



P6 Sand lifting poses threat to century-old bridge



P7 Yemen on the brink as world focuses on Ukraine



P8 We must not stop talking about Tonu murder



P11 Nasrin leads archers' gold hunt



A warehouse with household goods is seen on fire after shelling, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Sumy, Ukraine, in this handout picture released on Friday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: REUTERS



JUSTICE SHAHABUDDIN AHMED (1930-2022)

A quiet champion of democracy

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

He played a pivotal role at the crucial juncture in the country's history, resolutely steering the nation's transition to parliamentary democracy from an autocratic rule.

In February 1991, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed gave the nation what was until then an almost impossible dream – a free, fair and peaceful election – navigating the country out of the political quagmire it had fallen into after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and subsequent military coups.

Serving as acting president and chief of an interim government of the country, he kept

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US doesn't expect Dhaka to join QUAD

Michael Kugelman is the deputy director and a senior associate for South Asia at the Washington-based think tank Wilson Centre. He shared his views on what may be discussed in the US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue in Dhaka today in an email interview with *The Daily Star*.

PORIMOL PALMA

DS: Bangladesh's priority in the dialogue will be withdrawal of the US sanctions on Rab and reinstatement of the Generalised System of Preferences facility that was suspended in 2013. Do you think that Bangladesh will be able to make any headway?

Kugelman: I expect to see the two sides move the needle forward, albeit modestly, on both fronts. This dialogue will enable the US to get a better sense of where Bangladesh stands in

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DHAKA'S PRIORITY SANCTION WITHDRAWAL – PAGE 2

PAYRA ECONOMIC HUB

First puzzle piece now in place

PM to inaugurate 1,320MW power plant tomorrow

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Payra area in Patuakhali is going to be a major economic hub with a sea port, a special economic zone, an airport and the country's biggest coal-fired power plant that will officially launch operation tomorrow.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 1,320 megawatts plant.

According to government documents, thousands of jobs will be created as the physical work of the mega projects progresses. Eventually, the economic zone will raise the country's GDP by 2 percent.

The authorities expect to supply about 80-85 percent of the plant's electricity to the southern part of the country.

Officials said the plant will be operated at full steam only once the 440kV transmission line is established through the Padma river, which may take a year.

The two-unit plant, each having a 660MW capacity, is already connected to the national grid in Gopalganj. Officials use both of the units by rotation, producing 320-640MW of



electricity.

The plant's first unit was connected to the national grid on May 15, 2020, while the second one started production on December 8 last year.

Rezwan Iqbal Khan, executive engineer at the power plant, said some 163km of transmission line connect the plant to a Gopalganj grid. Another 85km of lines are being constructed from Gopalganj to Dhaka's Amin Bazar.

Only two out of seven towers of the Dhaka-Payra power transmission line have been

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan plays one on the off-side on way to his match-winning 77 in their first ODI against South Africa in Centurion on Friday. The Tigers will hope for something similar from him in their second ODI in Johannesburg today.

PHOTO: AFP

History beckons Tigers yet again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Heading into 2022, expectations were that Bangladesh would try to find ways to rejuvenate their spirits after a dismal 2021. But three months into the year, Bangladesh have hit heights that few could have imagined.

The latest strides were made when the Tigers beat South Africa by 38 runs in the first ODI on Friday, a maiden triumph away to the Proteas in any format.

And now, with a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, Bangladesh could make further history with a win in the second ODI in Johannesburg today, which would seal a maiden series win against South Africa in their backyard.

That Bangladesh would go into a game with such a landmark in sight would have been a preposterous notion at the start of the year.

But that notion began to change in January when the Mominul Haque-led

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WALTON DAY
20th MARCH
Beyond The Dream

Today, 20 March 2022, the Walton Day!
Following the path of glory and success, Walton has become one of the largest and most popular brands in the country. Being on top of Bangladesh it has successfully won the hearts of millions of people around the world.

On this special day, best wishes and thanks to all Walton's esteemed customers and well-wishers from home and abroad. With your love and affiliation, we get the strength to move forward.

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