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"There is an evil plan behind the Digital Security Act. The government has enacted the law to keep the media under its absolute control ahead of the national polls."
MOJIBUL AHMED AT A DISCUSSION AT THE JATIYA PRESS CLUB (PAGE 3)

"Religious and ethnic minorities as well as indigenous people feel that they are not getting justice in the country ..."
DR ANISUZZAMAN AT A GRAND RALLY OF BANGLADESH HINDU BOUDDHA CHRISTIAN OIKYA PARISHAD (PAGE 3)

"What is my fault? Did I steal even one peso? My only sin is the extrajudicial killings."
DUTERTE ADMITS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO AUTHORISING EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS (PAGE 8)



It was heartbreak for Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Co as they lost a nail-biting Asia Cup final against India by three wickets in Dubai last night. Defending a modest total of 222, Mashrafe marshalled the Tigers brilliantly to take the game to the last ball, but eventually ended up on the losing side once more.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers fall agonisingly short

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dubai

The target was just 223 for the vaunted Indian batting that has struck fear in the hearts of bowling line-ups the world over, but that it took them till the last ball of the 50th over to complete a three-wicket win in the Asia Cup final spoke volumes of the heart Bangladesh have shown throughout the tournament.

However, as the fireworks clouded the clear night sky at the Dubai International Stadium last night, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza would possibly have been wondering what could have been had they batted out 50 overs for just the second time in the tournament, or if they had capitalised on the 120-run opening stand



provided by centurion Liton Das and unlikely opener Mehedi Hasan Miraz. They fought till the end, even when just 18 were needed off four overs with five wickets in hand and then 13 off 18 balls. Rubel Hossain, who bowled brilliantly throughout for figures of 26 for two from 10 overs, had Ravindra

Jadeja caught behind in the 48th over which cost just four runs. Mustafizur Rahman bowled another brilliant penultimate over that saw the back of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and conceded just three. With six needed off the last over, part-timer Mahmudullah Riyad bowled intelligently - bowling the penultimate ball from behind the crease

to confuse tailender Kuldeep Yadav -- and brought the equation down to a single needed off the last ball. But Kedar Jadhav, who had to leave the field with cramps and came back to resume batting after Jadeja's exit, managed to get bad on a full delivery and it trickled down to fine leg for the all-important single to be completed.

Hampered by the absences of stalwarts Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan, Bangladesh showed outstanding spirit in fighting against all odds. In that the final was an apt one because they had done that throughout the tournament, adapting to setbacks and still finding a way to go past a feisty Afghanistan and a more-fancied Pakistan to make it to the final clash, but the wear and tear of an emotionally and physically exhausting tournament eventually manifested in the form of a batting failure at the most inopportune moment. They were left to rue another heartbreak in the Asia Cup final after falling at the last hurdle against Pakistan in 2012 and India in 2016.

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SPECIAL ON DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Today we publish a clause by clause explanation as to why the Sampadak Parishad finds the just passed Digital Security Act (DSA) to be so dangerous to freedom of speech and freedom of the media, guaranteed by our Constitution. The detailed explanation shows how the DSA will not only throttle the functioning of the media but restrict the operation of the whole digital sector which hold such a bright future for our younger generation.

Through publication of this detailed explanation, the Sampadak Parishad expects the debate over freedom of speech and the freedom of press to be better understood by the people in general.

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UN for inclusive polls

Hasina, Guterres meet in NY



BSS, New York

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed hope that the next general election in Bangladesh would be a participatory one.

He expressed the optimism during a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN headquarters on Thursday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque said the UN expressed full solidarity with the Bangladesh government and its people.

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'HASINA: A DAUGHTER'S TALE' TO PREMIERE SOON

ELITA KARIM

"It took me only five minutes to break the ice," says Piplu, referring to the first sitting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

She spoke of her family history and shared her thoughts on various topics during the shoots. "The prime minister is very approachable and communicative, and she loved to talk to me and the team," he adds.

Piplu is the director of "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale", a docu-drama on the life of Hasina and how she lives the many roles she possesses -- as a daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; a policymaker; a mother; a grandmother and the leader of her people.

Produced by the Centre for Research and Information (CRI), the film depicts Hasina as the powerhouse who, despite the tragedies experienced and barriers faced, never gives up.

Two days ago, its trailer hit the digital platforms, and since then the number of views keeps rising.

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US Navy Sailors assist local authorities in shuttling the passengers and crew of Air Niugini flight PX56 to shore following the plane crashing into the sea on its approach to Chuuk International Airport on the island of Weno in the Federated States of Micronesia. Passengers were forced to swim for their lives when the airliner ditched into a lagoon after missing the runway and began sinking.

PHOTO: AFP

A case of callousness

Nurses, support staff try to deliver baby; body gets severed from head

KHALID BIN NAZRUL from Cumilla

A couple of nurses and a cleaning staff member (aya) of Debidwer Upazila Health Complex were venturing something they were not supposed to do without the presence of a doctor.

It was around 1:00am on Sunday and they were trying to pull out the fetus of Fatema Begum, who was understandably in extreme pain but enduring it all for something beautiful -- motherhood.

But then something terrible happened -- the body of the fetus was severed from its head due to violent force.

With the head still in the uterus, panicked nurses rushed to Ahsanul Haq Milu, the night-shift doctor of the government health complex, and reported that the condition of the patient was critical and a normal delivery attempt had failed.

Doctor Ahsanul immediately referred the patient to Cumilla Medical College Hospital. The family members of Fatema hired an ambulance and took her to CMCH, which was about 40 kilometers from Debidwer.

Doctors at the CMCH removed the

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