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perfect hit with



RC COLA

Player of the match



Keith Arthurton

Inside Today

Article

"Women and a Society that Cares"

Column: Do I Dare by AZM Obajdullah Khan Page 4

Focus

ME Agreement: An Appraisal, John Forbes Nash: Paranoid and Schizophrenic but Nobel Laureate Page 5

Business

FICCI for BOI move to erase foreign investment irritants Pages 6

West Indies dump Pakistan

Rabeed Imam and Al-Amin

A highly disciplined West Indies team tamed a jittery and lacklustre Pakistan in a rather one-sided quarterfinal of the Wills International Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match petered into an anti-climatic fixture when Pakistan, chasing a formidable West Indies total of 289 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, could finish with 259 for nine, thanks to a smashing all-round display from Keith Arthurton, the busiest man on the field.

The veteran Antiguan, on a comeback trail, crafted a responsible 43-ball 33 and then ripped through the Pakistani batting line with a career-best bowling of four wickets for 31 runs. Arthurton, one of the top fielders, was later declared man of the match for his virtuoso performance.

The defeat of Aamir Sohail's side means they catch the next available flight back home. On the other hand, the solid ac-

complishment of Brian Lara's men put them up against India in the second semi-final tomorrow.

Lara probably took the cue from India's match against Australia and didn't hesitate to bat first upon winning the toss. The decision was more than justified as the two openers Philo Wallace and Stuart Williams were off to a flier in no time.

The onslaught started off in the very first over, that from Wasim Akram. Wallace, the belligerent Barbados skipper, hit a cross batted four off Akram's opening ball through the long

off. His next boundary followed immediately -- a pull past mid-wicket. The over yielded 14 runs -- including four leg byes.

Williams played a couple of delightful strokes before falling first with the score on 34. The stocky opener made 14 off 22 deliveries when, playing back to an Azhar Mahmood delivery, he was adjudged leg before wicket.

Wallace found a confident partner in Shivnarin Chandernepaul and the two treated the Pakistan bowlers with arrogance. The team total reached 100 in just 14 overs -- the fastest

See Page 12 Col 4

SIEMENS MINI WORLD CUP '98

Hearing Aid

BETTER HEARING IS BETTER LIVING

CRICKET UPDATES

A VIEW FROM THE GULLY

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Malaysian Palm Oil Helps to prevent cancer

MEIZAN brand palm oil is now available in the market



MALAYSIAN PALM OIL PROMOTION COUNCIL

If your main strike bowler loses his way in the opening spell without any pressure and if that bowler is as experienced, as talented and as lethal as Wasim Akram, then no one can save you from humiliation. The other one, Azhar Mahmood, another lively chap, was so unimaginative that he hurled his medium pacers on this flat track with all the strength at his command. The result was there for all to see.

The erratic opening attack was backed by equally sloppy fielding by the Pakistanis. Of course they are never known to be good fielders but praised by critics mainly for the bowling

See Page 12 Col 1



The Pakistan celebration after the fall of West Indies opener Stuart Williams turned sour when Selim Malik's "high fire" hand landed on Aamir Sohail's eye. —Star photo

Smart Sox
For Stylish Socks

Today's match

First semifinal
Sri Lanka vs South Africa
Time: 2 pm. Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

TOMORROW
Second semifinal
West Indies vs India
Time: 2 pm. Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PARC plans its course

By Shehab Ahmed

The Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) has suggested modernisation of the collection system of the utility companies.

This is necessary to ease the consumers' burden as well as stop pilferage, according to PARC.

Suggesting a one point collection system, it said the utility customers now facing hassles in paying their bills at different points, could be relieved without any cost to the authorities.

The PARC, at a meeting with its chief Shamsul Huq in the chair, also suggested that high-way police be reactivated. They exist on paper but in reality

See Page 12 Col 4

DESA had 167mw less than needed yesterday

By Staff Correspondent

The city and its adjoining areas and districts under the DESA power supply system experienced 167 megawatt of loadshedding from 4:40 pm to 9:05 pm yesterday.

