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## Not a cheerful WC debut

From Page 1

sive Kiwi bowler over mid-wicket and then, in the very next ball, drove another Nash commoner behind the bowler. Little did the vibrant crowd realise then that the flurry was over and that their money's worth would only be paid back, partially however, by the tail-enders.

Cheered all the way, the experienced couple saw Bangladesh through to the 13th over with Fleming asking Chris Cairns to take over from Allott after the tenth. Then Aminul betrayed his position as captain, kept his feet firmly planted on the ground, and played a poor shot across the line of Cairns that zeroed in sharply on his middle stump.

Entered Gavin Larsen and Bangladesh lost another four wickets with the addition of only 13 runs.

The first to follow the captain was Akram Khan, who came down the pitch, and irresponsibly so, and handed Larsen a caught-and-bowled animation in a gift-wrap spiked with needles to some extent.

The next victim to Larsen's gentle pace that uncoils after an easy run-up was Khaled Masud, who opened the gate and paid for it.

Then Khaled Mahmud tested Cairns with a stinging return catch but, to make sure he be-

came the New Zealanders second scalp, the Bangladesh vice-captain lifted a full toss in the following delivery to Roger Twose at short cover. Rafique, his recent poor form oversteering, was more generous to Cairns: one-ball leg-before and the tousled-hair bowler were on a hat trick. Cairns denied him the honours by bowling a no.

Then came the biggest partnership of the Bangladesh innings. Enamul Haque, in the team as a spinner, and Naimur Rahman shared a 34-run eighth-wicket grind as the score crawled to the 100-mark. Halfway through their allotment of 50 overs, Bangladesh were seven down.

Fifteen runs short of it, Naimur Rahman was adjudged leg-before to a Larsen delivery. Enamul, who hit the longest four in the innings, one-drop behind third man, lasted another 11 runs before being deceived by a Harris delivery that did not turn. Bangladesh were still four short of the century with a wicket in hand.

The Bangladesh 100 came from a towering six by No 10 Hasibul Hossain off Cairns that was bound over the long-off boundary with consummate ease. That over was Bangladesh's best with Hasibul cracking a four off Cairn's last.

The Bangladesh innings came to an abrupt halt after

much dilly-dally when Hasibul tried to get off the way of an Allott full toss that found Home at mid-wicket. The early winding-up allowed the New Zealanders to bat for seven overs before lunch.

The Bangladesh bowlers did quite a job but, unfortunately, there were not enough runs on the board to defend.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of New Zealand innings in the World Cup group B match against Bangladesh on Monday.

**NEW ZEALAND:**  
M Home lbw b Naimur 35  
N Astle c Islam b Monjurul 4  
C McMillan c Rahman b Hasibul 20  
S Fleming c Mashud b Rafique 16  
R Twose not out 30  
C Cairns not out 7  
Extras (lb, wd) 5  
Total (for 4 wickets, 33 overs) 117  
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-33, 3-78, 4-105

Did not bat: A. Parore, C. Harris, D. Nash, G. Larsen, G. Allott

**Bowling:**  
Hasibul 10 2 33 1  
Monjurul 8 3 23 1  
Khaled 7 2 12 0  
Enamul 3 0 21 0  
Rafique 3 0 22 1  
Naimur 2 0 5 1



Bangladesh Teachers' Association yesterday brought out a procession in the city to press home its 14-point demand. — Star photo

## Normal monsoon this yr, hope weathermen

By Shehab Ahmed

The pre-monsoon rains washing the country more than a month ago have set the stage for a good and timely monsoon from early June.

Meteorologists said 'advance elements' of the monsoon have already started arriving near the Bay of Bengal, and are likely to be in Bangladesh from the first week of next month.

"We are expecting a normal monsoon this year despite some abnormalities preceding it", Meteorologist Sajedur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, declined to describe as 'drought' the situation during December to March when rainfall in the country averaged only 76 mm as against 900-1000 mm required for the Boro season.

Sajedur said the monsoon is likely to be normal unless something goes wrong with the 'weather system'.

There have been abnormalities in the weather so far this year. In April there had not been many norwesters which normally trigger rains in the afternoon, he pointed out.

"The current spell of rains are due to norwesters which usually break in the morning. But lack of high temperature during the day had been the key reason that the norwesters could not gain energy, leaving a mild weather during the past few days," the meteorologist said.

## Prepare for upazila polls

From Page 1

Salam Khan, Krishak League general secretary Harunur Rashid, Secchhasebak League convenor Alhaj Moqbul Hossain MP, Mohila League secretary Ivy Rahman and Chhatra League president Bahadur Bepari also greeted the prime minister with flowers.

Recalling her exiled life in Europe and India, Sheikh Hasina said, "I had always missed my people and carried with me horrifying experiences and agonies for six years."

