



"Have you seen on TV, when Mashrafe showed his bandages, the commentators wondered how he could run in such a state. I was also taken aback. I had never seen it before, that he bowls wearing these bandages."

BANGLADESH CRICKET BOARD PRESIDENT  
**NAZMUL HASSAN**

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE  
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**DIGITAL BANGLADESH**  
The irony of restricting access to internet is difficult to fathom  
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**SYRIA GAS ATTACK**  
Russia blames rebels; says regime air strike hit 'terrorist warehouse'  
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## Save politics from power of money

IPU conference ends with a call to end inequality, promote human rights

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has made a clarion call to parliaments across the globe to take measures to protect the political system from influence of money and organised lobbies.

In a communiqué issued at the end of a five-day conference in Dhaka yesterday, the IPU urged measures to enhance transparency and strengthen anti-corruption legislation.

It emphasised ensuring effective limits to private funding of candidates and political parties.

The IPU, a forum of parliaments around the globe, made the call amid ongoing discussions worldwide stressing the necessity of curbing influence of money in politics. Undue influence of money has long been blamed for manipulation of elections, corruption in politics and undermining of democracy.

Political analysts and many watchdogs have been saying that private funding of candidates and political parties is giving rise to corruption. And those who donate money to election funds for candidates and parties control them in many ways.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "This call for transparency

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**KEY POINTS OF DHAKA COMMUNIQUÉ**

- Enhance transparency in politics
- Strengthen anti-corruption legislation
- All laws should promote human rights
- Enact laws to facilitate participation of all in political process

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Amidst heavy downpour and gusts yesterday afternoon, a rickshaw puller tries to move ahead with his passenger tucked behind a curtain on the Dhaka University campus. The hour-long downpour dumped 33mm rain according to the met office. Major roads and local lanes went under water in many areas. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Heavy rain disrupts life in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents in the capital suffered yesterday after moderate rainfall took the city under ankle to knee-deep water.

It was mostly a cloudy day before the downpour began around 4:00pm and continued for over an hour.

Roads, lanes, and by-lanes in Green Road, Tejguri Bazar, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and other low-lying areas were inundated. Many places were submerged by knee-deep water, once again exposing the poor drainage system in the city.

According to the Met office, the capital faced 33 millimetre rain from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

Commuters suffered mostly because motor vehicles and rickshaws were not available in many parts of the city due to the rain, while many roads saw severe traffic congestion as major portions of them were under water.

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## One last hurrah for Mashrafe?

Second T20I against Sri Lanka today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have shared the Test series against Sri Lanka.

They also shared the ODI series against the Lankans. And today the Tigers will get an opportunity to make it truly a shared series on the Lankan soil provided that they show tenacity in the second and final T20 international at the R Premadasa Stadium.

To achieve that the Tigers are already motivated enough at least to give a fitting farewell to their inspirational captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who will walk in the middle to play his final T20I. Bangladesh lost the first T20I by six wickets at the same venue on Tuesday, the day when Mashrafe announced his retirement from the shortest format of the game. The 34-year-old took two wickets in that game but his effort was not enough to prevent a big defeat in a format which has been the weak-link for the Tigers. They got a start despite losing opener Tamim Iqbal early. But their inability to construct a T20 innings was once again exposed after the dismissal of Sabbir Rahman – who was undone by a brilliant direct hit. His dismissal not only dried up the runs but also

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## Beware of traffic disruption today

DMP to close some streets for huge rally of Islamic Foundation

Don't take cars to Suhrawardy Uddyan and its nearby areas

**HSC** examinees should head out with hours in hand

No vehicular movement on the street between Shahbagh and Matsya Bhaban, and Shahbagh and Doyel Chatter via TSC from **10:30am**

Traffic diversions at **25** intersections from **12:00 noon**

Rally begins around **3:00pm**; likely to end by **5:30pm**

Avoid New Market, Bashundhara City, and Gawcia Market and markets on Elephant Road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today could be a tough day for city dwellers, especially HSC examinees, as two streets would be off limits to traffic and there would be diversions at 25 intersections centring the Bangladesh Islamic Foundation's (BIF) rally at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

Around 3,000 buses with thousands of BIF officials, staff, imams and Olamas would be converging in the capital from across the country for the 3:00pm rally.

Such a large number of vehicles entering the capital and parked inside the city might trigger standstill traffic on major thoroughfares today and on top of this, there would be VVIP movements, which could make matters worse.

Against this backdrop, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) asked people to avoid going to some shopping arcades -- Bashundhara City, New Market, Gawcia Market and markets on Elephant Road -- and getting their cars out near the venue.

Some officials of the education ministry recommended HSC examinees head out for their exam halls a few hours early.

