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## Opposition MPs march thru' city streets today

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition lawmakers will march through city streets today to protest government acts of 'harassment' on them, including arrests of some and filings of cases on 'false charges' against others.

MPs belonging to BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami have planned their marches from separate spots at different times. They all will however end their marches at the Jatiya Press Club.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will lead the BNP procession from in front of the party's central office in Naya Paltan at 1am. It will pass through Fakirpore, Dainik Bangla intersection, Baitul Mukarram north gate, Purana Paltan crossing and Topkhana Road before ending at Press Club, said party press release last night. Party workers are expected to gather on both sides of the roads the MPs are due to pass through.

The BNP lawmakers have been requested to be present at the party central office by 10.30am.

Khaleda Zia is likely to speak before or after her party's march to announce a fresh course of agitation, said a

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## BAPEX MD, 8 Titus Gas officials suspended

Star Report

Eight high officials of Titus Gas and the Managing Director of BAPEX were suspended yesterday on charges of corruption involving Tk 20 crores.

Delwar Bakht, a Titus General Manager, was however relieved of charges by the authorities yesterday.

A three-member probe committee headed by Joint Secretary of the Energy Ministry earlier found former Managing Director of Titus who is now the MD of BAPEX and nine high officials of Titus involved in providing costly gas connections through illegal means.

The nine officials were BAPEX MD Maj (retd) Muktadir Ali, Titus General Managers — Delwar Bakht, MM Talukder, MA Mannan and AKM Rais Siddiqui, and Deputy General Managers — Khalid Hasan, Mohammad Asabuddin, Kawser Azizur Rahman, Manzurul Haq and Shafiq Azam.

Following the probe report, State Minister for Energy Prof Rafiqul Islam instructed Petrobangla and Titus authorities to suspend the accused officials. However, sources said that he was repeatedly advised by the ministry officials about possible repercussions of this decision.

Sources said that the officers and engineers of Titus Gas protested the move and gheraoed the office of Titus Gas MD. But they were dispersed with the help of union activists' of Titus Gas.

## Inside Today

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## The Taming of the Press in Pakistan

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## Business

BFEEA seeks 100 acres of land on long-term lease

APEC businessmen for pulling down trade barriers faster

DSE, CSE price quotations

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## Prayer Timings

May 24

|         | Azan  | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fair    | 4-15  | 4-20   |
| Zohr    | 12-45 | 1-30   |
| Asr     | 4-45  | 4-55   |
| Maghrib | 6-40  | 6-43   |
| Esha    | 7-40  | 8-10   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Power sector crisis 'Management inefficiency largely responsible'

By Staff Correspondent

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury yesterday said inefficient management in the power sector was largely responsible for the present power crisis.

He told a seminar in the city that the present power crisis could be drastically improved by increasing managerial efficiency and load management.

Dr Towfiq presented three separate charts of daily power consumption of three consecutive years and said power demand in peak hours could be reduced by a great degree by controlling power demand load. Peak demand could be spread throughout the day so that the demand curve could be made as flat as possible, he added.

He was presenting a key-note paper on "Bangladesh's Power Situation: Problems and Responses" organised by the Cen-

tre for Policy Dialogue at its office yesterday. Government officials and public representatives were present at the dialogue moderated by CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan.

Dr Towfiq noted that other present problems of the power sector included power relay coordination, inability of the PDB to shut down various power plants needing rehabilitation as there was a constant demand pressure, lack of reserve power or excess power capacity to ensure stable supply and a lack of balance growth of power sub-sectors.

Above all, fund crisis remains the biggest constraint in this sector for nearly a decade now," he said.

The discussion was participated by former energy minister and minister for Science and Technology Noor Uddin Khan, Principal Secretary to

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## 20000 die during child birth every year in Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

About 20,000 women die every year in Bangladesh due to delivery-related complications, which is one of the highest in the world.

The main reasons behind the deaths are excessive bleeding, obstructed labour, sepsis, abortion and eclampsia.

