

Over 3 million customers depend on FedEx everyday for timely and reliable delivery of their packages and freight to 211 countries worldwide.
You will get the same level of world-class service here at **FedEx**

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licence of Federal Express corporation 95, Motijheel C.A. Dhaka-1000. E-mail: banex@bangla.net Internet: http://www.fedex.com
For Customer Service details, please dial:
Dhaka (880-2) 9555114, 9884851, 9883927, 984213, 9130647, 9338931, 9345261, 9667462, 808803, 863896, 9010493
Chittagong (880-31) 712127, 724823, 724823, CEPZ 740108 Narayanganj (880-2) 9714336, Khulna (880-41) 725008

Watch World Cup Cricket'99
live on **PHILIPS** Television.
Instalment facility available

Dhaka: 815307-10 Chittagong: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better
PHILIPS

Cong alleges plot to assassinate Sonia

NEW DELHI, May 23: The Congress Party today alleged that a 'fascist clique' plans to assassinate Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, reports AP.

Federal Home Minister L. K. Advani, who oversees security, ordered secret service and police to enhance her security. He asked them to be vigilant against militants and others trying to disrupt the upcoming general elections by 'precipitating some tragedy'. Press Trust of India news agency said.

At a news conference here, Congress leader Arjun Singh refused to identify the potential assassins. He said the 'same fascist clique' that assassinated Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in 1948, 'is now trying to target Sonia Gandhi through a 'diabolical plot', domestic news agencies reported.

Congress leaders, including Singh, met with the president and the prime minister Saturday to give details of the alleged plan, the reports said.

Singh quoted Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as saying that he was aware of 'certain plots that are being made in this connection', the reports said.

Mohandas Gandhi, popularly known as the Mahatma, or Great Soul, is not related to Sonia Gandhi. He led the Indian Independence movement against British colonialists.

Sonia, who married into the Nehru-Gandhi family in 1968 and entered politics last year, has come under attack for trying to become prime minister despite her foreign birth.

The controversy was first raked up by the ruling Hindu nationalists. Sonia resigned on May 17 after the charge was echoed by three leaders of her own Congress Party.

Moni Begum

From Page 1

tivist for seven days.

The court also asked the aforesaid not to harass or arrest her during the period.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice KM Hasan and Justice Md Abdul Quddus also fixed May 26 for hearing on the writ petition filed by Moni Begum.

It was stated in the writ petition that after May 11 last police raided her house several times, attempted to arrest her and is taking steps to file false case against her.

On May 11, during the oppositions' hartal, Moni Begum was harassed by the police who almost took off her saree.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed moved from Moni Begum, while DAC Mamotazuddin Ahmed represented the government.

A view from the Gully

From Page 1

than one to have delivered those two vital decisions that had far-reaching effect on the match.

The Oval is a principal cricketing centre in England. Situated in the southern part of London, this ground has a history which dates back to 1550. The Wisden says: No county can boast a longer or richer history — mention of the game at Guildford goes back to 1550 — and The Oval, once a 10-acre market garden, has an honoured place ever since it staged the first home Test against Australia in 1880. The sight of a packed house at The Oval on a great occasion, a Jack Hobbs-Tom Hayward first-wicket stand, Peter May in full attacking flight, a bowling burst from Tom Richardson, overs from Alec Bedser, Jim Laker and Co and the fielding during those incredible seven championship seasons would have excelled all expectation. Here on this ground Len Hutton scored his record-breaking 364 against Australia in 1938 that stood as a record till 1958.

But that was not so, exactly. The house was full, the crowd was partisan (naturally), the weather magnificent and expectations were high (naturally). Even the final of the FA Cup (another popular game properly codified and choreographed by the same nation) could not detract the interest of the crowd at The Oval.

Stewart followed his dotted path as South Africans built on Kirsten and young Gibbs till the Nelson appeared. As it generally happens after such a good beginning, the middle-order caved in against Mullally.

