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AKU CERAMICS

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXIX No. 164

ASHAR 18, 1426 BS

"The government has illogically imposed its arbitrary decision on people."
ECONOMIST PROF ANU MUHAMMAD ON GAS PRICE HIKE (PAGE 12)



"They [students] don't seem to have interest in education because they don't see any future in it..."
PROFESSOR EMERITUS SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY (PAGE 3)



"I told the [UN] secretary general that I want to save my country from drugs."
SRI LANKA PRESIDENT MAITHIRIPALA SIRISENA REBUFFING UN CHIEF OVER HANGINGS IN DRUG CASES (PAGE 8)



River grabbing a criminal offence

In 17-point directive, High Court suggests stricter punishment for grabbing, polluting rivers, calls for an effective, independent Nat'l River Commission

TAWFIQUE ALI and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

All river grabbing and pollution are criminal offences, the highest court in the country has declared in the full text of a landmark judgment.

The court ordered the government to amend the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) law and incorporate stringent provisions for imprisonment and hefty fines for the offences and to effectively empower the NRCC.

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday released the full text of its judgment delivered on February 3. It issued a 17-point directive to save the country's rivers and waterbodies from grabbing and pollution.

The judgment came following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and

"Killing a river is virtually a collective suicide of all."

HC in its judgement on river grabbing, pollution

Peace for Bangladesh. The organisation had cited The Daily Star report "Time to declare Turag dead" published on November 6, 2016, and the court yesterday thanked this paper for the report.

The court observed that photographs taken over several years since 2013, published along with the report, had made it crystal clear that the Turag had consistently been grabbed.

"Killing a river is virtually a collective suicide of all," the court observed and added, "Killing a river is killing both the present and the future generations."

"Bangladesh and its rivers have been inseparably integral," it said, adding that our lifestyle, economy, culture, and traditions were all dependent on water and rivers.

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Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was beaming in training yesterday, possibly due to his recent hot-streak in the ongoing World Cup, ahead of today's must-win encounter against India at Edgbaston.

PHOTO: BCB

পদ্মা সেতুর

মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র

স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট

ভিত্তিসহ পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট মজবুত থেকে আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

Tigers face steep odds in do-or-die match

SAKEB SUBHAN from Birmingham

At the end of the eight hours starting from 3:30pm today, a nation of cricket lovers will either rejoice or despair. Bangladesh will take on India in their penultimate World Cup group-stage game in Edgbaston needing a win against the form team of the competition to stay alive in the race for the semifinals.

The odds are firmly stacked against the nation rejoicing at around 11:00pm today. Bangladesh have a 5-29 win/loss ratio against India, have lost the teams' last four matches as well as their last two World Cup games in 2015 and 2011.

Moreover, in crunch matches -- the 2018 Asia Cup final, the Nidahas Trophy final in 2018, the 2017 Champions Trophy semifinal, the 2016 Asia Cup T20 final and the 2015 World Cup quarterfinal -- they have always come out second-best against India.

If more discouragement be needed, Bangladesh will be playing on a ground that has a very short square boundary on one side

and a long one on the other. In other words, the Tigers' main strength in spin bowling will be neutralised to some extent against arguably the best players of spin in the world.

Neither is there much comfort to take from the pacers. While Mustafizur Rahman and Mohammad Saifuddin have taken 10 wickets each from seven and six games respectively, 19 of those have come after the first 10 overs, which is when India would have to be damaged if Bangladesh are to have any chance of bucking a trend that has been going India's way. India's batting has been touted as one of the strongest in the world, but this World Cup has shown that their middle order may not be firing at its limit. Rohit Sharma tops their run charts with 440 runs, skipper Virat Kohli comes in second on 382, but there is a wide expanse of daylight before MS Dhoni takes third spot with 188.

That indicates that Bangladesh would have to take early wickets -- ideally those of Sharma and Kohli -- to have a chance of keeping India

quiet. However, Bangladesh have taken a wicket in the first 10 overs in just two of the six matches they have played.

Bangladesh are one of the last six teams to stay in contention for the semifinals, and that in itself is an achievement for a team that not many would have paid attention to at the beginning of the tournament. "We have to play better than we have so far," was Mashrafe's realistic take on the match.