Despite all odds and obstacles in exile, the prime minister said that she had continued organisational activities abroad. "I went to London from Germany in 1980 and organised the party fronts and moulded world opinion against the brutal killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu."

She said an enquiry commission was formed with British lawmaker Peter Shore and Nobel laureate McBridge to investigate the Bangabandhu killing. "But the then government of General Zia did not allow the team to visit Bangladesh."

The prime minister said on return home, she had consistently been trying to restore democratic government by bringing an end to military regime. She said there had been 18 coups against the Zia government.

She said thousands of soldiers were killed without trial to consolidate General Zia's power. "There was no chain of command in army," she said. "The country was ruled through clamping curfew."

The prime minister said that after the killing of General Zia, BNP had handed over power to General Ershad ignoring the constitutional means, which she had been consistently demanding.

After the taking over of power by General Ershad, she was the first person to denounce martial law, saying that development of common people was not possible without democracy.

After huge sacrifices and long struggles, Awami League ultimately restored democracy and voting rights of the people, she said.

The prime minister said some forces might try to tarnish the image of her party being jealous of the achievements of the government. She asked the party leaders and workers to remain vigilant against such move.

## Tk 7 lakh snatched from Janakantha official

By Staff Correspondent

Miscreants snatched away Tk seven lakh from an official of The Daily Janakantha inside a bank at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police said the official went to the bank to deposit money. The incident took place when he was counting the money putting his briefcase by his side at the bank counter. At one stage the miscreants snatched the briefcase and fled the scene. A case was lodged with Motijheel thana in this connection.

## A view from the gully

From Page 1

The only difference is that the locals take less time than the foreigners. Unless one has personal experience it is quite difficult to make him understand or appreciate this vital aspect of cricket in England.

An overcast sky, a temperature in the vicinity of 15 degrees Celsius, a hard wicket and soft, lushgreen outfield is typical of English atmosphere during the month of May. The southwest town of Bristol hosted this important opener for two of the most charismatic teams of the tournament before a capacity crowd that was mostly comprised of expatriate Pakistanis.

A toss is always important in a cricket match and having achieved success in calling correctly he sent a bunch of short on practice somnambulists to face Ambrose and Walsh, the two most experienced, accurate, intelligent and expert bowlers in English conditions. The result was atrocious. Before the sleepwalkers could open their eyelids almost half the side was back at home, mercifully unhurt. And the progress better be forgotten. The inclusion and promotion of one Abdur Razzaq remained a misty until the 19-year-old scalded BC Lara, RD Jacobs and finally CEL Ambrose later in the day. If he was good at bowling why should he have preceded Ijaz, Inzamam and Youhana as a fodder for Dillon. This was certainly no occasion for experimentation. The lower middle-order by now was warm enough to freely move their limbs and the picnic of Walsh and Dillon suddenly hit snag and time to rejoice for the Pakistanis arrived. In the absence of the genuine fifth bowler Lara found himself on the sidelines. Keith Arthurton left for the hospital with injury and Pakistanis were in business against the part-timers, the charge being led by the skipper himself. With an overdose of extras, Pakistan reached a fighting total. West Indians must be ruing the sudden retirement of the experienced all-rounder Carl Hooper who would have been the most natural choice for the game on Monday. Lara must be a worried man. He will have to rethink his strategies for the rest of the matches. The extra bowlers conceded 83 runs in 10 overs.

With a tail as long as the 'cheeta' and a suspect top order, the task of scoring the required runs was difficult against an attack that was as potent and varied. Shoaib Akhtar's sheer speed was awesome and in such a situation Lara's early departure made the team look like orphans. It was very irresponsible of the captain to have tried to play shots early in the innings without being under particular pressure. All the good work done by the bowlers and Chandrapaul went in vain. Both teams were in chaotic situation created by themselves — Pakistan in batting West Indies in bowling.

The icing on the cake came from the umpires who goofed up when it came to TV replays. Once no replay was called for and on another occasion the footage was missing. And Dillon was bowled by Saqlain the umpires did not call for a replay. Between them they created a total chaos.

The bodies were handed over to their families after autopsy at the local hospital.

## Grand rally

From Page 1

The DCC said some 2.75 acres of land have been selected for the proposed centre where the number of trees is 410. Plans are already there to plant more trees and develop flower garden around the conference centre for its beautification and environmental reasons, it said.

The statement also rejected newspaper editorials, letters and comments "taunting" the Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif in line with the reports.

It said the DCC in the past several years planted more than 10,000 trees and earned several national level awards for the activity.

## Hasina to visit Gopalganj, Bagerhat today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Gopalganj and Bagerhat districts today officials said, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister will open the newly constructed Kotlipara Rest House and Ghagor Bridge, and lay the foundation stone of Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation Centre at Kotlipara. She will address a public meeting there.

