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A BIG WIN

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan to advance to the semis of SAFF Women's Championship

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UNDER SCANNER

Israel's attorney general orders criminal probe against PM

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Make Rohingya issue a priority

13 Nobel laureates including Prof Yunus, 10 global leaders write to UNSC on human tragedy unfolding in Myanmar; Bangladesh calls for early repatriation of 50,000 Myanmar citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three Nobel laureates and global leaders have urged the members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to urgently put the persisting Rohingya crisis on the Security Council's agenda and to call upon the UN secretary-general to visit Myanmar as a priority.

"If the current secretary-general is able to do so, we would urge him to go; if not, we encourage the new secretary-general to make it one of his first tasks after he takes office in January," reads an open letter sent to the president of the UNSC and to all its member states.

The dignitaries, who have made the joint plea for the Rohingyas, one of the world's most persecuted minorities, include the likes of Professor Muhammad Yunus, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Malala Yousafzai, Shirin Ebadi and Arianna Huffington.

The signatories that include 13 Nobel laureates and 10 other business people, philanthropists, activists and politicians of global repute expressed concern that Rohingya persecution in Myanmar bears the hallmarks of genocides and past tragedies like the ones in Rwanda, Darfur, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

They urged the United Nations to do everything possible to encourage the Myanmar government to lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid so that people receive emergency assistance.

"Access for journalists and human rights monitors should also be permitted, and an independent, international inquiry to establish the truth about the current situation should be established," they said.

Their fervent plea came at a time when "a human tragedy amounting to ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is unfolding in Myanmar".

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ZILA PARISHADS
Voters chose mostly clean chairmen

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Most of the newly elected district council chairmen have a clean image as they are educated and have no criminal records.

Of the 59 chairmen-elect, 43 are graduates and only three are facing criminal cases, according to their affidavits submitted to the Election Commission.

It is a good sign that such candidates are being elected which would ultimately strengthen the local government bodies and contribute to qualitative improvement of politics, said local government experts.

"Usually, we find most of the local government bodies

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DEFEAT OF AL CHAIRMAN ASPIRANTS
Some MPs' role, money mattered

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Ruling party lawmakers contributed significantly to the win of rebels against the party-backed candidates in at least five districts in Wednesday's Zila Parishad election.

In as many districts, however, local Awami League MPs and leaders failed to pull off victory for their party-sponsored chairman aspirants.

And in at least three districts, the rebel candidates "spent big money" to ensure their win, although three such dissidents lost to the party-backed men despite their efforts to influence voters with money, party insiders said.

Electoral codes bar lawmakers to join any kind of polls activities, including campaigns. But many MPs gave no heed to this.

The returning officer of Rajshahi warned three AL lawmakers for seeking votes for the AL-backed candidate Mahbub Zaman Bhulu. Even the state minister for foreign affairs, Shahriar Alam, sought votes for him through his Facebook page. District AL leaders also worked for him, but he still lost.

Only a handful of district and grassroots AL leaders worked for the party rebel Mohammad Ali Sarkar, who beat Bhulu by 325 votes. Ali bagged 742 votes and Bhulu 417.

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Students of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College are elated after the results of this year's primary terminal and junior school certificate (JSC) examinations came out yesterday. *Inset*, two students of Udayan Higher Secondary School checking their results on a mobile phone.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/ RASHED SHUMON

Pass rate rises in JDC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a downslide in 2015, students have done better in this year's Ebtedai terminal and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations, registering a rise in both pass rates and achieving GPA-5.

According to the results published yesterday, the pass rate of Ebtedai exams was 95.85 percent. It was 95.13 percent last year.

A total 5,948 students achieved GPA-5 this year while the number was 5,473 last year.

The pass rate in JDC exams under the madrasa education board increased to 94.02 this year from 92.46 percent last year.

The number of GPA-5 holders also registered a sharp increase to 12,529 this year from 8,761 last year.

Some 2,57,500 class-V

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Girls outshine boys

Once again outstanding results in primary, junior certificate exams

GIRLS VS BOYS	EXAMS ▶	PRIMARY		JSC	
		GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS
Successful students		15,18,210	12,70,222	9,86,683	8,64,813
GPA-5 achievers		15,37,86	12,81,12	1,34,388	1,00,671

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Girls have outperformed boys in all scales in primary and junior school certificate exams this year.

From their participation and success rate to achieving the highest grade, they are well ahead of their counterparts, according to results of the public examinations published yesterday.

For the last several years, girls' performance in class-V and class-VIII terminal exams had an upward trend with them lagging behind in one or two scales, but this year they outshone boys on all counts.

In primary terminal examinations, 98.51 percent children came out successfully, which is close to the last year's pass rate -- 98.52 percent. The number of GPA-

5 (Grade Point Average) achievers rose to 2,81,898 from 2,75,980 last year.

The success rate in Ebtedai (primary level of madrasa) examinations, held along with the primary-level exams, is 95.85 percent.

In Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams, the pass rate hit a record high of 92.89 percent with 2,35,059 students securing GPA-5 under eight general education boards across the country, up by 47,557 from last year.

The pass rate in Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations is 92.46 percent.

The combined pass rate of JSC and JDC in eight general boards and one madrasa board beat previous records with 93.06 percent students being successful. The pass rate was 92.33 percent in 2015.

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"If you are corrupt, I will fetch you using a helicopter to Manila and I will throw you out. I have done this before, why would I not do it again?

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT
RODRIGO DUTERTE
THREATENS CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's dismissal truly set the cat amongst the pigeons during Bangladesh's 67-run loss to New Zealand in the second ODI at the Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday.

Obama hits Russia with sanctions

US expels 35 Russians as part of retaliation for hacking

CNN, Washington DC

President Barack Obama took unprecedented steps yesterday retaliating against what the administration described as "Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities," including sanctioning six Russian individuals and five Russian entities as well as ordering Russian diplomats to leave the country.

This is the first time the names of Russian officials involved in the hacking have become public on the sanctions list.

Obama also said in a separate statement that 35 Russian diplomats have been ordered to leave the country, and two Russian compounds are being closed under yesterday's actions.

A White House statement described the consensus from the Intelligence Community that Russia's meddling in US elections via cyberhacking as "unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

"Russia's cyberactivities were intended to influence the election, erode faith in US democratic institutions, sow doubt about the integrity of our electoral process, and undermine confidence in the institutions of the US government," the statement said. "These actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

According to statements from the White House and the Treasury Department, the government has sanctioned nine entities and individuals: the GRU and the FSB, two Russian intelligence services; four individual officers of the GRU; three companies that provided

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
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An inexplicable collapse

AL-AMIN from Nelson

Bangladesh suffered a 67-run defeat against New Zealand in the second One-Day International at the Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday. They were bundled out for 184 in 42.2 overs chasing a massive New Zealand total of 251.

A massive total! This phrase was applicable for a Bangladesh team long ago when anything above 200 was beyond their reach. But for this new generation of Bangladesh cricketers this was a total they were supposed to topple despite the fact that they were playing in foreign conditions.

It was at this very ground they chased down 318 during the 2015 World Cup against Scotland. So, when they restricted the Black Caps to what any team would consider a

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