On the bright side, senior batsman Mahmudullah Riyad is likely to feature for the Tigers after seemingly having recovered from a calf muscle tear sustained in the 62-run win over Afghanistan last Monday. He batted at the nets for a prolonged period yesterday and seemed unhampered by the injury. Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal did not attend the optional practice session yesterday, but team management informed that there was no cause for alarm as Tamim had just opted to rest ahead of the crucial encounter.

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SL hold off WI

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Sri Lanka held off a West Indies charge at Chester-le-Street yesterday to win an exciting battle of two World Cup also-rans by 23 runs.

Both teams came into the match aware they could not reach the semifinals but the Caribbean side came close to pulling off the highest successful chase in World Cup history.

Sri Lanka batted brightly to post an imposing total of 338 for six in their 50 overs, thanks largely to Avishka Fernando's first one-day international century.

That total looked beyond the West Indies in the early part of their innings but Nicholas

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HC hands DIG Mizan over to police

Orders DMP to produce him at court in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday handed over suspended DIG Mizanur Rahman to the police after he appeared before it and sought bail in a corruption case.

The HC also ordered the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to produce Mizan before the senior special judge's court in Dhaka within 24 hours.

Later, in the afternoon, the top-ranking police officer was taken to Shahbagh Police Station. He was there till last night.

"We have taken him to Shahbagh Police Station. We will produce him before the court concerned tomorrow morning as per the High Court order," Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

On June 24, the ACC filed the graft case with its Integrated District Office in Dhaka against Mizan, his wife Sohelia Anar Ratna and nephew Mahmudul Hasan, a sub-inspector of police, on charges of amassing over Tk 3 crore beyond known source of income.

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Stable but not out of danger

Says GM Quader on Ershad's condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad's health condition has remained stable and unchanged since yesterday, which is a good sign, GM Quader, the JP chief's younger brother, said yesterday.

Briefing the media on Ershad's latest physical condition, GM Quader, also acting chairman of JP, however, said considering Ershad's age and physical complications, he was yet to be out of danger.

"According to doctors, it's a good sign that his [Ershad's] health condition remained stable and unchanged since yesterday as they [doctors] were concerned that his condition might worsen," Quader said at the JP chairperson's office in the city's Banani area.

He added, "Infections in his lungs have eased compared to yesterday, but the infection in his kidneys

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Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Enrico Nunziata, first from right, and Director General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies Luigi Maria Vignali, centre, pay tribute to the victims of the Holey Artisan Bakery attack on its third anniversary yesterday. The photo was taken at the site of the terror attack that left 20 hostages, including nine Italians, dead.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

3 YRS SINCE GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK

Remembering the friends lost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agnese Barolo Rizvi and her husband were having dinner at the Italian ambassador's residence in the capital when she first heard about the attack at Holey Artisan Bakery. She instantly thought about some of her friends who were at the upscale restaurant at that time.

"I immediately called them over phone and sent messages -- 'where are you?' But there was no reply from anyone...That felt terrible..." the Italian national told reporters as she reminisced about the night the armed militants attacked the restaurant.

Agnese, wife of prime minister's Adviser Gowher Rizvi, has been living in Bangladesh for years. Each of the nine Italians killed by the militants was quite close to her. Among them was one of her best friends Claudia Maria D'Antona.

Claudia's husband Gianni Boschetti's life was saved by pure chance. The Italian textile businessman went outside to answer a phone call moments before the gunman stormed the restaurant. But Claudia was not so lucky, Agnese said as she struggled to hold back her tears.

"It's a tragedy for everyone," she said while paying tribute to the victims at the old premises of Holey Artisan. Like her, many others, who lost their loved ones in the attack, placed flowers there. The premises were open to visitors for four hours from around 10:00am on the 3rd anniversary of the attack.

On the night of July 1 in 2016, five armed militants stormed the café in Gulshan diplomatic zone and held the diners hostage. By the end of the night, they had murdered nine Italians, seven Japanese, one Indian and three Bangladeshis.

Twenty-year-old Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, a student of PRAYERS FOR FARAAZ -- PAGE 3

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