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## Not a cheerful WC debut

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came the New Zealanders second scalp, the Bangladesh vice-captain lifted a full toss in the deliverying to Roger Tye at short cover. Rafique, his recent poor form overstepping, 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 Hoque, 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 seen over the long-off boundary with consummate ease. That over was Bangladesh's best with Hasibul cracking a four of Cairns's last.

The Bangladesh innings came to an abrupt halt after

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

### 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 Kanit Sarkar said the time is needed to complete various process of investigation including examination of viscera reports.

Their 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 sleep in Comilla Sunday night, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Anwara, 22, and Matiara Khatun, and their grandmother Iffareen 65, of Batakan village in Daudkandi thana.

### Confucious

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Any team can have a bad day in 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 nara-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 batting with the momentum and 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 bundled 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.

Crickets, 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 Merit 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 Bangladeshi fans. Theirs 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.

#### 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: Implementation of Section 144 marred the public meeting of Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad this afternoon at Fulbari Pilot High School ground, reports UNB.

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#### Normal monsoon this yr, hope weathermen

By Shehab Ahmed

The pre-monsoon rains washing the country more than what had been predicted for the current month are setting 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 nor'westers which normally trigger rains in the afternoon, he pointed out.

The current spell of rains are due to 'nor'westers which usually break in the morning.

But lack of high temperature during the day had been the key reason that the nor'westers could not gain energy, leaving a mild weather during the past few days, the meteorologist said.

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

The prime minister said 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 un-hurt. And the progress better be forgotten. The inclusion and promotion of one Abdur Razzaq remained a mystery until the 19-year-old scalped BC Lara, RD Jacobs and finally CEM 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 a spot. 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.

Khaleda Zia came down heavily on the government for 'repression' on her party.

In its three years in power, the government remained busy propagating against BNP, implicating our party men with false charges and oppressing them in many ways.

She addressed at the central bus terminal and Mokamkota in Bogra, Govindaganj High School ground in Gaibandha, Chorahat playground and Baraniganj Bazar, Bhadruria, Birampur Eidgah field, Fulbaria, Ambari Bazar and Amtolbazar in Dinajpur.

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

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 waved 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.'

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In its three years in power, the government remained busy propagating against BNP, implicating our party men with false charges and oppressing them in many ways.

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 Panagarh at 11 am today.

With a tail as long as the 'cheeta' and a suspect top order,



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

— Star photo

10 hurt in clash  
Shibir enforces  
hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

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

Shibir gave the call for today's hartal in protest against the killing of its leader Jafair 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.

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 the Ishwarganj bus stand.

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 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

By Staff Correspondent

Miscreants snatched away Tk 7 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.

#### Prepare for upazila polls

From Page 1

Salam Khan, Krishak League general secretary Harunur Rashid, Sechchhasebak League convenor Alhaj Moqbul Hossain MP, Mohila League secretary Ily Raham 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 McBride to investigate the Bangabandhu killing. 'But the then government of General Zia did not allow the team to visit the Boro season.'

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 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.

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