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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**RU JCD leader  
 assaulted**

From RU Correspondent  
**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY,**  
 Feb 19: A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra  
 Dal (JCD) leader and final year  
 student of the Management  
 Department of the Rajshahi  
 University was beaten up by  
 his rivals in the JCD this  
 morning. The JCD leader Kabir  
 was treated at the University  
 Medical Centre. The assault on  
 Kabir was an outburst of in-  
 fighting in the JCD leadership  
 over the demand for holding  
 RUCSU polls, insiders said.

**UP chairman  
 shot dead**

From Our Correspondent  
**BAGERHAT, Feb 19:** The  
 Union Parishad Chairman of  
 Gouramva, under Rampal thana  
 in the district, was shot dead  
 by some unidentified gunmen  
 this morning. According to  
 sources, gunmen fired at  
 Chairman Santo, 35, when he  
 was visiting the construction  
 site of a school at an adjacent  
 village at about 11 am. Sources  
 said that the incident of killing  
 was a sequel to a previous  
 enmity.

**Shops to remain  
 open in holidays**

Shops and establishments  
 will remain open during the  
 holidays of the next three  
 weeks preceding the holy Eid-  
 ul-Fitr in view of the suspen-  
 sion of some clauses of the  
 Shops and Establishment  
 Laws of 1965. The employees  
 working on the holidays will  
 be entitled for overtime al-  
 lowances or alternate holidays,  
 reports BSS.

**Sehri, Iftar timings**

Rmdn	Feb	Sehri	Iftar
08	20	—	6:03 pm
09	21	5:08 am	6:03 pm
10	22	5:07 am	6:03 pm

## Bangladesh move to quarter finals of ICC Trophy

Sports Reporter

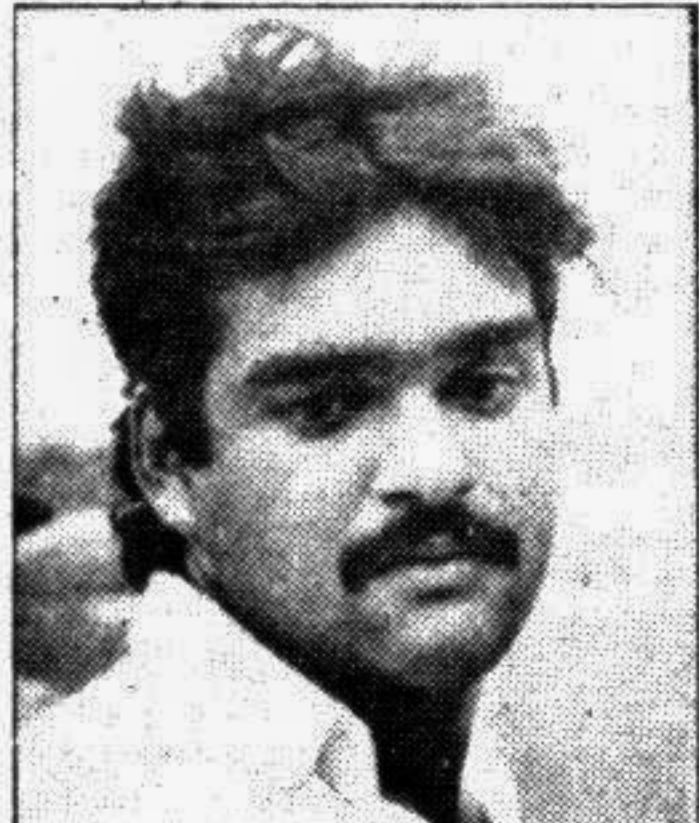
A timely, gritty half century by Akram Khan averted an untimely doom of dream as Bangladesh earned a panicky passage to the quarter finals of the ICC Trophy beating the USA by three wickets at the Jaffrey Sports Club ground, Nairobi, Kenya yesterday.

According to a faxed message from the Kenyan capital, Man-of-the-Match Akram scored an unbeaten 64 to dead-lift Bangladesh who after being set a fairly easy winning target of 146 in 50 overs were reeling at 36 for five wickets at one stage of the match.

After having posted two facile seven-wicket victories against Argentina and East and Central Africa in their previous rain-affected Group B encounters, Bangladesh had the first taste of real challenge in this 20-team meet only yesterday.

While the second-seeded team of the tournament was exposed to a full day's play for the first time since both the

previous matches had to be played over two days due to weather intervention, it also underwent a temperamental annealing, something which



**AKRAM .... m-o-m**  
 should hold them in good stead in the tougher second round, scheduled to begin from Wednesday.  
 The pulsating encounter be-

tween two almost evenly matched teams was an interesting study in stark contrast. While Bangladesh returned from the death-throes by virtue of some resilient batting by Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Enamul Huq, the United States of America let slip the initiative in the morning, thanks to some superbly tight left-arm spin bowling by Enamul Huq Moni.

