

Dhaka Day by Day

In the Grip of Cricket Fever

by Ekram Kabir

All you need to have is a cable-connected small screen to witness the Sixth World Cup cricket as well as to listen to foreign-agency news on post-Sixth Parliamentary election situation in the country, it's 11 O'clock or so, and you're cheering your favourite Eleven lying on the couch in your living room. Then suddenly your teenage sister approaches to her office-mature brother right from her study table, saying, "Bhaiya, I don't care who's hammering what, I want to watch the Philips Top Ten; change it to Zee." You say, "What's the matter, Sis? I was under the impression that you like cricket very much, or is it that the Pakistani macho Imran Khan isn't playing in this world cup?" Noticing a subtle burst of anger on her face, you leave the box to her, and start for office hoping to see rest of the game in your boss's room.

It's quite a journey while coming to the workplace from wherever you live in the city. For it's opposition-announced non-cooperation time, and rickshaws and rickshaw-like vehicles only are plying on. Passengers of rickshaw that passes the one that you're sitting on, are not discussing Khaleda-Hasina; rather you hear remarks like — "Oh, what a six Mark Wagh played straight over the long-on." "I have a feeling Sri Lanka will be defeating Australia in the Final" and "Why are you undermining South Africa so much, they are no less a mightier team than West Indies." Well, had it been the normal time, politically speaking, and you were on a bus or tempo, you'd have become more enriched with above 'cricket-wise' analysis.

Apart from game days, when Dhaka boys aren't watching re-telecasts, all the streets of the city are cricket pitches — in every hundred metre, there're always groups of boys, from six-

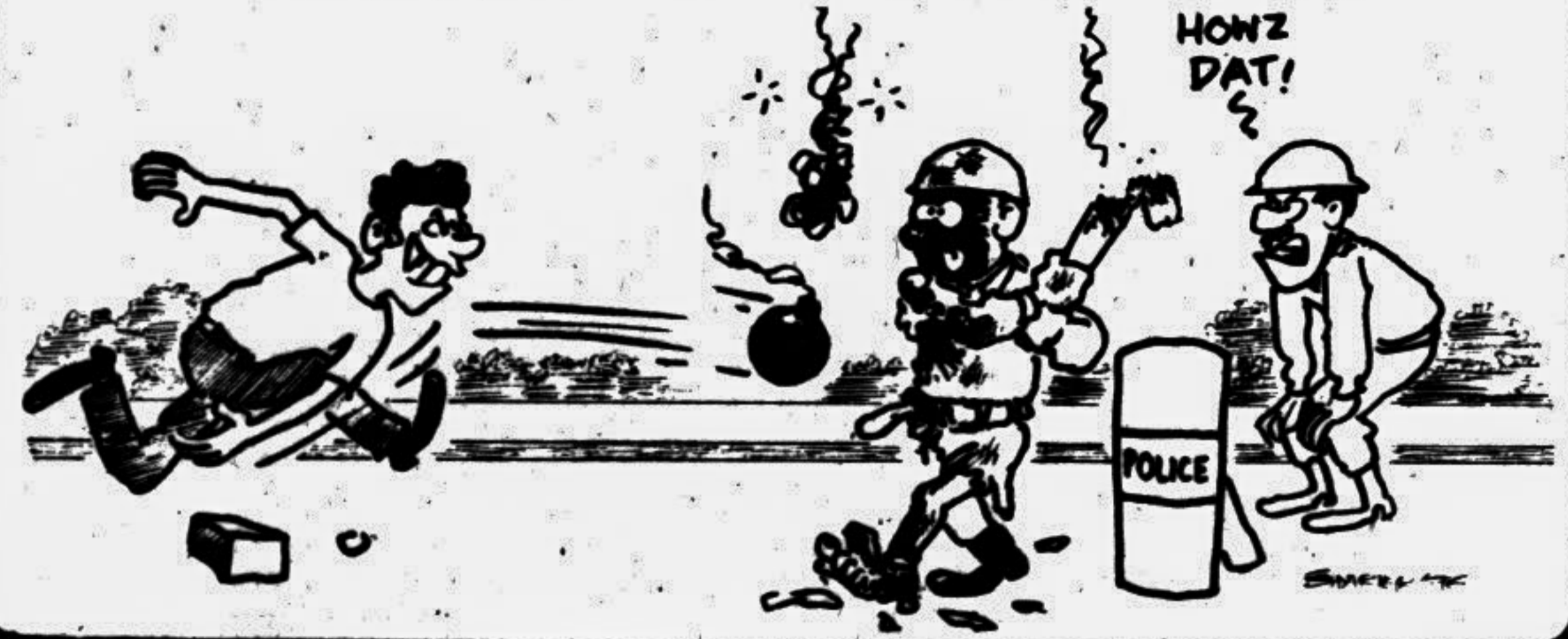
year-old kids to university students, playing (or, should one say, imitating) the King's game with whatever kits they get at hand.