Flintoff and Gough. But the South African southpaw Lance Klusener caught the English bowling by the scruff of the neck and with able support from Boucher hammered more than a run-a-ball to put his side in a respectable position and claimed his second MOM medal in the process. These South Africans must be tougher than they appear. Cronje and Woolmer's claims of producing one or two tricks out of their sleeves are becoming too hot to handle. First the earphone and then the batting order — bowling and fielding have always been their strong points.

Despite Klusener the English bowlers did extremely well to restrict their opponents to a modest total but this World Cup has produced only three innings that surpassed the two hundred and fifty mark in 14 matches till Saturday. Obviously we may not see many high-scoring matches in these conditions, but the two shock-decisions at the start of the match followed by vicious and mean bowling by Donald, Pollock, and Co and backed by superlative fielding prepared a smooth early landing for England that eventually resulted in a huge defeat for them.

Champions Sri Lanka kept their chances alive for a 'Super Six' berth by a shaky win against Zimbabwe who have two wins from their three matches. But once again their main batsmen failed to score. This is not a good sign for them. With Muralitharan more economic than wicket-taking, they will have to depend on their scoring ability rather than going for the kill.

Bangladesh

From Page 1

Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam exuded confidence when he said, "We have to win tomorrow. This was the only match that we have been aiming for. If we can score runs, we will win tomorrow."

The skipper also said that there might be a change in the opening pair for tomorrow's match.

"Akram was not comfortable to go in at number three. We will most probably name Faruque for that spot," he added.

The move will see both Akram and Aminul sliding a notch lower in the batting order.

Tanveer and Aminul are part of a five-man group that makes the final selection of the team before every match. Included in the decision-making process was coach Gordon Greenidge, vice-captain Khaled Mahmud and physio Allan Hunt.

Tanveer added that he also discussed selection, match condition and the team's strategy with senior members of the team. All in all, the mood among the players was one of positive thinking and mutual encouragement.

Defending the somewhat criticised decision of Bangladesh to bat first at Clontarf, Dublin under blustery conditions when the West Indian pacers were likely to get support, Tanveer said, "The wicket was hard and although there was wind, the wicket was not misbehaving."

Anticipating that Edinburgh would prepare a seaming wicket for the Scottish side is packed with seamers, Bangladesh would 'opt to bat second' if Aminul called the coin correctly. This also showed Tanveer's confidence in

Bangladesh's own Manjulur and Hasibul. However, the final decision would depend on the match day's weather and the condition of the wicket in the morning.

"But then they may not have experts to prepare a pitch according to their strength," Tanveer commented about the unknown terrain. According to press reports, however, the Edinburgh wicket was 'low and slow'. If, however, Bangladesh did have to bat first, Tanveer said that his team's target was to score 230 to 240 runs.

Human chain

From Page 1

hands for the first such citizens movement.

"We must take a vow to save the Udayan. Its trees in a city where open space is disappearing fast and state property being grabbed leaving the metropolis unfit for living," the eminent academic said explaining the reason for the movement.

He said the campaign is not to oppose the planned convention centre. The centre can be shifted to an alternative site. "The government has said that it would replace one tree with three and it means that it has accepted our argument," Professor Choudhury said.

"We do not expect that the democratic government would take such a move to strip the park off trees, something only a dictatorial regime could do. Rather it should go for more parks and expansion of the Osmania Udayan. In every major city of the world, the city centres have open space."

Poet Shamsur Rahman, writer Zohaida Gulshan Ara, Faizul Hakim Lala, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Akhter Sobhan Masrur and Dr Abrar Choudhury also addressed the gathering, reiterating their opposition against removal of trees.

Saeed Hossain Khoka MP, Amanullah Khan MP, Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president of CPB, Habiburrahman Dal, president of Chhatra Dal, were among others who joined the human chain.



