



Tigers eye landmark win today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be eying a maiden bilateral T20I series win over England when they meet for the second of the three-match T20I series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match is scheduled to start at 3:00pm local time.

Shakib Al Hasan and Co. surprised the world champions in Chattogram, coming out with an aggressive mindset and registering a first-ever win against England in the shortest format. The hosts will hope to bring that momentum to Dhaka and seal the series.

The Tigers ticked almost all the boxes in the first T20I, displaying a collective approach in all three departments and that will once again be needed. It is expected that the hosts will not tinker with their winning combination today.

The change in venue could also be on the back of the minds of the visitors since they will be featuring in their first-ever T20I in Mirpur -- a

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Firefighters trying to douse the flames at a cotton warehouse in Chhoto Kumira area of Sitakunda, Chattogram, yesterday. The fire raged on for hours and the firefighters could not extinguish it. The authorities eventually asked for the army's help. Story on page 5.

Rajuk to move to raze 42 risky buildings

HELEMUL ALAM

The Rajdhani Unnayan Katnipakkha (Rajuk) will take steps to demolish 42 buildings in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj within a short time, as these structures are in precarious conditions and are at risk of collapsing and causing casualties.

As part of the plan, Rajuk will ask the building authorities to vacate the structures within the next seven days and tear them down within the following three months.

It will notify the owners of 187 additional risky buildings that fall under its jurisdiction to take the necessary renovation (retrofitting) measures to reinforce their structures.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Nagar Unnayan Committee, a high-powered committee of the Housing and Public Works Ministry, held at Osmani Smriti Milonayoton yesterday.

The 42 buildings belong to eight government and autonomous bodies, namely -- the Education Engineering Department, the Department of Health Education, the Local Government Engineering Department, Jagannath University, Dhaka University, the Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board, the Institute of Leather Technology, and the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

These buildings were identified during a survey of 3,252 structures conducted as part of Rajuk's Urban Resilience Project, Abdul Latif Helaly, the project director, told The Daily Star.

He said they also identified 187 other buildings with structural weaknesses that required renovation (retrofitting) work.

Among the 3,252 buildings, 2,705 are educational institutes, 207 are hospitals, 36 are police stations, and 304 are other structures.

"As educational institutes and hospitals play a vital role after earthquakes, we brought them under the survey with priority," said Helaly.

"We have decided to ask its owners to vacate the buildings within seven days and demolish them within three months. We will also take steps to address the issues of other risky buildings," Kazi Wasi Uddin, secretary of the housing and public works ministry, told The Daily Star.

He said that the owners of the 187 other risky buildings would be informed about where retrofitting was required

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Neighbourhoods in Ctg can't use supply water

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

The Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority is in trouble as tidal saline water has entered the Halda river, water of which Chattogram Wasa uses to supply the city.

Due to the salinity, the water has become unusable, which is being supplied to different areas of the port city, as claimed by city dwellers.



Residents in Kattali, City Gate, Halishahar, and Patenga areas of the city have complained about the high salinity levels in the water supplied by Wasa for more than 15 days.

Rajib Raihan, of City Gate area, alleged that the water supplied by Wasa is not drinkable at all. "We are left with no other option but to collect tube well water from a nearby house."

Abdus Sabur, of Halishahar area, said they could not use the Wasa

water for more than 15 days. "Despite lodging a complaint, the problem is yet to be solved."

Maksud Alam, chief engineer of Wasa, claimed the use of saline water will not have any harmful effects on human health.

He also said the water supplied to the city from Wasa is 100 percent sterile as per the WHO guidelines.

Asked, Idris Ali, former prof of

Chittagong Government College's chemistry department, said, "350 to 400 mg per litre of salinity is definitely harmful to the human body, especially for children and older people."

Idris, who is also a water researcher of the Karnaphuli river, said the salt water can harm those with weak immune systems and cause digestive problems.

He also mentioned that the Wasa

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BNP to hold rallies in all cities on March 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will hold rallies in all metropolitan cities on March 18 to press home its 10-point demand, including that the government steps down.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday made the announcement at a programme in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office in Dhaka.