Bangladesh captain Faruque Ahmed won the toss and chose to field first for the third time in a row. But the young captain who had guided his team to win against East Africa was made to rue his decision as the US openers raised 80 runs for the first wicket.

But the cookie crumbled as soon as Faruque turned to his slow bowlers. Off spinning all-rounder Selim Shahed had Lewis caught by Athar for 24 and then the whole innings fell

See Page 12 Col 1



Florists seen working double time yesterday to prepare as many wreaths and bouquets for sale on the Amar Ekushey tomorrow in the city. — Star photo

## AL will try to expose 'corruptions in BNP'

By Asiuzzaman

The Awami League, after its ego-boosting victory in the city corporation polls, has decided to continue its present political strategy to counter the ruling BNP.

The largest opposition party will agitate against various actions of the government in and outside Parliament, a senior AL leader said.

"We will try to expose the cases of corruptions of ministers and other ruling party leaders," the leader who did not like to be named, said.

He claimed that the allegations of corruption against Irrigation Minister M Majid-Ul-Huq and the ruling party's delaying tactics in probing the charges had an impact on the city corporation polls last month.

"I think the people now believe that some of the ministers were abusing powers," the AL leader said.

Another allegation was raised in Parliament last week regarding the reported abuse of powers by the acting Chief Whip of the BNP, Mahbubul Alam Tara.

Moreover, the Awami League leaders would expose to the people "the weakness of

the reform programmes of the government which failed to reinvigorate the country's fragile economy."

The political violence and the deteriorating law and order situation, including terrorism, would also be pointed out.

Despite the victory in the city polls, the AL will not immediately demand mid-term elections under a care-taker government. Of course, he said, the party will not forsake the demand for national elections under a care-taker government.

"We will not let the people consider us over-ambitious by making such a demand 'right now,'" the central leader said.

The AL will give the BNP some more time "to become unpopular," he remarked.

In reply to a question whether the AL's victory in the city polls was the result of its popularity or because of in-fighting in the BNP, the AL leader quipped, "the people have rejected the present government."

He said his party is hopeful of a good result in the next parliamentary election.

## BNP standing body studies reports on polls debacle

By Staff Correspondent

The standing committee of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) met yesterday afternoon to identify the reasons behind the party's debacle in the mayoral polls in Dhaka and Chittagong.

With the party chief and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, the committee members discussed the various evaluation reports especially those put forward by the media and different units of the party.

A member said, "We are trying to find out how far the lack of coordination in the party machinery especially during the election campaign, was responsible for the defeat". The limitations of the mayoral candidates in the electoral race also came up for discussion, another member of the committee, who is also a minister, told The Daily Star.

Replying to a question, the minister said the alleged failure of the party leaders, especially those who were given responsibility for different constituencies, was yet to come up for review.

Beginning at 4:00 yesterday afternoon, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm to resume again on Tuesday.

## Raw cotton crisis eases soon

The current raw cotton crisis in the country, arising out of Pakistan's failure to fulfill its export commitment, is expected to ease with the arrival of 3,500 bales from Mali in next six weeks.

The emergency purchase from Mali has been arranged following sudden suspension of export by Pakistan which was to sell to Bangladesh about 1.8 lakh bales of cotton this year.

This choked up the supply line affecting the country's spinning mills and giving a sharp rise in yarn price.

Sources told UNB that arrangements were also being made to import raw cotton from the United States, Sudan and Russia. Cotton from these countries is expected to reach Chittagong port within the shortest possible time.

"We're taking all the steps to keep the mills in operation.

We have already floated open international tender for import of cotton from alternative sources," said a highly placed source at the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

Besides, the corporation is also trying to buy cotton produced in the country, the source said. "We'll be able to overcome the current crisis through these steps."

Despite the Pakistani ban on export of cotton, the corporation would try to import cotton from that country, the BTMC official said. The contract between BTMC and Pakistani suppliers is still valid," he added.

Some 65,000 bales of cotton were harvested this season in Bangladesh. This is only 12 per cent of the country's total demand of 500,000 bales. Another source said import

of raw cotton became difficult as many of the cotton exporting countries stopped their exports due to shortfall in production.

BTMC's cotton procurement target this year is 76,000 bales, the source added. Inadequate supply of raw cotton threatened possible closure of the spinning mills, both public and private. The situation is more acute in private sector mills.

India, another major source of cotton for Bangladesh, also imposed ban on exporting raw cotton.

The state-owned BTMC, which runs the public sector textile mills in Bangladesh, alone has a contract with Pakistan to get 50,000 bales of cotton in the current fiscal year.

## Writ on repolling Verdict likely today

By Staff Correspondent

The hearing of the writ petition relating to repolling in three centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) resumes at 10 this morning.

A division bench of the High Court is likely to pronounce the verdict after today's hearing.

The division bench, comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Ruhul Amin, heard the lawyers of both sides on Thursday and adjourned the hearing until 10 today.

