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SECOND EDITION

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for 'violating' his  
basic rights  
PAGE 10



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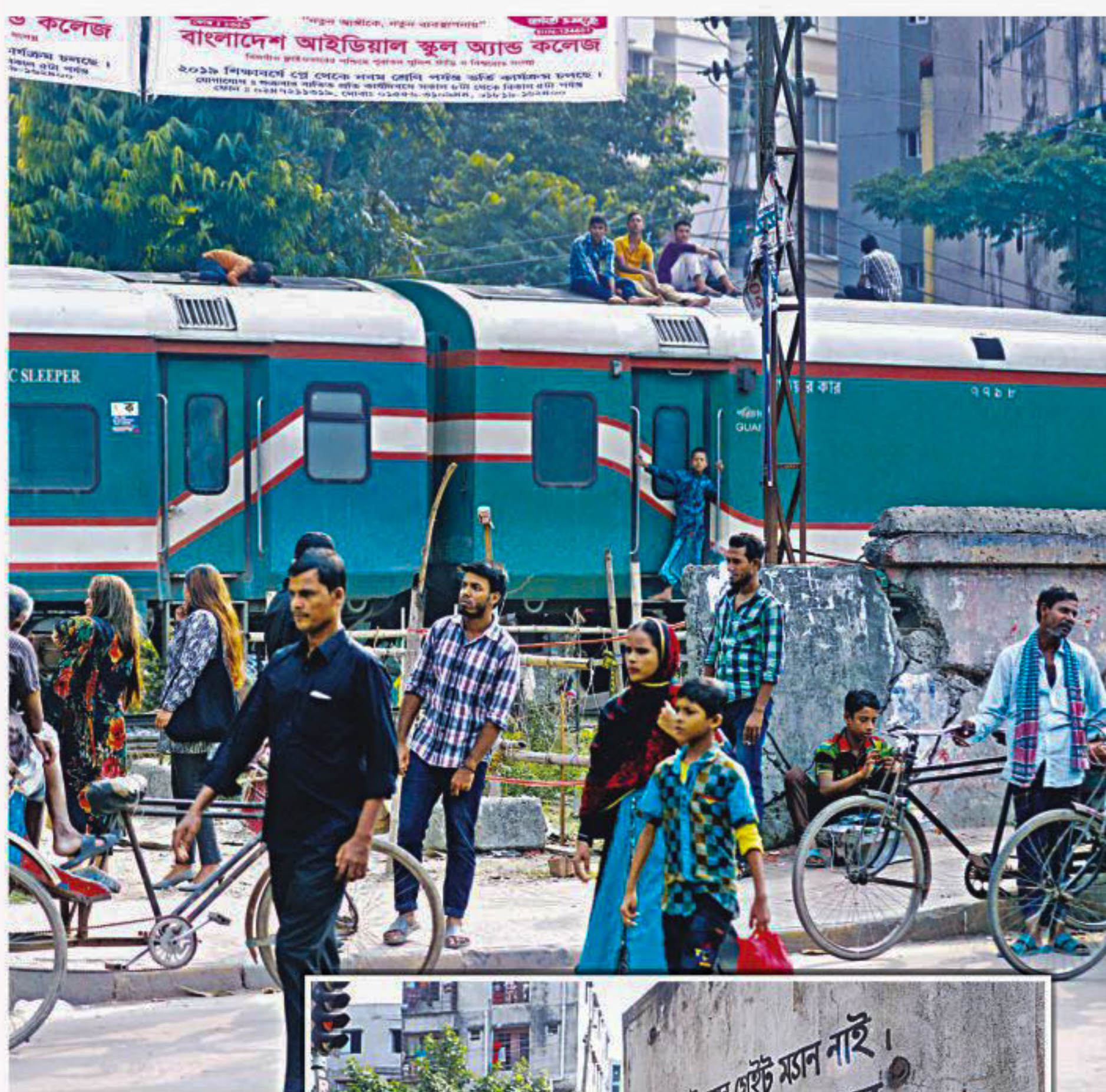
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"But a lot depends on how it is received  
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**PADMA BRIDGE  
Went ahead  
though adviser  
and minister  
opposed: PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she went for constructing the Padma Bridge with domestic resources defying strong opposition from her finance minister and an adviser.

"My finance minister showed strong dissent. He told me that it [bridge construction] couldn't be done without the World Bank's financing. My adviser had also told me the same thing," she said at a conference of public university teachers at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The PM said when the World Bank withdrew its financing bringing false allegations just to make sure that an individual got back the managing director post of Grameen Bank, she took it as a challenge and decided to build the bridge with domestic resources.

"I told my minister and adviser why don't we go for constructing the bridge with our own resources. If need

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SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

**KSA admits journo  
killed in a brawl**

*Says Khashoggi died inside consulate in Turkey; King Salman sacks senior royal court adviser, deputy head of intel*

REUTERS, Washington/Ankara

Saudi Arabia yesterday said that dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi died in a fight inside its Istanbul consulate, its first admission of his death after two weeks of denials that have shaken Western relations with the kingdom.

Riyadh provided no evidence to support its account of the circumstances that led to Khashoggi's death and it was still unclear whether other governments would be satisfied with it. Saudi Arabia also made no mention of what had become of his body, which has not yet been found.

Turkish officials suspect Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and critic of the powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed inside the consulate by a team of Saudi agents and his body cut up.

Some Western governments and politicians gave guarded or sceptical responses to the Saudi explanation, but Middle Eastern allies closed ranks around the kingdom.

US President Donald Trump, who has forged close ties with the world's top oil exporter and maintains strong relations with the crown prince, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, said the Saudi account was credible.

"I think it's a good first step, it's a big step," Trump said in Arizona. "Saudi Arabia has been a great ally. What happened is unacceptable."

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FIROZ AHMED



**New-look  
Tigers start  
as favourites**

SPORTS REPORTER

Even with two huge players absent, it is hard to imagine that Bangladesh will not start as favourites today in the first of three one-day international (ODIs) against Zimbabwe when the match gets underway at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at 2:30pm.

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and star opener Tamim Iqbal have been out injured since midway through last month's Asia Cup. However, Bangladesh's response to that crisis in the United

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