This was revealed in a recent Unicef study. The study said there are about 600,000 complicated delivery cases a year, 90 per cent of which are conducted at home by untrained birth attendants. It also said that services for the management of complications were inadequate and underutilised in the country.

About four million women give birth every year, 60 per cent of whom are anaemic and malnourished.

The study also said about 30 to 50 per cent of the new-born babies have low birth weight — less than 2.5 kilogram. Of every 1000 babies born alive, 12 die within hours of birth, with

behavioural change and development, involvement of professional bodies and participation of stakeholders.

"It is not just a health issue but social development issue as well," Yasmin Ali, a Unicef consultant, told The Daily Star.

"Three delays can kill mothers — delay in taking decision to seek medical care, delay in reaching medical facility and delay in receiving quality care at the facility."

"What we aim to do is address all these problems for the pregnant women..." she said.

The programme also aims to create awareness regarding situations that require medical intervention and motivation to utilise facilities.

One of the main focuses of the programme is to provide access to EOC. "Without EOC mortality rate cannot be reduced,"

said Professor Khalilur Rahman of DMCH who is also a supervisor of the training pro-

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## Hundreds join human chain Vow to save the Udyan

By Special Correspondent

A human chain was formed by a large number of people at Osmany Udyan yesterday in a symbolic protest to save the wooded park, the only open space between the new and old Dhaka.

The park has been chosen as the site for the planned Bangabandhu Convention Centre for the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) summit in 2001.

The human chain was organised by "Save the 11,000 trees at Osmany Udyan Move-

ment", a campaign led by Dhaka University Professor Sirajul Islam Choudhury.

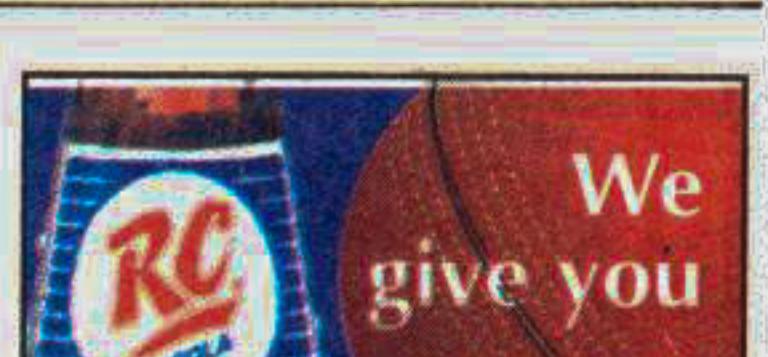
Academics, poets, writers, journalists, environmentalists, doctors, politicians and students along with other professionals locked hands with ordinary people around the trees at the park with a vow to save the greenery.

In an emotion-choked voice, Professor Choudhury welcomed the people who joined their

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—Star photo



## TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh vs Scotland  
Venue: Edinburgh  
Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

West Indies vs New Zealand  
Venue: Southampton  
Live Coverage: Star Sports (3:45 pm)

## TOMORROW'S MATCH

England vs Zimbabwe  
Venue: Trent Bridge  
Live Coverage: BTV and Star Sports (3:45 pm)

## INZAMAMUL HAQ

(Pakistan)  
Man of the Match  
Australia vs Pakistan

## India trounce Kenya by 94 runs

## Tendulkar's terrific ton

BRISTOL, England. May 23: A jet-lagged and grieving Sachin Tendulkar smashed an unbeaten 140 off 101 balls as India trounced Kenya by 94 runs here on Sunday to keep their World Cup hopes alive, reports AFP.

Tendulkar, who rejoined his team-mates 24 hours earlier after attending his father's funeral in Bombay, shared a record World Cup stand of 237 with Rahul Dravid, who remained unbeaten on 104.

The pair added 102 in the last 10 overs as India, needing a win to stay in contention after two successive defeats, piled up their highest one-day score of 329 for two.

Seamer Debashish Mohanty, playing his first match of the tournament, then claimed a career-best haul of four for 56 as Kenya were restricted to 235 for seven.

