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Jubilant girls joined youths in spraying colours on passers-by in the city yesterday after Bangladesh qualified for World Cup Cricket. — Star photo

Dream comes true

From Page 1... attempts including the enormously frustrating experience in the fifth one in Kenya. But this time around in Malaysia, a happy hunting ground for Bangladesh as the triumphs of the Youth Team in 1995 and that of the national team in the ACC Trophy would suggest, our cricketers carved a niche in hearts of 120 million people with a poem of a success. The well-deserved victory for Bangladesh also set the stage for a grand finale with Kenya, who had earlier confirmed their passage in the World Cup for the second consecutive occasion defeating Ireland in the first semifinal on April 7.



KHALED MASOOD ... m-o-m

The final showdown of two worthy opponents will be held on April 12 with Bangladesh looking for a revenge of their defeat at the hands of the top seed in the 22-nation meet to accomplish their mission. Bangladesh in the Fifth ICC Trophy which eventually dashed our hopes for a passage in the last World Cup, staged in the Sub-continent last year. Dhaka yesterday turned into a city of joy. People took to the streets to celebrate an unprecedented success. From the narrow strips leading up to boulevard the ecstatic sports lovers honked the horns, sprayed coloured water and some were seen driving their cars with the red-and-green flags on roof-top. It looked like a moving kaleidoscope. The great spree of mirth was, however, considerably soured when some unruly hooligans spoiled the spirit of what should have been an occasion of spontaneous celebration through voluntary participation.

Congratulations

From Page 1... suring participation of our team in the next prestigious World Cup cricket. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in her message. Giving her instant reaction at her office on Bangladesh's thrilling success, a beaming Prime Minister said, "I have the same feeling of a mother when her son wins any victory."

consider a positive start scoring 37 runs. But once he was dismissed by off-spinner Naimur Rahman, Bangladesh never allowed Scotland a chance to keep to pace with an asking run-rate which was 4.9 runs at the onset. Wickets tumbled at regular intervals with slow-left armers Enamul Haq Moni emerging as the destroyer-in-chief with a bag of three wickets. Fellow left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, then did

Gifts

From Page 1... policy. Network Computing Line Ltd; Internet connections, Shaira Auto Works; Servicing of cars and Sandhani Life Insurance Co. Tk 5 lakh insurance policy; Plasma Plus - Free Medical Service; Omar-Sultan Medical Services Ltd & Udayan Poly Clinic; Free Medical Services; and Chairman, Noakhali Poursava-Tk one lakh.

Hannan Shah gets ad-interim bail in corruption case

A High Court division bench yesterday granted ad-interim bail to former minister Hannan Shah for eight weeks in a corruption case, reports BSS.

The bench comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Iftikhar Rasul issued rule upon the government to show cause why accused Hannan Shah should not be granted bail.

KU convocation today

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Apr 9: The first convocation of Khulna University will be held at 10 am tomorrow on the university campus.

The Chancellor of the University President Shahabuddin Ahmed will preside over the convocation ceremony where he will distribute certificates to 125 out of 139 registered graduates of the first and the second batches of the university.

Wild jubilation

From Page 1... country said. Nothing escaped the revellers attention - cars, rickshaws, buses, trucks and even police vehicles. But police were not amused. After watching the fanfare for sometime, they turned their attention to hordes of revellers, who went beyond innocent fun at Farmgate in the city. Idris, 25, suffered a fatal knife injury when he protested the wild acts of the merry-makers there. The young man from Tongi, was on way to his business place. He succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Details were not available. An unidentified youth, aged about 20, was run over by a truck at Sayedabad when he was scampering around with buckets of colour, witnesses said. Demra police, however, said they were not aware of the incident till 10 pm last night. DMCH sources said at least 19 people were admitted there. Over 50 others were given first aid at the hospital. Elsewhere in the city, those who dared to stand up against the revellers turning wild, pouncing upon women and girls on their way to work and educational institutions, faced the fury of the unruly among the merry-makers.