The party held a one-hour human chain programme in the capital from Jatrabari to Abdullahpur Bridge that ended around noon.

Apart from Dhaka, the human chain was also held in all the districts and cities.

In the capital, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain took part in the event in the North Badda area.

Dhaka city unit BNP (north) organised the programme from Abdullahpur to Airport-Jamuna Future Park-Badda-Rampura to Malibagh Rail gate. At the same time, the Dhaka city unit BNP (south) formed the human chain from Malibagh rail gate to Jatrabari via Mouchak-Shantinagar-Kakrail-Nayapaltan-Fakirapul-Arambagh-Motijheel's Shapla Chattar-Ittefaq-Tikatuli.

The human chain was

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Opposition out to undermine nation's success

PM tells Mymensingh rally

UNB, Mymensingh

Making an obvious reference to the BNP, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said a so-called opposition party wants to undermine the nation's success by spreading falsehoods, but they won't succeed.

"Unfortunately, we have a so-called opposition party which wants to spoil the success of our independence by spreading falsehoods. But they won't succeed, Insha'Allah," she said.

The premier was addressing a mammoth rally at the Circuit House ground in Mymensingh city.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said Bangladesh is marching forward and it will continue to do so. "We will build a developed and smart Bangladesh by 2041."

The PM said a BNP leader sits before a microphone the whole day and says that the AL has destroyed Bangladesh.

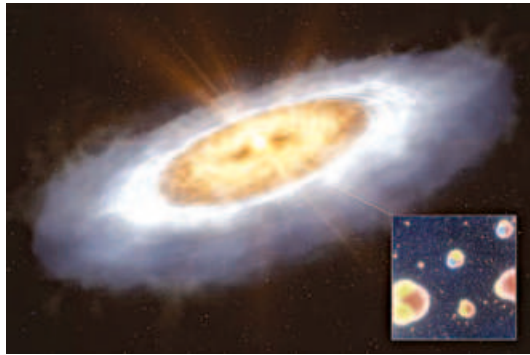
Noting that she inaugurated 103 projects yesterday, Hasina asked the people of Mymensingh if those were examples of destruction.

In an oblique reference to BNP leader Tarique Rahman, Hasina said anyone can now speak, and do politics staying far away from home due to the transformation of the country into Digital Bangladesh.

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Earth's water may be older than the sun: study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists believe they have uncovered more evidence that water on Earth may be older than the sun.

An international team of researchers used data from ground-based telescopes to ascertain the chemical composition of a young star, known as V883 Orionis, in the Orion constellation.

They detected chemical signatures of heavy water -- which is around 10 percent denser than ordinary water -- in the star's rotating disc of gas and dust.

The researcher said their work, published in the journal Nature, suggests V883 Orionis may be the "missing link" scientists have been waiting for to understand more about how the solar system -- and Earth -- got its water.

John J Tobin, an astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in the US and lead author of the study, said: "We can now trace the origins of water in our solar system to before the formation of the Sun."

He added: "The composition of the water in the disc is very similar to that of comets in our own solar system."

The researchers used the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (ALMA) -- made up of 66 radio telescopes in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile -- to observe V883 Orionis, which is 1,300 light-years away from Earth.

V883 Orionis is a protostar, which means it is still gathering mass in the form of rotating discs of gas and dust from its parent molecular cloud.

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সিমেন্ট রপ্তানিতে ২০ বছর শীর্ষে থাকার মাইলফলক অর্জন করলো ক্রাউন সিমেন্ট। বাংলাদেশে একমাত্র ক্রাউন সিমেন্টেরই আছে পরপর ২ বার স্বর্ণপদকসহ মোট ৩ বার জাতীয় রপ্তানি পদক অর্জনের গৌরব। সিমেন্ট রপ্তানির মাধ্যমে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জন করে জাতীয় উন্নয়নে বিশেষ অবদান রাখছে ক্রাউন সিমেন্ট। এ গর্ব বাংলাদেশের।