Your office surprises you — over-riding the political-crisis discussions, cricket has burst almost all the office work into bubbles. You no longer have been put on the backfoot by the boss since his or her spirits too are high to scold you with any sort of low-bounce. Adding to this, each and every colleague of yours — from the office peon to the boss level people — seem to be a cricket encyclopedia.

It appears from their rap that they are trying to convince you they know every word of the 20th-century cricket history. The comments like — "What a strokeplayer was Asif Iqbal," "Come on, the little master Tendulkar hit much better than Hanif Mohammad," and "Nobody can or could score a hurricane century like Brian Lara."

For the old-timers — meaning your elderly colleagues — it's more of a kind of reminiscing for they are the ones who can tell you precisely what was like during the first World Cup in 1975. For example, you wouldn't know except for reading some old magazines, how Dennis Lillee bowled Asif for 53 and how Deryck Murray inched his way forward with the help from Vamburn Holder and Andy Roberts.

Well, these are their fond memories who were quite enthusiastic in expediting a cricket-culture here in Bangladesh. But for the rest, watching the performances of masters, underdogs and new-comers of the cricket galaxy, and feeling the regal kiss of cricket are a way of cursing themselves, the Bangladesh Eleven, for failing to participate in this ongoing tournament.



A good number of rickshaw plied in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Citizens' rally today

By DU Correspondent
A citizens' rally will be held at the central Shahid Minar square today at 4 pm demanding cancellation of February 15 elections, holding of sixth parliamentary election under a neutral caretaker government and release of political detainees.

The rally has been organised by the artists, literatures, intellectuals and other prominent citizens of the country.

Begum Sofia Kamal, Sawkat Osman, justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya, architect Mazharul Islam, Dr Nilima Ibrahim, poet Shamsur Rahman, prof Muntasir Mamun, artiste Golam Mustafa, Kabari Serwar, Asaduzzaman Nur, and Sanni Kaiser will address the rally.

Shatayu Angan, a city-based sporting organisation has arranged a citizens' rally in front of the Engineers' Institution tomorrow at 9:30 am and later a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club to review the present political crisis and a solution acceptable to all.

All conscious citizens have been requested to attend.

'Cargo handling at Mongla normal'

The cargo handling activities at Mongla maritime port remained normal Wednesday according to an official hand-out, reports BSS.

Seventy-three stevedoring and dock labourer gangs performed the handling activities in the first shift yesterday at the port.

About 13,449 metric tons of goods were handled at the port.

Attendance of officials and employees at Mongla and Benapole ports was normal.

Jubo Dal holds rally in city

Dhanuondi thana Jubo Dal Wednesday brought out a procession protesting non-cooperation movement by the opposition political parties, reports BSS.

A press release of the Jubo Dal said the procession led by Jubo Dal general secretary and State Minister Goyeshwar Roy paraded the streets at New Market, Science Laboratory, Elephant Road and Shahbagh areas.

Programmes on silver jubilee of independence

Different Dhaka University-based cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the silver jubilee of the country's independence, reports UNB.

The 3-day programmes will include discussion, photographic exhibition, goodwill debate, rally, screening of films on Liberation War, cultural function and publishing of posters and souvenirs.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the function at the Arts Faculty on March 24.

Earlier, a 101-member committee was formed with Dhaka University Film Society president Shamsul Alam Liton as convener and Dhaka University Debating Society president AKM Shoyeb as member secretary to make the programme a success.

Meanwhile, representatives of 12 cultural organisations yesterday at a joint meeting at the Dhaka University Madhu's canteen called upon student organisations to observe the day with due respect.



