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No longer pushovers

AL-AMIN from Edgbaston The historic Edgbaston ground, the home of Warwickshire cricket and famous for Brian Lara's 501 in 1994, is set for another historic moment of a different kind when Bangladesh take on India in the second semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy tomorrow.



The Tigers' maiden appearance in the last four of an ICC flagship event has already created a ripple in Birmingham and the game got an extra bite with India being the opponent after that World Cup quarterfinal in 2015.

Although the hype in social media has grown out of proportion, this game has already provided a big advertisement for the ruling body of the game. The tickets have already been sold out and the vibe surrounding this game has been so much so that it has provided a platform for another potential Asian rivalry in the making on the sidelines of the famous Indo-Pak battle.

Although it's too early to say, but the rise of Bangladesh over the last couple of years, especially in the one-day version, added that extra spice the game desperately needs to grow. If you discount the Ashes, cricket is still most popular in Asia and more importantly in the Indian sub-continent.

It is also not a surprise that three Asian teams are in the semifinals in conditions most alien to them. It also speaks of how well these teams, especially Bangladesh and Pakistan, have played.

This is good for Asian cricket. But at the start if we had said that three Asian teams would make it into the semis, SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



It is 4:00am but people are already in queue at Kamalapur Railway Station. Many arrived before liftar the previous day for the precious tickets home. Some tried to rest a little before ticket sale that would begin at 8:00am.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Sleepless night for train ticket

People wait for hours at Kamalapur station

TUHN SHIBHRA ADHIKARY

It was around 4:00 in the morning. Bilkis Begum was doing her best to stay awake. She was sitting beside her two little boys - one aged seven months and another about 10 years - deep asleep on a kantha (quilt) spread over the floor.

They were in front of a ticket counter at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

The woman from Shahajapur came along with her children around 7:00pm on Monday and queued up for tickets to go home before Eid. She brought food from home and had dinner and sehra SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Number of blood donors on rise Country still falls 1 lakh units short of its demand for 8 lakh

MOHAMMAD ALI-MASUM MOLLA

Although the country has seen a rise in voluntary and direct donation of blood in recent years, it still lags well behind demand.

According to Safe Blood Transfusion Programme of the Directorate General of Health Services, annual demand for blood in Bangladesh is around eight lakh units. Last year, about seven lakh units were collected.

The shortage is filled by professional donors who mostly contribute to unsafe blood transfusions, said officials.

They, however, claimed the rate of unsafe transfusion of blood came

down sharply over the years.

The rate of voluntary blood donation is yet to increase in line with expectation although the government set a target to ensure 100 percent blood collection through voluntary donation by 2022, officials added.

Every year on June 14, World Blood Donor Day is observed across the world to raise awareness about safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts.

Donating blood is a selfless act and blood transfusions save thousands of lives every year.

Take, for example, the case of Fariba Tasnia.

At the age of three, she was diagnosed with thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. Since then, she has been surviving on blood transfusion.

Initially, Fariba's relatives used to donate blood, but now she depends on blood from donors. She needs some 36 bags of blood a year. Her mother often finds it difficult to manage blood.

"For common people, it is just a bag of blood. But for those with genetic disorders, a bag of blood means life," said Fariba's mother Magfura Noor.

"If you have money, you can buy whatever you want, but you can't purchase or produce blood. That is why

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Bangladeshi Diplomat In Us Indicted

Dhaka summons US embassy chargé d'affaires

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh's deputy consul general in New York was indicted on Monday on charges of labour trafficking and assault for forcing his servant to work without pay through threats and intimidation, a New York City prosecutor said.

Mohammed Shahedul Islam has

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS A dark cloud on freedom of press

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The editor of a local daily in Habiganj has become the latest victim to the draconian provision of the ICT Act.

He was sued by a ruling party man under the infamous section 57 of the law on charge of 'arousing image' of one of his party MPs. Police arrested him on Monday and produced him before a magistrate court in Habiganj.

The magistrate thought it wise to deny him bail and sent him to jail. But the nature of the allegation against Golam Mostofa Rafiq, editor of the Daily Habiganj Samachar, is curious. Thus it has raised the question whether the law has been applied judiciously by the police and the magistrate.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

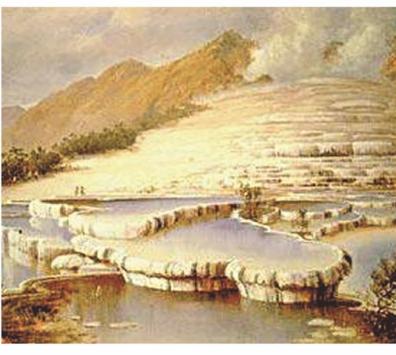
Eighth wonder of the world 'rediscovered'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The location of the long lost 'eighth wonder of the world' has been rediscovered in New Zealand, researchers claim.

The pink and white terraces of Lake Rotomahana, on the country's North Island, were a major tourist attraction in the 1870s and people travelled from far and wide to see them. It was thought they had been destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1886 and as they were never surveyed by the government

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS table with columns for Ramadan, June, Sehri, Iftar and rows for 19, 20, 21.

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center PRAYER TIMING JUNE 14 table with columns for Faaz, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha and rows for AZAN, JANMAT.

বাংলাদেশ চিকিৎসা ও দন্ত চিকিৎসা পরিষদ BANGLADESH MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL 203, Shahed Sayed Nazam Islam Sarani (88, Bopy Nagar), Dhaka-1000. Includes a list of 3 criteria for journal recognition.

Russia collusion claims a detestable lie: Sessions

Trump's attorney general testifies at Senate intelligence hearing

AFP, Washington

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions vehemently denied yesterday that he colluded with an alleged Russian bid to tilt the 2016 presidential election in Donald Trump's favour.

"I have never met with or had any conversations with any Russians or any foreign officials concerning any type of interference with any campaign or election in the United States," Sessions told a closely-watched hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"The suggestion that I participated with any collusion, that I was aware of

any collusion with the Russian government to hunt this country, which I have served with honour for 35 years, or to undermine the integrity of our democratic process, is an appalling and detestable lie."

Addressing allegations that he had unreported meetings with Russian officials while he advised the Trump campaign, Sessions said he had already acknowledged two meetings last year with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. But he denied an alleged third

encounter with Kislyak, at an April 27, 2016 reception for 'Trump at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington.

"I did not have any private meetings nor do I recall any conversations with any Russian officials at the Mayflower hotel," he told the panel.

"Though I do recall several conversations that I had during that 'Free Speech' reception, I do not have any recollection with meeting, talking to the Russian ambassador or any other Russian officials."



Jeff Sessions

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh). Includes a list of 6 safety instructions.