



The Bangladesh Under 16 girls put in an aggressive and a tactful display to beat their Iranian counterparts 3-0 in their first game of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship qualifiers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR



Members of Bangladesh cricket team celebrate after defeating England for the first time in Test cricket.

PHOTO: REUTERS

audiences from all walks of life who lined up in front of movie theatres all across the country reviving the term "House Full." At a time when movies and film songs from across the border define entertainment for a large section of the population, *Aynabaji* proves that there is always demand for a well-made local movie and people do not necessarily flock towards all things foreign when it comes to entertainment.

### BANGLADESH BANK HEIST

In one of the most spectacular robberies in modern times, in February, \$101 million was hacked from the BB's reserve account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Of the sum, \$81 million was siphoned off to the Philippines and \$20 million to Sri Lanka. Two theories have been suggested to explain how the thieves managed to send the New York Fed 35 properly authenticated SWIFT transfer orders. The first holds that it was possible to hack into the SWIFT systems at Bangladesh Bank and issue transfer orders without the physical presence of a person inside the central bank. Few find this credible. The other theory—not favoured by the finance ministry or Bangladesh Bank—holds that physical presence at the SWIFT terminals within Bangladesh Bank was required to issue the transfer orders and that the heist must therefore have been at least partly an inside job: a collaboration of hackers and central bank employees or other individuals who had access to the central bank's terminals. A three-member committee formed by the government and led by former Bangladesh Bank Governor Mohammed Farashuddin submitted a probe report to the finance ministry on May 30. The government deferred the release of the probe report. Bangladesh officials have clawed back the money laundered to Sri Lanka. Of the \$81 million, the Philippines court gave an order to return \$15 million to Bangladesh. Some Bangladesh central bank officials deliberately exposed its computer systems and enabled hackers to steal \$81 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in February, a top investigator in Dhaka told Reuters on December 12.

### ENGLAND IN TIGERS' CLAWS

In October Bangladesh secured a historic test win against England elating millions of Bangladeshis. The margin of victory was 108 runs, not unusual in Test matches, but



A burning Rohingya house in Myanmar destroyed by army rocket fire.

COURTESY: MYANMAR OBSERVER



The unthinkable has happened.

PHOTO: ESQUIRE

the manner of it was astounding. The England side was mesmerised by a 19-year-old off-spinner whose name would not have rung any bells among their batsmen before the series kicked off in Bangladesh. Mehedi Hasan grabbed another five-wicket haul – his third in four innings, which meant he ended the series with 19 wickets, demonstrably the best spinner on parade. In the end the historic win led Tigers to a draw in the series.

### GIRL POWER

In September, the under-16 women's team brought about one of the most glorious moments of Bangladesh's sporting history. Bangladesh ended their brilliant AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers campaign with a

hundred percent record with a 3-0 win against Iran, a 5-0 victory over Singapore, a 10-0 thrashing of Kyrgyzstan, a 4-2 win against Chinese Taipei followed by 4-0 triumph over UAE, placing them among the eight best Asian teams. What's remarkable about their achievement is that almost all the girls come from underprivileged backgrounds in remote villages.

### PANAMA PAPERS

A huge leak of documents lifted the lid on how the rich and powerful use tax havens to hide their wealth. The files were leaked from one of the world's most secretive companies, a Panamanian law firm called Mossack Fonseca. The files show how

Mossack Fonseca clients were able to launder money, dodge sanctions and avoid tax. It is the biggest leak in history, dwarfing the data released by the Wikileaks organisation in 2010. There are links to 12 current or former heads of state and government in the data, including dictators accused of looting their own countries. More than 60 relatives and associates of heads of state and other politicians are also implicated. The files also reveal a suspected billion-dollar money laundering ring involving close associates of Russia's President Vladimir Putin. Also mentioned are the brother-in-law of China's President Xi Jinping; Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko; Argentina President Mauricio Macri; the late father of UK Prime Minister David Cameron and three of the four children of Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

### CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ROHINGYAS

The Myanmar security forces unleashed a fresh reign of terror against the Rohingya population in the Rakhaine State - shooting unarmed civilians, raping women and torching homes since more than a dozen soldiers and police were killed in October by armed men whom the UN described as "ethnic armed organisations." The recent surge in hostility sent some of them fleeing to the border of Bangladesh which already hosts thousands of Rohingyas, putting a stress on the overpopulated country and raising concerns over its security. The Rohingyas were made stateless by a controversial 1982 law denying them freedom of movement, education and employment and land rights and ownership.

### AMERICA GETS A NEW PRESIDENT

Donald Trump, a billionaire businessman with no prior experience in politics won the US presidential election on November 8, 2016, defeating Hillary Clinton, a former First Lady, a US Senator and a Secretary of State. During the campaign Mr. Trump promised to build a wall alongside Mexico, deport illegal aliens in the US, proposed a programme to register all Muslims entering the US, "renegotiate" business deals with China, and said his support to the Baltic members of NATO

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