



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



ABAHANI TAKE OFF

Holders beat Saif SC in Bangladesh
Premier League opener

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IN RESPONSE TO CONFUSION

Mick Jagger releases two songs
titled 'England Lost', 'Get a Grip'

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Nawaz Sharif ousted by court

Pak PM resigns after top court disqualifies him, orders criminal probe into his family's illegal wealth



AGENCIES

Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office yesterday over undeclared assets, plunging the nuclear-armed South Asian nation into political turmoil after a period of relative stability.

Sharif swiftly resigned, but a member of his outgoing cabinet implied that the powerful military had a hand in his ouster.

Pakistan was left with no government leader after yesterday's verdict, which also ordered a criminal probe into the Sharif family over allegations stemming from the "Panama Papers" leaks of international offshore companies.

Sharif's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, which holds a solid majority in parliament, is expected to name a new prime minister to hold office until elections due next year.

Among possible allies to replace Sharif are members of his outgoing cabinet including Defence Minister Asif Khawaja, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Petroleum Minister Shahid Abbasi. Sharif's influential brother Shahbaz was also rumoured as a candidate, though he is legally ineligible because he is not a member of parliament.

According to Geo News, Shahbaz has come forward as the most likely candidate to be the next prime minister of Pakistan after an interim premier has served the 45-day period.

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SHARIF FAMILY IN A FIX



Maryam Hussain Hassan

- » Panama Papers in April 2016 revealed that 3 of Sharif's children owned offshore companies and assets.
- » The companies were allegedly used to channel funds to acquire foreign assets, including some apartments in London.
- » Sharif did not declare monthly income, equal to \$2,722, from a Dubai-based company his son owned.
- » He recommended his brother Shahbaz Sharif to be his replacement as PM.



"What's the use of taking our photo," said the woman at her home at Shamimbagh in Dhaka's DND area yesterday. Water entered her home about two months back and she has lost any hope for a solution. Two other photos were taken at Adarshanagar in the same area about two weeks back.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The never-ending misery

Several lakh people in DND area suffer from waterlogging for weeks

HELEMUL ALAM

Shahana Begum was cooking for her family standing knee-deep in water at the kitchen of her house.

The house in Adarsha Nagar of DND area has been inundated for over a month. Only the beds, raised two feet by bricks under its legs are dry. But after last week's heavy rains, the beds are only a few inches above the water level.

"My toes remain wrinkled all the time and my feet keep itching when I get on the bed to dry them," said the middle-aged woman.

Neighbourhoods of Adorsha Nagar, Shahid Nagar, Delpara, Nurbag, Bhigbar, Tushardhara, Zero Point, Saddam Market, Doulatpur and Munshibagh in the DND area have been suffering severe waterlogging for the past few weeks.

Thanks to the waste dumped in the open by nearby textile dyeing factories, the water invading people's homes is of a dark hue, often covered in white foam.

Locals and experts attribute the stagnant water to blocking of the canals that were supposed to take the water to the Shitalakshya river. They said several lakh residents of the neighbourhoods were

affected by this.

In some places, land grabbers have simply filled the canals up while mindlessly-dumped solid waste restricts the flow of water in others. The water flow has been blocked intentionally for fish farming. In short, most of the canals have been rendered useless.

Residents of most of the neighbourhoods have been in the same predicament for the last 10 years.

According to the Water Development Board, there are 93.98km of canals in the DND area. But during most part of the

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Another café attack planner arrested: cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A key "Neo JMB" militant, who is one of the planners of last year's Gulshan café attack, was arrested in Natore early yesterday, police say.

The arrestee, Aslam Hossain Rashed alias Rash, 20, was allegedly a close aide to Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, the chief coordinator of "Neo JMB". He oversaw the arms training of Gulshan attackers, according to police.

Members of Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of DMP along with LIC (Lawful interception) unit of Police Headquarters and Bogra and Natore district police launched a joint operation in Singra upazila bus stand area around 5:30am and arrested Rashed, CTTC chief Monirul Islam said in a text message.

He was brought to the DB office on Dhaka's Minto Road in the evening.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said Rashed was one of the main planners and supervisors of Gulshan Holey Artisan Bakery since July 1 last year.

Most of the accused in the case relating to the attack has already been arrested. One or two are still on the run and they would be arrested soon, the minister told reporters after a programme in the capital's Gulistan yesterday.

Earlier, CTTC chief Monir had said they would be able to submit the charge sheet after the arrest of five "Neo JMB" leaders who played vital roles in the attack.

The five are Sohel Mahfuz, Mizanur Rahman alias Chhoto Mizan and Hasidur Rahman Sagar alias Joypurhat Sagar.

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Big cats in big trouble

NUMBER OF TIGERS	2004	440
	2006-07	200
	2015	106

FOREST DEPT CENSUS ON SUNDARBANS

PINAKI ROY with DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Experts have expressed concern over the depleting Bengal tiger population in the Sundarbans as the number of tiger attacks in and around the mangrove forest has gone down significantly in recent years.

They said tigers earlier used to enter nearby areas apparently for food, which indicated the forest was in bad health. But only a few tiger attacks were reported in recent months.