Inzamamul Huq rebukes his partner after surviving a run out attempt yesterday. — AFP photo

Opposition MPs' march

From Page 1

source.

The Jatiya Party lawmakers will start their procession from in front of the Kalabagan party office at 4pm. JP chief HM Ershad will lead the march.

The parade of Jamaat-e-Islami MPs is due to start from the Muktangan ground near the GPO at 5pm.

Another partner of the four-party opposition alliance -- Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) -- however had not decided until last night if it would participate in today's agitation or not.

Earlier, the liaison committee of the four parties had planned to bring out a single procession of their MPs under Khaleda Zia's leadership. But the plan was changed after Ershad reportedly declined to participate in such a procession.

The BNP-JP discords also led to the shifting of the march from May 13 to May 24 and made JP's participation uncertain until yesterday when the liaison body resolved the misunderstanding.

"Some 80 out of 111 MPs of

SNS protests police actions on women

By DU Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) brought out a procession in the city yesterday afternoon protesting police repression on women in the country.

The procession started from Shahbagh crossing and ended at Muktangan after parading different city streets. Later, the SNS held a rally at Muktangan. The rally was addressed by among others, Farida Akhter, Sultana Akhter Rubi, Ayesha Islam, and Dr Laila Khanam.

The speakers expressed concern over the rise of repression on women, said a press release.

They alleged that the Awami League government was using police force to suppress the women activists in the country.

Referring to harassment of an elected woman Union Parishad member in Kishoreganj and another woman in Dhaka city during hartal hours on May 11, they demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.

The SNS leaders said the then ruling BNP could not stay in power due to their repressive actions on women. The present Awami League government should take lesson from the past, they added.

Pakistan beat Australia

From Page 1

four after three wickets had tumbled for 10 runs.

They put on 113. But, with 70 needed off the last 10 overs, Akram and Shoaib Akhtar returned to seal the match.

Akram removed Bevan for 61 and Waugh then fell for 49, his stumps scattered by a fine inswinger from Akhtar.

In the panic that followed, Australia's last six wickets fell for 51. Off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq ended with three wickets.

Twenty runs were needed off the last two overs and 13 off Akram's last six balls.

But he bowled Damien Martyn and Glenn McGrath with one ball to spare.

Earlier there had been a series of ill-tempered incidents between Akhtar and several Australian batsmen, which forced the umpire to intervene.

A row also brewed during the climax when the Australian batsmen asked for the ball, which was swinging appreciably, to be changed because it was dirty.

Akram, clearly audible via a pitch microphone, said: "This is not fair."

Australia, who earlier beat Scotland and lost to New Zealand, will need to beat both Bangladesh and the West Indies in their final first-round matches to have any chance of progressing.

Inzamamul Haq and Abdul Razzaq had laid the foundations for Pakistan's triumph.

The hefty Inzamam mixed comical running between the wickets with brutal strokeplay for his 81, while Razzaq made 60 in their 118-run partnership before he attempted to repeat a six off Shane Warne and was caught at long off.

Inzamam and Yousuf Yohanna, however, then put Australia to the sword, their half-century stand coming off 30 balls.

The crowd, packed with

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA:

A Gilchrist b Akram	0
M Waugh c Khan b Razzaq	41
R Ponting c Anwar b Saqlain	47
D Lehmann c Khan b Saqlain	5
S Waugh b Akhtar	49
M Bevan c Mahmood b Akram	61
D Martyn b Akram	18
S Waugh run out	1
P Reifel c Akram b Saqlain	1
D Fleming not out	3
G McGrath b Akram	40
Extras (b5, lb12, w14, nb7)	38
Total (49.5 overs)	265

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-91, 3-100, 4-10, 5-214, 6-238, 7-248, 8-251, 9-265

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Akram	9.5	1	40	4
Akhtar	10	0	46	1
Mahmood	10	0	61	0
Saqlain	10	1	51	3
Razzaq	10	0	50	1

Low-lying areas in Ctg flooded

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Torrential rain triggered flash flood in the city's low-lying areas today, witnesses said.

