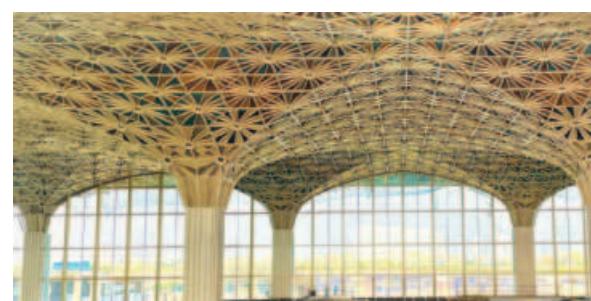


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ADB, WB to give single set of rules for joint projects

STAR REPORT

In a bid to streamline development finance, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will provide borrowers with a single set of conditions and requirements for co-financed projects.

The two major lending agencies have signed an agreement -- Full Mutual Reliance Framework (FMRF) -- to enhance their collaboration in co-financed projects, according to a World Bank press release.

This first-of-its-kind arrangement between multilateral development banks (MDBs) will mean that borrowers will need to follow a single set of policies and procedures -- either from the ADB or the WB -- covering all aspects of project design, preparation, appraisal, supervision, completion, and evaluation.

The initiative is expected to cut costs, reduce processing time, and align policies to create a more cohesive global development finance system, the World Bank said.

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Education and Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud, and Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury are all smiles while handing out awards at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

US-Ukraine resources deal still on table

Says Kyiv; Russian strikes on Ukraine kill 12

AFP, Kyiv

Kyiv and Washington are engaged in talks over a deal to hand the United States preferential access to Ukraine's mineral deposits, a source in Kyiv told AFP yesterday -- despite a dramatic spat between leaders Volodymyr Zelensky and Donald Trump.

The US president's top advisers have doubled down on their attacks on the Ukrainian leader in recent days, after Trump branded him a "dictator" and said Ukraine had "started" the war with Russia.

The war of words has stunned Kyiv and European capitals, a sign of just how rapidly Trump is overhauling Washington's long-standing support for Ukraine as he opens talks with Moscow on a settlement to the conflict.

Meanwhile, Russian attacks across Ukrainian oblasts killed at least 12 civilians and injured at least six over the past day, regional authorities reported yesterday.

Russia launched 160 Shahed-type attack drones and decoy drones against Ukraine overnight, the Air Force said. Eighty-seven drones were shot down, while 70 were lost without causing damage, according to the statement.

The United States had been Ukraine's most important financial, military and political backer since Russia invaded in February 2022, in what the West's top powers had condemned as an unprovoked and illegal war of aggression.

Despite the tensions between Zelensky and Trump, talks on a possible agreement to give the US preferential access to Ukraine's critical resources and minerals were "ongoing" yesterday, a senior Ukrainian official with knowledge of the matter told AFP.

Kyiv had rejected a first attempt by Trump's team to strike a deal for Ukraine's natural resources, saying the proposal did not include security guarantees for Kyiv -- a move that infuriated Trump.

Rickelton century sets up 107-run win for Proteas

REUTERS, Karachi

South Africa opener Ryan Rickelton scored a maiden One-Day International century with a fluent 103 as his side eased to a 107-run win over Afghanistan in their opening Champions Trophy Group B fixture at the National Stadium in Karachi on yesterday.

South Africa won the toss and elected to bat, amassing 315 for six in their 50 overs on a wicket with pace and bounce that was more akin to their home conditions on the Highveld than a sub-continent style pitch.

Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah scored a fighting 90 but South Africa's seamers stifled the run-rate and picked up regular wickets as their opponents battled to stay in the contest and fell well short as they were bowled out for 208 in 43.3 overs.

Australia and England clash in the second Group B fixture in Lahore on Saturday.

"I was a bit edgy, but to contribute to the team and set us up for a winning performance, I am chuffed with that," Rickelton said at the post-match presentation.

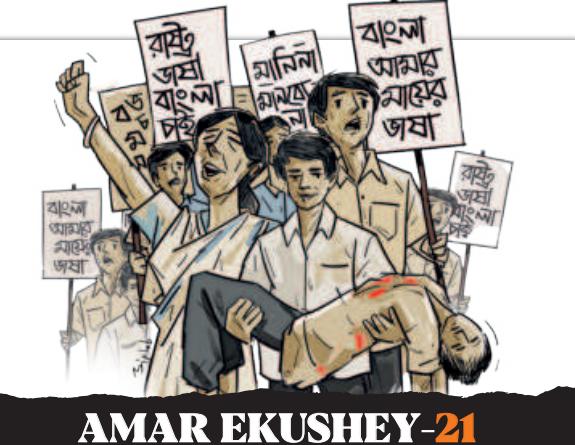
"The wicket played alright, the bounce was a bit inconsistent and you had to



South Africa opener Ryan Rickelton jumps in the air to celebrate his century against Afghanistan in their ICC Champions Trophy Group B fixture at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday. Rickelton's 103 off 106 deliveries helped South Africa post 315 for six and set up a 107-run win for the Proteas, who bundled out the Afghans for 208 in 43.3 overs.

PHOTO: AFP

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AMAR EKUSHEY-21

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement. Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

Hundreds of women march in Barishal

AHMAD ISTIAK

Women played a crucial role by actively participating in the Language Movement despite societal constraints, but the women of Barishal took it to another level.

On February 22 morning in 1952, hundreds of women, led by former member of provincial assembly (MPA) Mrs Hamiduddin, took to the

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Case filed over 'sexual assault, robbery' on bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three days after the robbery on board a moving bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway, a case was filed with Mirzapur Police Station in Tangail yesterday.

Omair Ali, a passenger of the bus and a resident of Baraigram upazila of Natore, filed the case accusing eight to nine unidentified men, said Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police.

The case was filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and Sections 395 and 397 of the Penal Code.

According to the complaint, Omar, a small business owner, boarded a bus of Unique Road Royals Paribahan from Gabtoli bus terminal in the capital around 11:25pm. There were 30 to 35 other passengers when the bus left for Rajshahi.

Around 1:00am, the bus stopped at Chandra Bypass in Kaliakair, Gazipur. Three to four new passengers boarded from there. Half an hour later, when the bus had driven past the Kharajora Flyover, eight to nine men stood up brandishing sharp weapons and threatening to kill anyone who would not comply with orders, says the complaint.

Three robbers moved to the front, held a knife to the driver's throat, and said, "You've driven enough; you won't be driving anymore." They then dragged him to the back while another took control of the vehicle,

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Urs halted in Manikganj, shrine ruined in Noakhali

STAR REPORT

The annual Urs Mubarak of late Baul singer Abdur Rashid Sarker Boyati was halted in Manikganj's Singair upazila yesterday following an attack by a group of locals and a counter-attack by Rashid's followers.

At least 10 people were allegedly injured in the incident that occurred in the Azimnagar area around 11:00am, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Police said the law enforcers reached the spot and brought the situation under control upon receiving information about the incident.

Zahidul Islam Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station, said police were deployed to the area to avoid clashes.

Some people, including the daughter-in-law of Rashid, have been brought to the police station for questioning, he said.

Rashid was the first husband of

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