Horde of youths, some without their shirts, roamed the city streets in columns of motorbikes, splashing dyes at random. Others commandeered vehicles of all descriptions, including horse buggies, to parade around their localities. They waved the National Flag, drums, tin plates, posts and utensils, turning the celebration noisy. But a section of the revellers turned vicious and swooped on women on the streets. In one such incident near the City College, a young lady was molested. None, not even police, came to her rescue. Hell broke loose in and around different city schools when mothers came to pick up their children. Some frenzied youths demanded entry into a premier girls' school-cum-college in central Dhaka to spray colours on the students there. But the principal had to call police to stop them. At the girls' educational institutions, students splashed colours at each other. As women in rickshaws faced spraying of colours, some tumbled down on the streets and were injured. Some children too were hurt. Cars were also stopped and their occupants were, in several instances, pulled out and sprayed with dyes.

By 1.30 pm, many people fled the city streets. Those who were seen on the streets, bore multi-coloured splashes of dyes on their dresses. Offices and business houses were almost empty as people joined the street celebrations or simply walked out. School children also joined. The Dhaka University campus saw a number of impromptu disco parties, where girls shunned their coyness to dance with their friends as some enterprising youths played music. In Jahangirnagar University, girls joined boys in the celebrations. Many were swaying with rhythms of music. Some even fired buck-shots in air to express their joy. In Mirpur, hordes of youths marched around their localities and threw paint literally on anything that moved. A Daily Star Correspondent witnessed a police constable soaked in magenta paint. A number of female passengers of auto-rickshaws were awashed with paints on Darus-Salam Road and Mirpur sections 1, 10 and 12. Groups of youths with buckets of colours were seen entering the zonal office of Titas Gas at noon. Officers and employees there took shelter behind cupboards and furniture and in toilets to escape the paint throwers. Others locked themselves in different rooms. The Eastern Plaza market closed abruptly at around noon when two groups of shopkeepers became engaged in a clash over spraying paints.

C'wealth chief election officers call on PM Introduction of voter ID cards suggested

A team of chief election officers of Asia and Indian Ocean zone called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday when they appreciated Bangladesh's electoral process and offered some suggestions for further improvement, reports UNB. A seven-member team of the Commonwealth Chief Election Officers in Asia and Indian Ocean, who met her at the PM office, also appreciated the last June 12 election held under a caretaker government, where voter turnout, particularly women, was massive.

The Prime Minister said the Election Commission of the country is totally independent and the government does not interfere in any of its activities. "In a protracted movement the ruling party established people's franchise and is taking steps to strengthen further the Election Commission to ensure a strong electoral process," she told them. The delegates put forward suggestions as to how to make the election commission more transparent and accountable and how to create a congenial atmosphere for holding free and fair elections.

The delegation members are: Indian Election Commissioner GVG Krishnamurti, Malaysian Election Commission Chairman Datuk Harun Din, Mauritius EC Justice Soorjunnundun Moosum, Pakistan EC Member Justice Hamid Ali Mirza, Sri Lanka EC Dayananda Disanayake and Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General K Srinivasan.

Bangladesh Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena and Election Commission Secretary MM Reza were also present in the meeting.

6 policemen hurt in clash with dacoits in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least six policemen were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash with a gang of dacoits at a filling station in Demra area in the city Tuesday night. The gang of about six armed dacoits opened indiscriminate fire and used daggers when the police team from the Detective Branch (DB) cordoned the gang and grabbed three of its members. The gang had attempted to snatch cash from M's Abdullah Filling Station of East Dhalpar at Demra at about 8:10 pm, police said. Injured policeman, Ayub Ali, who was stabbed by the dacoits was operated upon at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Tuesday night. He is now under treatment at the hospital, police said.

The three arrested dacoits, aged between 20 and 25, were identified as Sagar Ahmed alias Badsha, 24, Sheikh Sadi, 24, and Anwar Hossain alias Khokon, police said. Police recovered two revolvers, one cut rifle, a razor and 12 bullets from them. The police team, acting on a tip-off, was waiting around the filling station since Tuesday evening. They cordoned the dacoits when they came there in a microbus.

German minister in city

Werner Hoyer, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, arrived in Dhaka last night on a four-day official visit, reports BSS.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received his German counterpart at the Zia International Airport. The German minister will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this morning.

Ershad

From Page 1... took place yesterday between the emissaries of Ershad and the three top leaders who held a meeting at the residence of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury on Tuesday night.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury acknowledged the meeting between him and two other senior presidium members of his party without giving their names. "Ershad was asking thinking about is for the betterment of the party," he added. It was reported in the press Wednesday that Mizan along with Kazi Zafar and Shah Moazzam Hossain decided not to continue politics under the leadership of party Chairman Ershad. JP sources said that the meeting at the residence of Mizan Chowdhury was held against the backdrop of Ershad's interview printed in a Bangladesh daily in which he spoke about his relationships with Zinat.