The High Court issued a stay order for two weeks on repolling in the three DCC centres following a writ petition filed by the commissioner candidate of Ward No. 57 challenging the cancellation of results of the centres by the Election Commission.

Later, the mayor-elect Mohammad Hanif and another commissioner candidate of Ward No. 57 Khwaja Habibullah appealed to the court to withdraw the stay order as it was delaying the declaration of the

See Page 12 Col 6

## US discouraging return of toxic fertiliser

by Inam Ahmed

Bangladesh is still in a fix over what to do with the toxic fertiliser shipped by US manufacturers because of the 'indifferent' attitude of the US government, according to sources.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the local provider for the fertiliser import, has also shifted its earlier attitude to the fertiliser case.

The US authorities have been discouraging the return of the highly toxic fertiliser and has reportedly told the Bangladesh government that if the consignment of fertiliser exceeds the US regulatory toxicity standards, the shipment would be returned to Bangladesh, according to messages received from the Bangladesh embassy in Washington.

This proposal of the US has been termed impractical by authorities in Bangladesh because it explicitly implies that the toxic fertiliser cannot be sent back to the original US exporters. Despite the government's repeated requests

to the US authorities for information about the consignee of the fertiliser or the port to which the fertiliser should be sent to, there had been no satisfactory response, the source said.

Nevertheless, there had been suggestions about dumping the toxic fertiliser in a third country in Asia which the Bangladesh government also finds impracticable on moral and legal grounds.

Currently, the government is set to suffer a huge loss for shipment of the fertiliser as the ADB has cancelled its earlier proposal to provide a technical assistance grant to Bangladesh for bearing the freight cost of the fertiliser.

"We imported the fertiliser with a loan from the ADB. Now we will have to send it back at our own cost," a high official told The Daily Star, "this means a double loss for Bangladesh."

However, the ADB has now agreed to provide a consultant

See Page 12 Col 6

## 65 hurt in Adamjee clash

From Our Correspondent

**NARAYANGANJ, Feb 19:** In a clash between two feuding factions of the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) workers today at least 65 persons were injured. Twelve of them received bullet injuries.

The clashes between the rival groups — one led by Abul Khair Khwaja of the BNP and the other by Rehanuddin Rehan of the Awami League — lasted more than four hours during which firearms and other lethal weapons were used.

Those who received bullet wounds were rushed to different hospitals and clinics in Narayanganj and in Dhaka. They were identified as Rabanni, Jahangir, Alamgir, Anwar, Siraj, Noor Mohammad and Jaal of the Rehan group and Zakir Hossain, Kiron, Babul, Lutfor Rahman and Abdul Mannan of the Khaer group.

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## DU food poisoning Hall authorities fail to detect reasons

Star Report

The Jagannath Hall authorities yesterday failed to detect the cause of the food poisoning that left Friday some 200 residential students sick.

They also could not identify the persons responsible.

Headed by Provost of the Dhaka University hall a meeting last night, however, resolved to take extra precautionary measures in cleaning the hall kitchen, dining hall, water sources and other areas.

Named as the October Smriti canteen after the hall's tragic roof collapse in October a few years ago, the canteen will resume supplying food to

See Page 12 Col 1

## PM distributes Ekushey Padak today

Nine eminent literatures, educationists, artistes and journalist of the country will be formally awarded Ekushey Padak-93 this morning at the Osmany Memorial Hall here, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to distribute the awards.

The recipients of the padak are: Rafiqunnabi — Fine Arts, Dilara Zaman — Drama, Jewel Aich — Magic, Manruddin Yusuf — Literature (posthumous), Rabeya Khatun — Literature, Shaheed Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury — Education (Posthumous), Reaz Uddin Ahmed — Journalism, Mohammad Asafuddinwah — Music and Ostad Fazlul Haq — Music (Posthumous).

## Ekushey tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The nation pays homage to the language martyrs tomorrow with a renewed vow to change the country's socio-economic condition in the spirit of the Amar Ekushey.

On this historic day in February 21, 1952, some valiant sons of the soil laid their lives to establish Bangla as a state language of erstwhile Pakistan.

Police opened fire on a Dhaka University All-Party Students Action Committee demonstration rally on the day. The students took to the streets to protest conspiracies against Bangla language and culture, resulting in the martyrdom of four brave souls including Barkat, Jabbar, Rafiq and Salam.

Ever since Ekushey marked

a far-reaching turning point in the future course of national history. People began their fight against the existing social, economic and cultural injustices from that year, and the struggle culminated in the Liberation War of 1971.

People from all walks of life will through the Central Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight to pay homage to the language martyrs. Appropriate decoration of the Shaheed Minar and its surroundings has already been completed, to mark the day.

The Bangla Academy has been holding a month-long book fair and various other functions like drama, painting show, lecture series and musical soiree. Islamic Foundation

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