The figure from a forest department survey put the number of Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans at 106 in 2015, down from 440 in 2004. This clearly suggests

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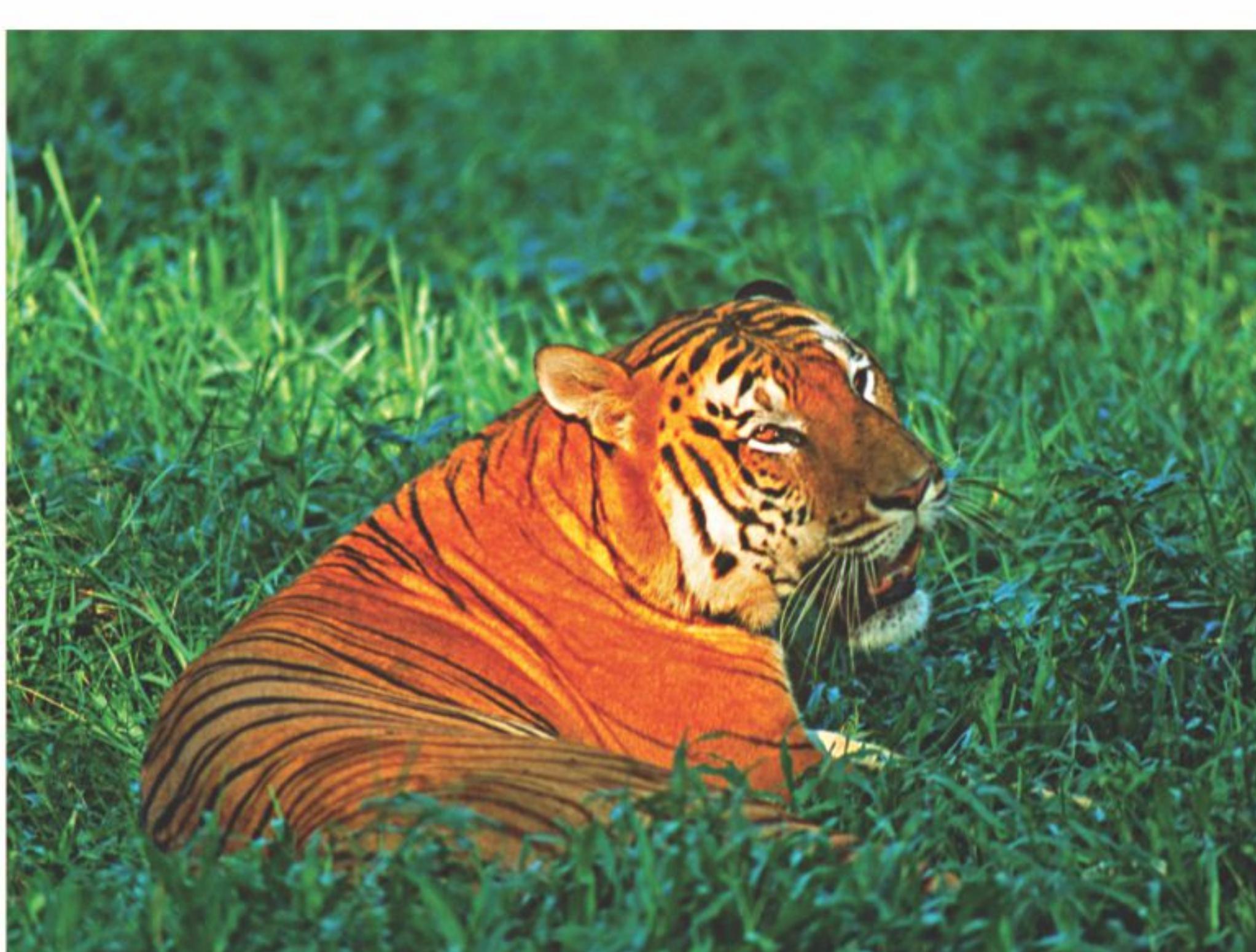


PHOTO: M MONIRUL H KHAN

Govt moves to buy rice from Cambodia

Efforts to import from India, Thailand apparently fail due to high prices

REAZ AHMAD

As two successive attempts to import rice from Thailand and India have apparently fallen through for high prices, the government is now seeking to buy the staple from Cambodia.

A five-member delegation, led by Food Minister Qamrul Islam, is going to the country on Tuesday for striking a deal in this regard.

Recently, official teams from the two countries visited the capital for negotiating the agreements. However, they asked for prices, which could not be agreed by Dhaka.

Midst a projected shortfall of 15 lakh tonnes of rice this year, the food ministry desperately sought to buy rice from Thailand and India under government-to-government arrangements, weeks after signing a G2G deal to import the staple from Vietnam.

"The Thai delegation that visited Bangladesh from July 23 to 24 asked for a price that we couldn't agree. We asked them to lower the price," Badrul Hasan, director general of the food directorate, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We'll go for it if their new offer is competitive," he said.

Meanwhile, Thai Rice Exporters Association's Honorary President Chookiat Ophaswongse told news agency Reuters on Thursday that "Thailand will submit a new offer. The deal is not totally off."

Earlier, an Indian delegation also demanded high prices that Bangladesh did not agree, said Badrul.

He said, "These price offers are way higher than the prices international rice suppliers are quoting against the import tenders we've floated."

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