Allegations being probed

From Page 1... taken if evidence of corruption is found against anyone in the SEC.

Dr Rashid was asked to clarify the claims of some of the accused persons that they were implicated in the scam even though they had resigned or dissociated themselves from the accused companies long before the investigation period. He said the committee had conducted investigation on the basis of whatever documents were available with the SEC. He also mentioned that it was now addressing the complaints filed by individuals who claim they were not involved in the accused companies for long. Asked about reported allegations that his son-in-law, Anu Jaigirdar of Premium Securities, who is among the 32 accused in the scam cases, had got his favour to promote trade, the SEC Chairman denied those. "I am clear to my conscience that I have not shown any favour to anybody irrespective of my relationship. I have always remained non-partisan before, during and after the

Share scam: 5 more granted ad-interim bail

By SC Correspondent

Five more accused in the share market scam cases have been granted ad-interim bail by the High Court. They were granted bail under the same conditions as the 20 others. The division bench of the HC comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Iftikhar Rasul yesterday granted bail to Abdur Rab Chowdhury, Syed Chowdhury, Mashur Rahman, AKM Mohiuddin and Rezaul Karim. Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq and Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud separately moved for the petitioners; while Deputy Attorney General Nikhlesh Dutta opposed the bail in the same way as he did earlier.

Detention cases Realisation of compensation stayed

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday ordered stay on realisation of the compensatory costs from the government in the detention cases of BNP leaders Dr Khondker Mosharrar Hossain, Mirza Abbas and Abdul Mannan.

Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division in his chamber passed the orders staying realisation of the compensatory cost for six months. The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Moazzam Haque and Justice Hasan Amin on April 7 by separate verdicts on the habeas corpus writs declared the detention without lawful authority and directed the government to pay Tk one lakh as compensatory cost to each of the detenu. Attorney General KS Nabi and Advocate-at-Record Sharifuddin Chaklader represented the government.

Indemnity (Repeal) Act Hearing of appeals against HC judgement May 12

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday fixed the date of hearing of the two appeals filed by Col (ret) Ershad Rahman and Col (ret) Shahriar Rashid Khan regarding Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996, on May 12 next, reports BSS.

Syed Faruq Rahman and Shahriar Rashid Khan filed appeals in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against a High Court judgement which declared that the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 was valid. The parliament last November repealed the Indemnity Act removing the legal obstacles for the trial of killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Water treaty

From Page 1... During their discussions, both sides reiterated their commitment to implement the treaty, and agreed that their officials will hold an early meeting to take appropriate follow-up measures.

During the talks Samad Azad was assisted by high commissioner CM Shafi Sami and Bangladesh permanent representative to the United Nations Anwarul Karim Chowdhury. The programmes include rallies in all districts of the Chittagong division from April 15 to April 30 and a grand rally on May 3 if the killers were not held by April 30. Fresh action programmes will be announced from the rally. The rally, organised by the district BNP, was addressed by Abdullah Al Noman, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Moshed Khan, MK Anwar, Harunor-Rashid, Barkatullah Bulu, Ameer Khasbru and Zainal Abedin Farook. Earlier, the BNP leaders met the district administration and police officials to discuss the situation. JCD leader Ashfaqul Rahman Tushar was tortured to death on March 27 and Jubo Dal leader Shariful Islam Nasir was gunned down on March 29 during a half-day hartal enforced by the BNP.

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Australian DPM tells press in city Dhaka often subjected to unfair publicity in the western media

By Staff Correspondent

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said that Bangladesh was often subjected to unfair and negative publicity by the western media. "I can say that you are under wrong publicity. Good things are also happening here, for instance, the Jamuna Bridge, one of the largest bridges in the world is being constructed here," Tom Fischer said hoping that the bridge would get as much publicity as a cyclone.

Addressing a joint press conference with Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Fischer said that the negative publicity often masked the real progress which have been taking place in this country. Fischer left Dhaka yesterday on conclusion of his 4-day visit to Bangladesh. He was accompanied by a 19-member business delegation.