Later the prime minister will inaugurate the Chitolmari Thana Health Complex in Bagerhat. She will also address a public meeting there.

## Prisoner beaten to death

From A Correspondent.

BARISAL, May 17: A prisoner of the Pirojpur district jail was beaten to death yesterday evening allegedly by other prisoners of the jail.

Afzal Sheikh, 70, of Chaltakhal village under Sikder Mallik union of Pirojpur district who was also an accused in a murder case, was jailed some days ago, sources said.

They said the killers conspired with the jail guards to kill Afzal.

## 10 hurt in clash Shibir enforces hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 17: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was enforced by pro-Islam student front Islami Chhatra Shibir here today.

Shibir gave the call for today's hartal in protest against the killing of its leader Jubair Hossain on Chittagong University campus on May 15.

Road communication between Chittagong and other parts of the country remained snapped during hartal as all kinds of vehicles except few rickshaws stayed off the roads and highways here.

Most of the shops and markets were closed while the offices functioned with thin attendance.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended due to lack of transports during the hartal though cargo handling inside the jetties took place, port sources said.

UNB adds: At least 10 people suffered bullet injury in a clash between pro and anti-hartal supporters in the city.

Police said Shah Alam, a pedestrian, and nine other people received bullet injury during the clash near No 2 gate at Sholahshah at about 12:30 pm. Shah Alam was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while others were taken to private clinics to avoid police harassment.

## Armed hoodlums attack house at Gulbagh

By Staff Correspondent

Armed hoodlums fired at least 25 shots and tried to enter a house at Gulbagh under Motijheel thana in the city Sunday night, police said today.

None of the inmates was injured. Witnesses claimed that a gang of about 20, led by one Sumon, attacked the house but retreated when the inmates' screams drew people nearby. The miscreants beat some people on the street while fleeing, they said.

Local people also claimed that street lights in the area went off during the attack. The owner of the house is the sister of Col. SHM Nazrul Islam, Director Administration of Bangladesh Ansar, who filed a case with Motijheel thana in this connection.

Police also said that Col. Islam was shot at by the same gang while he was driving his vehicle at Gulbagh earlier on April 16.

## 4 electrocuted in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 17: Four employees of Polly Biddut Samity were electrocuted at Kuralia village under the Sadar thana yesterday while giving electricity connection to some houses, police said.

The victims are Shahjahan Ali, 35, Siraj 25, Shaheb Ali, 25 and Lalmiah, 25. The bodies were handed over to their families after autopsy at the local hospital.

## Grand rally

From Page 1

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The statement also rejected newspaper editorials, letters and comments "taunting" the Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif in line with the reports.

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## Sonia quits Cong

From Page 1

Sharad Pawar, former parliament speaker Purno Sangma and senior leader Tariq Anwar led a revolt at the weekend, saying the party must move to amend the country's constitution so that only Indian-born citizens could hold the offices of president, vice-president or prime minister.

The bombshell came as Sonia, who took over the ailing centrist party's presidency last year, was preparing to lead it to mid-term general elections scheduled for September-October against its arch-rival, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose coalition government lost a confidence vote in parliament last month.

The BJP and Hindu groups close to it have been leading criticism that India should not be led by a foreign-born person. There was no immediate official confirmation of Star TV's report. Press Trust of India reported that Sonia left the CWC meeting midway through.

Star Television later reported that the Congress Working Committee had rejected Sonia's letter of resignation.

Witnesses at the Congress party headquarters said a three-member team of the working committee left for Sonia's home next door. In what appeared to be an initiative to persuade her to stay on as party chief.

Earlier, Congress said today that three top members who have rebelled against Sonia's leadership of the party were isolated and would have to apologise or quit.

"They (the rebels) are totally isolated," Congress spokesman Ajit Jogi said. "Either they will have to apologise or they will have to go," he told Reuters ahead of the 4:00 pm (10:30 GMT) meeting.

"We cannot afford to be lenient at this stage," Jogi said, referring to elections scheduled for September.

PTI adds: Former president Sitaram Kesri and a number of Congress Working Committee members yesterday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi separately and are understood to have expressed their faith in her leadership.

Manmohan Singh, Rajesh Pilot, Mahesh Patel, Pranab Mukherjee, A K Anthony, Arjun Singh, Madhava Scindia, R K Dhawan, Gulam Nabi Azad, Balram Jakhar and Shivraj Patil and Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit were, among others, who met Sonia and expressed their faith in her leadership, party sources said.

## Liquor disaster

### Time for report extended again

NARSINGDI, May 17: The inquiry committee formed to investigate the Narsingdi liquor disaster sought seven days more to submit its report, reports UNB.

Committee chairman Additional Deputy Commissioner Bijoy Kanti Sarkar said the time is needed to complete various process of investigation including examination of viscera reports.