Pickets set afire this autorickshaw in city's Bangabandhu area yesterday. — Star photo



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Ibn Yusuf speaking at a press conference called by UNICEF at Sheraton Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Foreign shipping lines may boycott Ctg port: CCCI

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 15: President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Sarwar Jamal Nizam, informed that with the disruption for cargo handling activities at Chittagong port due to ongoing political stalemate, the traders and industrialists were facing severe economic losses and sufferings as 14,000 containers of cargo remains dumped at the port.

In a press release of CCCI, Nizam apprehended that due to the deadlock situation in the port some foreign shipping lines might boycott Chittagong port and change their routes.

Some shipping lines even may keep movement of their vessels to Chittagong port suspended for indefinite period as the image of port is widely being tarnished, Nizam added.

Consequently, it will have a bad impact in next three months which no government might be able to cope with, Nizam added saying that it would cause a far reaching impact on our economy.

The chamber president urged the authorities concerned and opposition political parties to come forward for removing the deadlock at Chittagong port without further delay.

Nizam in the statement also said that due to the prevailing deadlock situation foreign investors who earlier selected Bangladesh a congenial for investments, had now got discouraged and diverted their investments to neighbouring countries.

The chamber president also informed that as a consequence several hundreds of garments factories would be forced to be closed. He said that the trade and commerce were totally affected and production in the industries stopped while the exporters were on the verge of losing the export markets failing to execute the orders especially on garments, shrimp, tea and leather sectors.

Besides, dislocation in unloading of import cargo and disruption in traffic movement had caused price spiral mounting the sufferings of the public members, Nizam said.

However, the chamber president hailed the government's announcement of forming caretaker government for holding national poll in May and completion of dialogue by the president with the government and opposition.

But Nizam termed the recent statements of the president of FBCCI in connection with prevailing political situation, as 'controversial'.

Contradicting those statements, Nizam said that as FBCCI is a neutral body its president can not give statements on resignation of governments and other related matters.

Nizam said that those statements were politically motivated on his own and hoped that FBCCI president would refrain from such activities.

The statements of FBCCI president, tarnished the image of the highest body of businessmen and industrialists, Nizam said.

'Broadcast special programme on Bangabandhu'

By Staff-Correspondent

Mujib Adarsha Mullaian Parishad in a discussion meeting yesterday demanded broadcasting of special programmes on Radio and Television tomorrow on the 76th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation.

Presided over by its president G A Momine, the meeting was addressed among others by Dr. Mirza Abdul Jalil, Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, Abdur Rashid Akash, Sahadat Hossain Dulal, Sabry Khan Rana.

Demanding special programmes on Radio and Television highlighting his life and struggle for independence they said that it was very sad that the new generation would not know the life and activities of such a great leader who gave us the freedom.

On the occasion, Bangabandhu Parishad Supreme Court branch arranged a discussion meeting.

Barrister Shawkat All Khan will preside over the meeting while S R Pal, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Gazul Huq, Barrister Amirul Islam, S S Halder, Barrister Shaqir Ahmed and K S Nabi are expected to take part in the discussion.

DUTA to discuss political crisis

An emergency meeting of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held today to discuss the present political crisis, reports UNB.

All the members of the association have been requested to attend the meeting at the university club building at 10:30 am, said a DUTA press release.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Temporary rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet, northern parts of Dhaka division and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere across the country.

No appreciable change in day temperature is likely throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 18.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 6:09 and rises tomorrow at 6:08 am. The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.6	24.3	73	59
Chittagong	30.2	24.3	77	78
Rajshahi	37.0	19.0	60	32
Khulna	35.8	25.0	88	78
Barisal	32.8	23.0	81	73
Sylhet	32.0	23.6	82	61
Cox's Bazar	30.0	22.4	73	80

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিয়ারনে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed contractors for carrying Urea Fertilizer by barge, wagon & truck from Zia Fertilizer Co. Ltd, Ashuganj, B'baria to Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, various district & thana headquarters of northern Rajshahi & Khulna Divisions and ZFCL sale centres and delivering & stacking thereof. Tenders should be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the General Manager (Commercial), Zia Fertilizer Co. Ltd, Ashuganj, B'baria & General Manager (Purchase), BCIC Head Office, 16th floor, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka by 11:30 am of 08-4-96. The tenders will be opened immediately after the expiry of the time limit for receiving tender before the tenderers present. Tender document containing detailed rules & regulations and schedule of work will be available at Taka 400 (four hundred) only (non-refundable) per set from Accounts Department of Zia Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka & BCIC branch office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Sale of tender schedule will remain closed on the date of opening tender. The Factory Authority reserves full rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