Fischer, who also holds the change of the ministry of trade said his visit was "very successful, exciting and constructive." The Australian Deputy Prime Minister admitted that his country was a little bit late compared to other countries who have already made significant presence in this region. "We are anxious to make up the lost time," he added that the coalition government of Australia had declared 1997 the year of South Asia. Fischer assured that his country would support Bangladesh's membership in

the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), a planned trade bloc. Australia is committed to the IOR, he added. A lot of developments are taking place in the South Asian countries and Australia is eager to tap the potential in the region, he said. The Australian Deputy Prime Minister said that the MOU signed on child labour last year has eliminate child labour from the floors. "I welcome the progress but enforced child labour is absolutely unacceptable," he further stretched that wrong and inaccurate reports

on child labour could do harm and lead to sanctions. Fischer, also in charge of Australian ministry of trade, referred to the signing of an agreement between the Multi-mode Group of Bangladesh and the Australian Bradmill Undertake for setting up of a denim fabrics unit here. He said that it was the first step towards more Australian investment in Bangladesh.

Referring to the 'Cricket Diplomacy' he said that the two cricketing scholarships were arranged by the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh and Adelaide Cricket Club in Australia.

Tofael Ahmed said that the government has also requested President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to extend support to Bangladesh's quest for membership of the Indian Ocean Rim.

Bangladesh has requested Australia to take effective measures so that the developing countries can export their products to the developed countries without any tariff barrier, Tofael said.

The Australian Deputy Prime Minister came to Bangladesh from Pakistan and is scheduled to visit Bhutan, India and Nepal. This was the first high level visit by an Aussie leader since the visit of the then Australian PM in 1975.

Talks with 11 parties Goyeshwar freed

From Page 1

Biswas and Fazle Hossain Badsha of Workers Party, Shahidullah Chowdhury and Muzahidul Islam Selim of CPB, Hasanul Huq Inu, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Sharif Nurul Ambia of JSD (Inu), AFM Mahbulul Huq, Saiful Islam and Mainuddin Khan Badal of BSD (Mahbul), Bazur Rashid of BSD (Khaled), Advocate Nurul Alam, Amna Ahmed and Dr Anisul Haq of NAP, Ajoy Roy of Communist Kendra, Siddiqur Rahman of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Abdus Samaad of Gano Azadi League, Belayet Hossain of Samazbadi Dal, Rabiul Alam and Shaikh Rashid Mahmud of JSD (Rab), Peer Habibur Rahman of Ganotantri Party and Iqbal Majumdar of Oikya Prakriya were among others who attended the meeting.

Prime Minister's Political Adviser Dr SA Malek, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Kader, AL leaders Abdul Jalil, Qamruzzaman and Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin were also present. A cabinet colleague of the Prime Minister who attended the meeting told The Daily Star last night that the political leaders assured the government of their 'full support in safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty'. Talking to this correspondent, Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon said, "We all received the invitation only one before and it was an open-agenda meeting. We told AL that next time it will be better for us if they convene such dialogue fixing up specific agenda."

BNP deadline

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Manzur murder

From Page 1

bail from the 1st court of Additional District and Session Judge, Dhaka. Only Major Kazi Emdadul Huq is yet to get bail in the case. Senior Advocate Khondker Mahbul Hossain assisted by Advocate Afzal Hossain and Zafar Imam moved for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed on behalf of the state opposed the bail. Lt General Manzur was killed following president Ziaur Rahman's killing in a coup in Chittagong Cantonment in 1981.

Jubo Dal general secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy was released from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday following Monday's High Court order, reports UNB. Roy was arrested alongwith three other BNP leaders - Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Abdul Mannan and Mirza Abbas - on the night of March 20 under Special Powers Act and given a one-month detention. But the High Court declared their detention orders illegal. The three other BNP leaders were released on Monday.

Advertisement for a political party with Bengali text: গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন, অকারণে গ্যাসের ব্যবহার কমানিয়ে রাখবেন না, রান্না ঘরে সবকিছের বাতাস সঞ্চালনের ব্যবস্থা রাখুন, আপনাকে প্রত্যক্ষভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের ক্ষতিসাধিত হোন, প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের অপব্যবহার রোধ করুন, গ্যাসের পবিত্র ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করুন. Includes contact info: ফোন: ৯৫৩০৩৩, ৯৫৩০৩৪, ৯৫৩০৩৫, ৯৫৩০৩৬ (দিবা রাত) and address: পিএবিএল ১১১৩৫-৪২, ৩০২/১/১৩৬-৩২, D-419.