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## Teesta deal not now

Say Indian officials; Mamata to attend Pranab's banquet

REZAUL KARIM, from New Delhi

India yesterday made it clear that the much-desired Teesta water sharing deal would not be signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit there as the country was yet to have all on board for resolving the issue.

"In fact, there is no agreement on the cards [till now] on the Teesta. We are working to overcome internal difficulties. You all know in our system we need to take the state government into confidence," said Sripriya Ranganathan, joint secretary (Bangladesh Myanmar desk) of the Indian external affairs ministry.

She said, "India-Bangladesh relation is not just about Teesta. Why are

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## No deal hurting the country's interest: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Awami League would never compromise with the country's interests while signing any deal with any country.

"We'll do everything maintaining the friendly relations... no harm will be done to our country," she said.

The PM was speaking at a programme at her office marking the distribution of allotment letters of plots of Police Officers Housing Society among 25 police officials.

Hasina is scheduled to fly to New Delhi tomorrow on a four-day official visit when some crucial deals would be signed between Bangladesh and India.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali on Tuesday said 33 memoranda of understanding or deals were likely to be inked during the PM's trip.

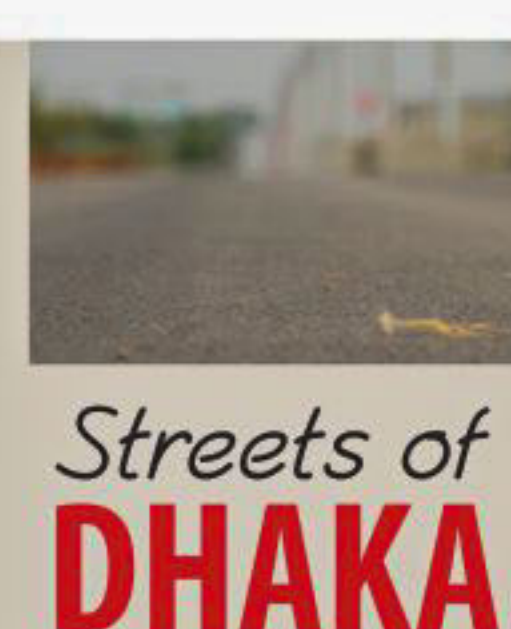
Some BNP leaders repeatedly alleged that the government was going to sign a deal with India ignoring the country's interests.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the programme yesterday.

The premier said the government was realising its due rights from the neighbouring countries keeping the friendly relations with them intact.

Referring to Ganges water sharing treaty, Hasina said the

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## Streets of DHAKA

Every city has a story to tell. Dhaka's epic story is divided in numerous chapters, spread across its numerous streets. From food to culture to people – the streets are pages from Dhaka's narrative. To listen to Dhaka's tales, one simply needs to roam about in the streets! And that's exactly what we are doing. 'Streets of Dhaka' is a video and print series. Through these streets, we will try to paint a portrait of our beloved city. Every Thursday evening (starting today), tune into Star Live, the official YouTube channel of The Daily Star, to watch the video episodes. Read about the streets on our newspaper **EVERY FRIDAY, PAGE-2.** Join us in this enlightening journey!

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX Bangladesh 3-notch up

Progress made in some socio-economic areas, including life expectancy, per capita income

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh moved up three spots and ranked 139th out of 188 countries in Global Human Development Index 2015 due to the remarkable progress it has made in many socio-economic areas, including life expectancy and per capita income.

According to Human Development Report (HDR) 2016 released in Dhaka yesterday, Bangladesh is categorised as "medium human development" country, and achieved an HDI value of 0.579 in 2015.

The General Economics Division of the Planning Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh jointly organised the launching of HDR 2016 in Dhaka following the global launch in Stockholm, Sweden, less than two weeks ago.

Bangladesh maintained a higher average annual HDI growth rate -- 1.64 percent -- from 1990 to 2015, compared to all other South Asian countries, including India (1.52 percent), according to the report.

Despite the country's growing progress, Bangladesh is still fifth among South Asian nations in HDR rankings. Sri Lanka ranked 73rd, the Maldives 105th, India 131st, Bhutan 132nd, Nepal 144th and Pakistan 147th.

Norway topped the list while Central African Republic was at the bottom.

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## শোকসংবাদ



চট্টগ্রামের বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি আশিয়া গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান, স্বনামধন্য ব্যক্তিত্ব, দানবীর আলহাজ্ব মো. সফিউল আলম গতকাল বুধবার দুপুর ১টা ৫ মিনিটে ঢাকার স্কয়ার হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্নালিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৮১ বছর। তিনি দীর্ঘদিন যাবৎ বার্ধক্যজনিত রোগে ভুগছিলেন। তাঁর নামাজে জানাজা আজ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১১টায় নিজবাড়ি উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, পূর্ব কাটগড় কন্ট্রোলার মোড় চত্বরে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

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