BCIC-221-9/3/96
DFP-5615-11/3
G-377

A B M Siddiqur Rahman
General Manager (Commercial)
Zia Fertilizer Co. Ltd.
Ashuganj, B'baria

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology Dhaka TENDER NOTICE

No. D-1540 (2) Dt. 14-03-96

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned in the prescribed form from the bonafide and experienced Class-I Contractors who are enlisted with PWD/Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies for Vertical Extension of Central Mosque (Main Building). Applications for purchase of Tender papers will be received up to 24-03-96 and Tender papers will be sold from 25-03-96. Tender will be received by the undersigned and Executive Engineer, PWD, Eden Building Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka up to 11.30 AM on 31-03-96 and will be opened on the same day. No Tender papers will be sold on the opening day. For further detailed information regarding purchase and dropping the Tender, the office of the undersigned may be contacted or the contractor may see the Notice Board of the office.

D-271 University Engineer

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd

(A Company of Petrobangla)
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Phone : 819380/PABX: 812135-42 (Extn : 146)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR PROCUREMENT OF GAS PIPELINE MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT UNDER ADB LOAN NO 1293-BAN (SF)

Date of issuance of Invitation : 11th March, 1996

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Special Fund of the Asian Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Third Natural Gas Development Project, Part-C, Titas Component and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract/s for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment.
- The executing agency of the Project, Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd, a Company operating under Bangladesh laws, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for supply of the following goods:

Sl No	IFB No	Description of Materials	Quantity	Cost of Tender Document	Bid Closing Date
1.	PD.2312/367-V.	A) Ball Valves. B) Gate Valves.	15 Nos 3 Nos	Tk 1000/- or US\$ 24.00	07 May '96
2.	PD.2312/367-FIT.	But Welding Fittings: - Tee. - Elbow. - Reducer. - End Cap. - Nozzle.	28 Nos. 24 Nos. 13 Nos. 7 Nos. 10 Nos.	Tk 1000/- or US\$ 24.00	08 May '96
3.	PD.2312/367-SCRAPER	A) Scraper Materials: - Quick Closing Door. - Scraper Trap. - Scraper Signaller. B) Pigs.	3 Nos 2 Nos 3 Nos 33 Nos	Tk. 1000/- or US\$ 24.00	09 May '96
4.	PD.2312/367-ICCS	A) Isolating Couplings. B) Casing Seals.	3 Nos. 56 Nos.	Tk. 1000/- or US\$ 24.00	11 May '96
5.	PD.2312/367-FLANGE.	Flanges & Gaskets: - Flanges. - Gaskets.	32 Nos. 15 Nos.	Tk. 500/- or US\$ 12.00	12 May '96
6.	PD.2312/367-DETECT	A) Holiday Detector. B) Transformer Rectifier, Silicon Anodes.	4 Nos. 1 set. 10 Nos.	Tk. 1000/- or US\$ 24.00	13 May '96

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and/or inspect the bidding documents at the office of:
Deputy General Manager (Purchase)
Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
Telex: 642689 TGNC BJ
Fax: 880-2-813031.
Cable: TITASGAS DHAKA.

- Tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder or their authorised representatives upon payment of the cost (non-refundable) of the respective tender documents from Accounts Department of Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd at the above address, from 09:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs on all working days with effect from 17th March, 1996. No document will be sold on the closing date of the respective IFB.
- All bids accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order or Bank Guarantee of 2% of Bid Amount must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd, Dhaka on or before 11:00 hrs of the closing date of the respective bids.
- Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- The bids will be opened on the same date of closing at 11:15 hrs in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the 1st subsequent working day.
- TGTDCI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason.

Titas/PR-96/95-96
D-270

“বাহু লাগান, বাহুর পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বীচান” — প্রবাসমন্ত্রী

— Deputy General Manager (Purchase)