Of the total, Dhaka Metropolitan area suffered a power shortage of 70 mw while the other areas 97 mw, DESA sources said.

The city's Satmasjid area suffered 8 mw of loadshedding, Mirpur 10 mw, Tejgaon 8 mw, Gulshan 12 mw and Uttara 4 mw. Tongi 10 mw, Gazipur 12 mw, Kaliganj 4 mw and Manikganj 12 mw -- all under the northern zone of DESA.

Under Southern zone of DESA, the city's Kamalapur suf-

See Page 12 Col 7

IMF okays \$138m emergency credit for Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: The International Monetary Fund has approved an emergency credit of 138 million dollars for Bangladesh to help it overcome the effects of devastating floods, the IMF announced here today, reports AFP.

The Fund predicted that floods which inundated three quarters of the country from mid-July to late September caused damage estimated at 1.6 per cent of gross domestic product, reflecting tax revenue loss and outlays for relief operations and rehabilitation.

The IMF commended Bangladesh for having made considerable progress over the last few years in stabilising and liberalising its economy.

China agrees to buy more from Bangladesh

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh has urged China to reduce a yawning trade gap by importing more, especially jute bags, and reducing tariff on other items during an annual consultation between the two countries yesterday.

"We have requested the Chinese to import more from us. They should buy more jute bags from us for which they have big demand," Foreign Secretary

Mustafizur Rahman told reporters after the meeting.

The Chinese delegation, led by Assistant Foreign Minister Wang Li, arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday for talks with Bangladesh side. Rahman led the Bangladesh team.

Rahman said the Chinese had agreed to help narrow the trade gap by favouring Bangladesh. China imports jute, leather, fertiliser, fish and traditional goods from Bangladesh.

In fiscal 1996-97, Bangladesh exports stood at only \$ 55.59 million against Chinese exports of \$ 700.25 million, Rahman said. Industrial goods, military hardware are among the major commodities Bangladesh buy from China.

A Chinese military delegation is also visiting Bangladesh, which would discuss the issue of the list of major arms and weapons Bangladesh uses for sending it to the United Nations, Rahman

said.

There is a protocol between the two countries, which provides for consultations on sending the list of armaments Beijing sells to Dhaka to a third party.

Bangladesh and China also signed an agreement under which Beijing would provide Dhaka three million Yuan (\$400,000) as grant to buy commodities.

A Chinese business delegation would visit Dhaka soon to discuss further Chinese investments, the foreign secretary said describing the business ties between the two countries as growing.

Both sides also discussed Chinese projects like a coal-fired thermal power station in northern Bangladesh, a di-ammonium phosphate fertiliser factory at Chittagong, another fertiliser factory at Sylhet and a power station at Khulna.

See Page 12 Col 3

Businessman stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was stabbed to death by some unidentified terrorists at Sonalbagh under Ramna thana last night.

Hospital sources identified the dead as Biplob, 28, son of Asadullah, a resident of Sonalbagh Wireless Gate. Biplob used to run a computer shop in the area.

Ramna police, however, could not confirm the incident till filing of this report late last night. Besides, the family of the dead could not guess the motive behind the killing.

According to his family members, an unidentified gang of terrorists entered Biplob's business shop adjacent to his residence at about 7.30 pm. They dragged him out of the shop, took him to a nearby lane and stabbed him in his abdomen.

Biplob was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition where the doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Hartal at Chuadanga Bullet-hit AL leader dies at hospital

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 29: District Awami League leader Ashabul Huq Asha, who was shot by terrorists here on Monday and undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital in the capital, died this morning, family sources said.

As the news spread, a day-long hartal was observed in the district today, protesting the killing. All offices and educational institutions remained close and no vehicle plied during the shutdown.

Members of Chuadanga Bar Association brought out a silent procession wearing black badges in the town in protest against the killing. Tension ran high in the town. No untoward incident, however, took place. Hundreds of people were seen waiting at the late leader's residence to have a last glimpse of the late leader.

His body is scheduled to arrive here tonight and he will be laid to rest tomorrow at a local graveyard. His namaj-e-janaza will be held at Town Hall football ground at 10 in the morning.

