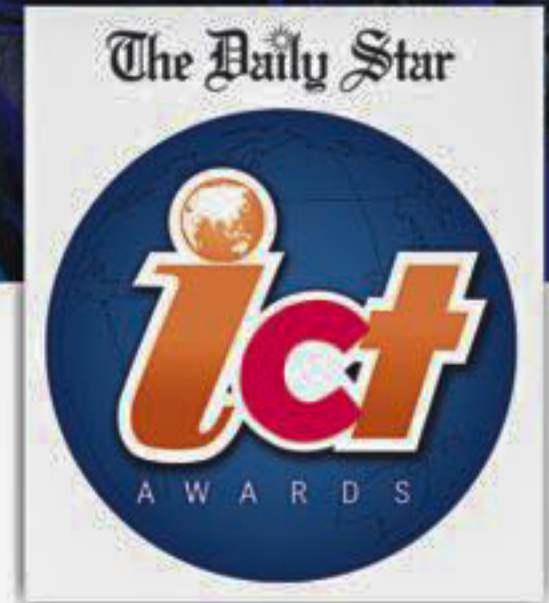
Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed out the trophies to the winners of "The Daily Star ICT Awards" at Le Méridien hotel in Dhaka.

The event was organised in association with BRAC Bank and the Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), a Silicon Valley-based firm, with Le Méridien as hospitality partner.

Speaking at the ceremony, the finance minister thanked The Daily Star for taking the initiative and hoped the award would continue to take the society forward.

Muhith said the ICT revolution surpassed all previous revolutions in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The recipients of "The Daily Star ICT Awards" pose with Finance Minister AMA Muhith, organisers and event partners during a ceremony at Le Méridien hotel in the capital yesterday evening. Mustafa Jabbar, president of the BASIS; Selim RF Hussain, managing director of BRAC Bank; Sonia Bashir Kabir, founder president of TiE Dhaka; and Amin Ahmad, chairman of Best Holdings, the owning company of Le Méridien, are also seen. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR



"The ICT sector would be the largest employer and the largest income-earner by 2040."

AMA MUHITH
FINANCE MINISTER



"This award is putting us in a dignified position. It is a pioneering initiative."

MUSTAFA JABBAR
PRESIDENT OF BASIS

Work for next polls

Hasina asks AL men; Quader hints at cabinet reshuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night asked her party colleagues to take the next general election seriously and to prepare for it.

She also asked the Awami League ministers and lawmakers to maintain close relations with party activists and go door to door to gain people's support for the party, said sources.

Hasina, also the AL president, directed the newly-elected members of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

It's all for extortion

Around Tk 3cr extortion a day led to recurrent failure to free city footpaths from hawkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite repeated attempts in recent months, the authorities have failed to evict hawkers from the city's footpaths, as they manage to continue their business by paying "extortion money".

There are around 3.5 lakh shops on the city's footpaths, and they pay Tk 3 crore in "extortion money" a day, say leaders of different hawkers' associations in the capital.

The money goes into the pockets of a section of police officials, and some leaders of the ruling party and its front organisations through "linemen", they alleged.

Of the shops, 3,500 are in Gulistan, Baitul Mukarram and Paltan areas, and they pay Tk 28 lakh in "extortion money" a day, claimed Kamal Siddiqui, president of Bangladesh Chhinnamul Hawkers Samity.

He said the hawkers have to pay between Tk 50 and Tk 500 every day depending on the size and location of their stalls.

"Our income would have gone up if we

didn't have to give them extortion money," said Kamal.

Contacted, Md Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said it is not fair to put wholesale blame on the police.

"If we get any specific allegation, we will take action against those officials who will be found involved in such illegal practice," he said.

Asked about the allegation that ruling party men are involved in extorting money from hawkers, Shah Alam Murad, general secretary of Dhaka City South Awami League, said he didn't know anything about it.

He said some of the party men may be involved in it, but none from his unit was involved in extortion.

On Thursday, a clash between hawkers and staffs of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) broke out during an eviction drive in Gulistan area.

Wielding firearms, some ruling party

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

2 killed in 'shootout' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two alleged members of the outlawed Nakshal Bahini were killed in a shootout with Rapid Action Battalion and two pistols were recovered from their possession early yesterday, claimed Rab.

The incident took place at Goyeshbari area under Ataikula in Santhia upazila.

One of the killed was identified as Biplob Kumar Bepary allias Bipul 28, son of Abdul Pramanik from Bil Shalangi village and the other was Moyeen Uddin, 27, son of Motalab Hossain from Paiksha village under Ataikula of Santhia upazila in the district, Rab said.

On a tipoff that members of the outlawed party

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

Chinese recipe for fighting graft

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Xi Jinping did not try to hide the numerous incidents of rampant corruption in his own party, the historic Communist Party of China (CPC). The latest disclosure of punishing one million party officials—both "tigers" and "flies" has made him different than some of his predecessors, though previous leaders have also fought against party rogues.

His fight against corruption has been lauded by people of China. His popularity is on the rise. This has been reflected in a latest survey by the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan American "fact tank" based in Washington D.C.

The results of the survey released earlier this month said 49 percent of the respondents said corrupt officials were a big problem, and 64 percent said they believed the situation would improve over the next five years.