They Deputy Commissioner approved the time, the third such extension, for submitting the report.

Police said they are continuing their investigation but little progress had been made.

## Acid thrown on 2 sisters, grandma

Two sisters and their grandmother suffered critical burn injuries when unidentified hoodlums threw acid on them in their sleeps in Comilla Sunday night, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Anwara 22, and Matlaha Khatun, and their grandmother Harenessa 65, of Batakandi village in Daudkandi thana.

## Confucious

From Page 1

Any team can have a bad day on the field. But matters should not be compounded by the kind of thoroughly inept batting that was displayed by each and every member of the side. When a side is put into bat, it obviously implies that the bowling side has specific goals to achieve. The object of the whole exercise is to deny them that privilege. Bangladesh played into the trap, committing hara-kiri with abandon. I refuse to believe that the Bangladesh team is incapable of a more sensible approach to batting, than what was put on display.

It is inconceivable that the team management, as well as the captain, are not aware of one basic fact. The team has a most inexperienced pair of opening batsmen, not likely to adjust to English conditions on a hurry. The onus is on the middle order to provide the bat-stability, to last at least the full quota of overs. How is it possible that the two most experienced batsmen in the side decided to get out the way they did? Especially since they had done the hard work and weathered the early storm. There is really little left in the game when a batting side decides to gift its wickets, happy to be troubled out with almost a quarter of the innings still remaining.

It is immaterial how well one bowls defending a total that is meant to be achieved at less than two runs per over. New Zealand wanted to stay as long as possible, because no side wants to give up a free ticket for batting practice. The wickets they lost were out of boredom.

Cricket, especially the one-day variety, is a batsman's game. Bangladesh must come to terms with this fact. There is a method and an approach to batting all fifty overs. After the Meril Cup in Dhaka, nothing seems to have changed. Sad to say, the only performances of the day worth mentioning were those of the die-hard Bangladeshis fans. There was a bitter pill to swallow, for their did want more.

Admittedly, cricket is a funny game. Let's not make it any funnier still, when we play it.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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## Canada to back Dhaka's bid for berth in UNSC

Canada has assured Bangladesh of lending support to Dhaka's bid for a berth in the Security Council in 2001, reports APB.

The assurance came at the talks between visiting Canadian Secretary of State for Asia and Pacific Raymond Chan and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury in the capital yesterday.

During the talks, the two sides also reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

The Canadian side lauded CHT peace accord and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's role in diffusing tension in the sub-continent following series of nuclear tests by India and Pakistan.

Bangladesh was also appreciated for signing Anti-personal Land Mine Treaty.

The Canadian Secretary of State responded positively to a request by Dhaka to continue his country's development assistance for Bangladesh's progress and uplift.

He assured that the proposal for increasing quota of Bangladeshi garments in Canada would receive due consideration.

## Sec 144 mars Ershad's public meeting in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, May 17: Imposition of Section 144 marred the public meeting of Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad this afternoon at Fulbaria Pilot High School ground, reports UNB.

Local Administration imposed the ban to avoid clash with splinter group of JP (M-M) which announced public meeting at the same venue, same time whipping up tension in the area.

Shifting the venue of public meeting to Goruhata, Ershad told the audience that they embarked on the road march to mobilise support for early election under caretaker administration because of misdeeds and failures of the government.

The JP long march today started from the Circuit House at 11 am and the party leaders addressed wayside meetings at 10 places in Muktagachha and Fulbaria.

Ershad was critical of the government for deteriorating law and order situation, repression on the opponents, high price of essentials and mounting unemployment.

He said he did not expect ban on his public meeting at pilot high school premises.



Government employees of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University brought out a procession in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## PARC proposal approved

The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for implementing some recommendations made by the Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC), reports UNB.

It was approved at a regular weekly meeting of the cabinet at the MP's office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

A proposal for amending the National Housing Policy was also endorsed by the Cabinet.

It also approved a raise in the honorarium and allowances of the Chairman and members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission.

## Get ready for a march

From Page 1

thousands of people waited at various points. At places, the convoy of vehicles she was leading was slowed as enthusiastic people crowded to have a glimpse of her. She waived at the slogan-chanting people.

UNB adds: She urged the people to join the current agitation to hasten the fall of the government. "The country would plunge into a state of terrible disaster, if the government hangs on to power," Khaleda told the crowds.

BNP leaders Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Moudud Ahmed were among others who also addressed the wayside meetings.

Khaleda blasted the government for what she said handing over one-tenth of the territory of Bangladesh to Santu Larma and said: "The country and the people would be destroyed if the government clings to power."

She will make night halt in Dinajpur and start her final day's campaign towards Panchagarh at 11 am today.

As the BNP chief drove along the Bogra-Dinajpur highway,