



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 40

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2006

www.thedailystar.net

FALGUN 11, 1412 BS

MOHARRAM 23, 1427 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

## ENERGY CRISIS, PRICE HIKE AL walks out of JS to protest discussion denial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday walked out of parliament for not allowing them to have discussions on several burning issues, including power and diesel crises, price spiral of essentials and militant activities.

The treasury bench denied to hold any discussion on any specific issue, saying the opposition lawmakers will have the opportunity to discuss these issues when they participate in the thanks-giving motion on the president's speech.

It blasted the AL lawmakers, who returned to parliament on February 12 ending their 17-month boycott of the House, for staging

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## JUDICIARY SEPARATION Contempt petition filed against 9 top bureaucrats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counsel for judiciary-separation case barrister M Amir-Ul Islam yesterday filed a contempt petition against nine top bureaucrats including the prime minister's principal secretary for 'violating at different times the 12-point directive of the Supreme Court in the judgment of judiciary separation case'.

Meantime, hearing on the contempt rule against nine bureaucrats on charge of distorting the judgment of judiciary separation case was not held in the Supreme Court yesterday as Justice MM Ruhul Amin of Appellate

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PHOTO: AFP

Mohammad Ashraful glides one down to third-man region as Sri Lankan Jehan Mubarak watches from square-leg during the second ODI at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

## Tigers tame Lions

BISHWAJIT ROY from Bogra

'Five down, four more to go' was what echoing in the air as the proud Bangladesh cricketers start a victory lap amidst thousand cheers after they had just completed their maiden triumph in a one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here yesterday.

The fading lights at the third international venue of the country turned into a rainbow of red and green after Bangladesh coasted to a four-wicket win with two overs to spare while chasing a fighting target of 213.

The first victory of the Tigers in their 16th head-on-clash with the Lankan Lions can be best described as a great comeback by Habibul Bashar's men after they were bundled out for a listless 118 in the opening game of the three-match series at the same venue on Monday.

The win not only levelled the series at 1-1 going into the final match at Chittagong on February 25 but also put Sri Lanka fifth on the list of Bangladesh's prey in the over-limit game after Pakistan, India, Zimbabwe and world champions Australia, who they last beat

by five wickets at Cardiff's Sophia Gardens eight month ago.

The victory was a collective effort rather than one or two individual brilliance. Still, it could have been a near miss had Aftab Ahmed not played that little gem of an unbeaten 32 after the balance had tilted towards the Lankan way following quick dismissals of Habibul Bashar (32) and Mohammad Ashraful (51).

Bashar and Ashraful added 63 runs for the fourth wicket after opener Javed Omar (40) gave the start Bangladesh needed and thought of winning the game.

But the pair suddenly lost their

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## Govt to purchase 16 fighters for \$93.6m

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will purchase 16 fighter aircraft from China for \$93.6 million, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, in charge of the defence ministry in the parliamentary affairs, informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

"An agreement was signed in the FY 2004-05 for purchasing the fighter planes from China," Hafiz Uddin said replying to a question of Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader. "Each plane will cost \$5.85 million," he said.

Hafiz Uddin said purchase of fighter aircraft for the air force is a continuous process. The minister, however, did not elaborate the purchasing process.

The lawmaker concerned did not have scope to raise any supplementary question on the topic as the question-answer session was not held yesterday. The written questions and their replies were distributed.

The previous Awami League (AL) government purchased eight Mig-29 fighter planes from Russia at \$123.98 million that raised widespread controversy.

Major (ret'd) Aktharuzzaman, lawmaker of the then main opposition BNP and also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry, had instituted a suit in the High Court against the purchase.

The allegations made were: The

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## FERTILISER, DIESEL, POWER CRISES Farmers stage massive protests, block roads

STAR REPORT

Thousands of farmers angered by the persisting crises of fertiliser, diesel and power laid siege to different local government offices, blocked roads and staged demonstrations in Satkhira, Jessore, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Cox's Bazar and other districts across the country yesterday.

As the local administrations came under immense pressure from the farmers, the government yesterday issued a circular, asking 16 joint secretaries to monitor marketing of fertiliser and fuel in 16 districts.

Meanwhile, the government

central monitoring committee under a deputy minister formed three days back and tasking of 16 bureaucrats with monitoring at local levels appear to have no impact as several regions in the country are still witnessing acute shortage of supply and price hike of urea and fuel.

Over 4,000 angry farmers put up barricade from 10:00am to 12 noon on the Satkhira-Khulna Highway in front of the Patkelghata Palli Bidyut Samiti office in Tala upazila, reports our Satkhira correspondent.

They confined Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Ilias and

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## WIDENING RICH-POOR GAP

## Divided lessons, falling quality

INAM AHMED

It bears a resemblance to a shelled classroom. The tables and benches lie overturned. The pockmarked floor is buried under a two-inch thick carpet of sand and dusts.

But that is not what would puzzle you.

As you look around, the walls carry the much similar graffiti you perhaps would find in any school around the world. The children have scribbled their expressions freely around. What is puzzling is, standing inside this school in Kurigram, you would not be able to read any of the graffiti. The letters look familiar but not quite so; the

words look familiar but cannot be read. It seems you are not in Bhagabatipur Char in Kurigram but in a foreign country.

The only things you can read are the few English lines written with white chalks on a blackboard: I am a student; This is a big fish; I read in class three; Come here; This is my book.

The puzzle is solved when the students are gathered from the villages, taken to the classroom and asked to read the lines. A class-five student of the Jhunkarchar Government Primary School, Nur Banu, mumbles for a few minutes, her eyes scans the line "This is a big

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PHOTO: STAR

Class VI student of a Kurigram school Mafidul, mentioned in the report, stares at the sentence "I am a student", falling to read it.

### United We Achieved

### ICTORY

We congratulate Bangladesh tigers on the first victory against Sri Lanka in ODI.

This is the triumph of our united hope, dream and strength. The victory dedicated to deep passion of the cricket-loving nation. Long live our unity! Keep roaring, tigers.

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## Bangladesh cricket roars!!

### way to

# GO

## tigers!

congratulations from the tiger to the tigers!!



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Prepared: 01/02/2006