Two assailants shot Asha, joint secretary of district unit of Awami League, at point-blank range while he was jogging through the town's Hospital Road at about 6.30 am on Monday.

He was rushed to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital (IPGMR) the following day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who visited the ailing leader yesterday, expressed her deep shock at the death and termed the terrorist attack and killing as "unfortunate for a civil society."

She conveyed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

See Page 12 Col 3

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Urgent Notice on VAT

Sub: Regarding introduction of VAT clearance system in "Participatory Process" by deciding annual sales quantity in case of retail traders.

- The system of VAT has been introduced in Bangladesh in 1991. This tax has been made effective phasewise since 1996-97 financial year in case of retail traders of about 70 items.
- In consideration of the types & usual manners of retail trading, the "Participatory Process" has been introduced in 1998-99 financial year as an alternative system besides the existing system for easy assessment & clearance of tax in case of retail traders. You may take this opportunity of voluntary option to assess the amount of annual turnover & pay VAT in instalments.
- To decide the total sales quantity of any retail trading firm in the new system, a committee will be formed with the VAT officer of the respective area, representative of chamber of commerce & representative of the respective shopowners' association. Anyone willing to pay tax in the new system shall submit a declaration with description of his firm in a prescribed form to the VAT Officer. Later on, the committee will bring in consideration the information furnished in the declaration and finalise his amount of annual turnover for one year. Then the retail trader shall pay the prescribed VAT at the rate net 3% on the turnover so fixed for the year at a time or in four equal instalments through treasury challan.
- All are requested to take the opportunity of this easy straight & transparent system introduced for retail traders and thus discharge his citizen's responsibility in national revenue earning by becoming a regular taxpayer.
- For further detailed information in this regard including VAT registration, the nearest VAT office or the undermentioned phone numbers may be contacted.

First Secretary (VAT) Phone: 9333954
Second Secretary Phone: 406416, 412212
838120-6/226 838120-6/284, 275

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Crime control drive slows down in Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 29: The special crackdown launched in the port city by Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) six months ago to nab the alleged terrorists and extortionists has slowed down now, causing deterioration of law and order again, sources said.

The crackdown began in the city on April 14 this year following an order from the home minister during an emergency meeting held here in the backdrop of deterioration of law and order when there were incidents of killing of a jeweller, looting of shops, damaging vehicles on the road and extortion.

The minister had also announced that army and BDR would be called in if necessary to curb crimes in the port city.

However, talking to The Daily Star, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kamal Uddin Ahmed said that the law and order improved for sometime immediately after the crackdown. "But recently, it started deteriorating again as police activities seemed to have slowed down."

He said that incidents of looting and killing increased considerably in recent days. Meanwhile, CMP sources said that during the past six months of the crackdown around 300 were arrested, 70 of them identified criminals.

"We are now continuing the

See Page 12 Col 2

7 killed as bus falls into ditch in Sirajganj

By Staff Correspondent

Ten people were killed in road accidents in Sirajganj, Khagrachhari and Dhaka city yesterday.

At least seven people were killed and 35 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a rickshaw van at Sholomile on Bogra-Dhaka highway yesterday evening.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus met the accident at about 6pm leaving four bus passengers and three van passengers dead on the spot.

The dead van passenger were identified as Azad, 40, Malla Khatun, 60, and Moni, 5. All of them hailed from Daulatpur village of Raiganj thana.

A Khagrachhari report says, a woman was killed and 16 others were injured when a jeep fell into a roadside ditch at Choranchhari in Dighinala thana yesterday.

The dead was identified as Danabati Chakma (35). The injured were admitted to Khagrachhari sadar hospital.

A young man was killed when he fell under the wheels of a running train at Mohakhali railway crossing at about 11 am yesterday.

Hospital sources identified the dead as Touhidul Islam, 24, son of Anwar Hossain, a masters students of a private institute at Dhanmondi in the city. See Page 12 Col 8

TO-DAY, INSHA-ALLAH, GRAND OPENING

Amin Jewellers Ltd. announces grand opening of a new show - room on First floor of The City Corporation Market, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

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