India must, however, still defend reigning champions Sri Lanka on Wednesday and hosts England on Saturday in their last two group A matches to qualify for the Super Six second round.

Tendulkar had said his mother wanted him to return to salvage India's World Cup campaign and he did just that when he came in at number four to hit 16 boundaries and three sixes in his 22nd one-day century.

He completed the emotional innings with a six before walking off to a standing ovation from a sell-out crowd of 8,500 at the Nevil Road ground.

The 26-year-old, sorely missed in India's three-run defeat at Zimbabwe's hands on Wednesday, had also received a warm greeting as he

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— AFP photo

## A view from the Gully

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The Rolls Royce carrying the hopes of the inventors of cricket on a smooth ride suddenly bumped into a roadblock. A full-grown African lion was leisurely stretched on that picturesque road that led to the safari park just round the bend. By the time the occupants of the comfortable coach woke up from their sweet dreams, it was almost over, at least for the time being.

Even allowing for a liberal percentage of human error factor, it must be said in all fairness that the decisions coming in quick succession, against Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain, were a bit harsh. Umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan of India, normally known as an astute judge of the proceedings on the field and a former test player (off spinner) of repute, was unlikely, in more ways

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## Pakistan beat Australia in drama-packed tie

HEADLINGEY, May 23: Australia's World Cup hopes were in tatters today as they went down in a drama-packed match with Pakistan by 10 runs, reports AFP.

A second consecutive defeat for Steve Waugh's highly-rated side left them tottering on the brink of a first-round exit.

Pakistan, meanwhile, ominously impressive, made it three wins in a row in group B and can now prepare for the next stage of the tournament.

Inzamamul Haq, with 81, and some ferocious late-order

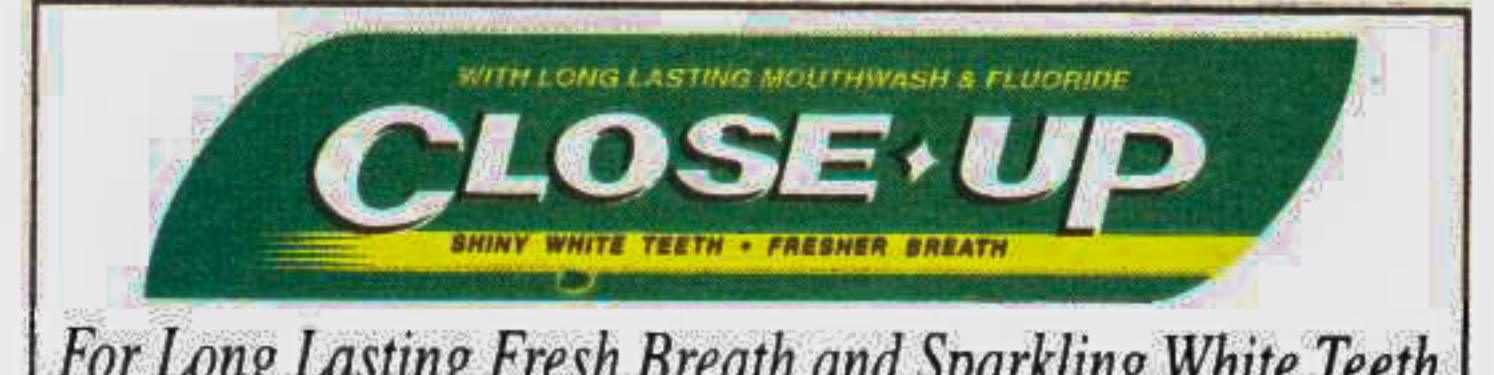
hitting saw Pakistan recover from 46 for three to make 275 for eight after being put in.

Australia, however, took the game to the final over before Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram sealed the game with two wickets. Akram ended with four for 40.

Australia, after losing pinch-hitter Adam Gilchrist third ball and then suffering a top-order collapse, had gone down fighting.

Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan came together at 101 for

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