"Across China, there is a sense that those who indulge in corrupt activities face a high risk of exposure. As a consequence, the volume of graft has gone down considerably," said M. D. Nalapat, a professor of geopolitics at Manipal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

No conflict between police, Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

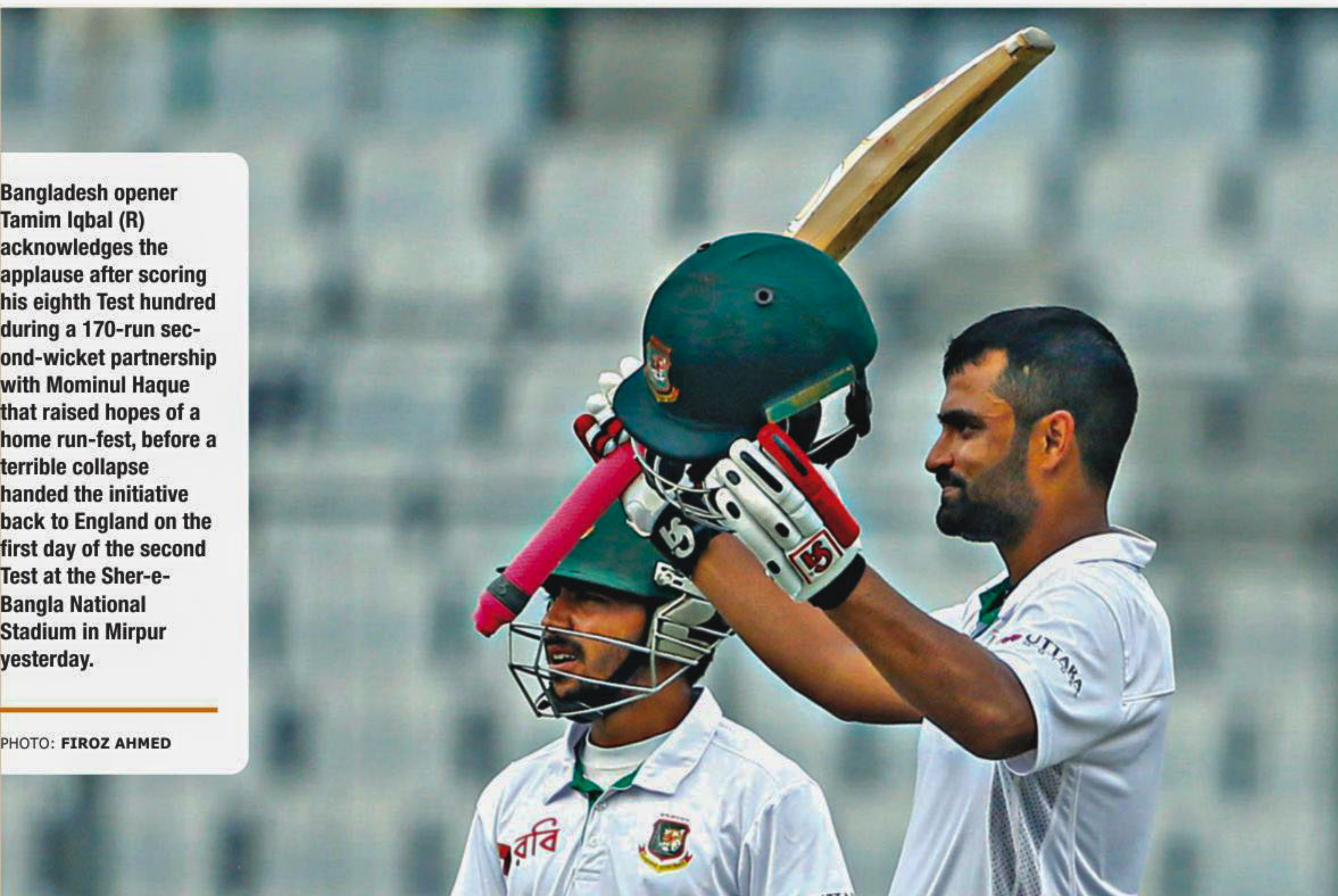
Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said there might be some differences of opinion between the Rab and the police, but there is no conflict between them.

He was talking to journalists after inaugurating the newly constructed six-storey barrack of Range Reserve Force at Barisal Police Lines.

"We are proud of the Rab. There is no major conflict [between the two forces] whatever has been reported in the media is unfortunate. It should not have been reported," the IGP said.

The Rapid Action Battalion is a unit under the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (R) acknowledges the applause after scoring his eighth Test hundred during a 170-run second-wicket partnership with Mominul Haque that raised hopes of a home run-fest, before a terrible collapse handed the initiative back to England on the first day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Batting collapse after Tamim ton

Bangladesh 220, England 50/3 on first day of second Test

BISHWAJIT ROY

Twists and turns were the hallmarks of the Chittagong classic between Bangladesh and England and the Mirpur Test promised that kind of flair on the very first day. A majestic hundred from Tamim Iqbal was followed by a terrible collapse before spin duo Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan once again dismantled England's top order before the day's play was called off 19 minutes ahead of scheduled time due to rain. The left-handed Tamim may have been at the centre of discussions at the end of the day's play for his swashbuckling eighth Test hundred, but the batsmen following him spoiled his party.

On a day that saw 13 wickets fall England's Moeen Ali was also one of the heroes as his off-breaks played a big part,

apart from Ben Stokes's reverse swing much like in the first Test, in Bangladesh's abysmal collapse to be bowled out for 220 runs after at one stage being 171 for one. The question however remained whether Moeen -- whose second five-for included the scalps of the two successful Bangladeshi batsmen Tamim and Mominul Haque -- and Stokes were the beneficiaries of poor shot selection by the home batsmen. It was especially puzzling why Mahmudullah Riyad was fishing outside off stump as his irresponsible waft became the signal for the

astonishing collapse.

At the end of the day's play the Bangladesh tent will probably regret wasting a great opportunity to take firm control of the match by putting a decent total on the board after a blazing 170-run second-wicket partnership between Tamim and Mominul

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