Met Office sources said 167 mm rainfall was recorded in the past 24 hours till 6 pm today.

Beyond the boundary

From Page 1

compatriots had managed to create for themselves. Please add the burden of hopes and demands on his shoulders of well nigh a billion people. Hopefully, one gets the picture.

The World Cup was finally set alight. Starved of runs for the better part of the last ten days, the first hundred flowed fittingly from the bat of one Sachin Tendulkar. Forget the fact that 140 of them gushed in a torrent, it was the manner in which they were scored that left the world speechless in wonder and total stupefaction.

Tendulkar was a man possessed. Kenya is not one of the strongest teams in the world, but they did have a role to play in this competition. Against Tendulkar in full cry, the lions of Africa covered in disbelief. This innings was meant for the books. It transcended the ephemeral to the eternal. The fact that India scored 300 plus on the antiquated scoreboards was of little concern, except that Zimbabwe would be a trifle nervous of the net run rate from now on. In the general melee Rahul Dravid's ton almost went unnoticed.

It is said that good writing is the result of one's neuroses. Tendulkar's innings has therefore to be seen in such a perspective. Playing a different game altogether. Shipwrecked, he had the last word on the subject. There is the deed and there is the doer. At the end it had to be left to William Shakespeare to describe what really transpired.

After Inzamam, who came to terms with his own inherent talents at last, and the young prodigy Razzaq had put Pakistan on an even keel, it was left to the lower order to run amuck. Pakistan is not a team which believes in half measures; in less time than it took for the Australians to ponder the implications of the outcome of this match, they were looking at a target well over 5 runs per over. Against a side that boasted of the best attack in the world.

Typical Australian grit made certain that the match went down to the wire. The world had to sit awed and on tenterhooks just so that this mother of all matches could reach its logical conclusion. But the outcome of the match is still not an indicator of the group's final shape and size. There is a lot left in the remaining matches. The fat lady has not even arrived.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
জরুরি সংরক্ষণ কাজে টংগী,
উত্তরা, সাভার ও মানিকগঞ্জ
এলাকার বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের আওতাধীন টংগী ২৩০/১৩২ কেভি গ্রীড ট্রান্সফরমার এর টেপ চেকার এর পরিদর্শন ও সংরক্ষণ কাজের জন্য আগামী ২৪/০৫/৯৯ ইং তারিখ হইতে ২৮/০৫/৯৯ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ৬ টা হইতে বেলা ২ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উক্ত ট্রান্সফরমার বন্ধ থাকিবে। বিকল্প ব্যবস্থায় বিদ্যুৎ সচল রাখিবার চেষ্টা থাকিবে। ট্রান্সফরমারটির রক্ষাবেক্ষণের কারণে টংগী, সাভার, মানিকগঞ্জ, উত্তরা ও তবসলগঞ্জ এলাকায় ৩০ হইতে ৪০ মেগাওয়াট লোডশেডিং হইবে। তবে, প্রতিদিন বিকল্প ক্রিকেট '৯৯ এর ম্যাচগুলো সরাসরি সম্প্রচারের সময় বিপুল দর্শকের চাহিদার প্রেক্ষিতে খেলা শুরু হইবার পূর্বে ট্রান্সফরমারটি পুনরায় চালু করা হইবে।

সমান্বিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী
বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১৬৪০(৫)/৯৮-৯৯ গ্রীড এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন সার্কেল
জিডি-৪৩১ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা।

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Management inefficiency blamed

From Page 1

He also noted that through system's loss, the government loses US\$ 70 million of revenue a year.

Prof. Sobhan said Bangladesh had enough gas and should not be energy starved. Rather, the power sector should be fuelling industrialisation and encouraging Foreign Direct Investment.

He also noted that while the government emphasised on installing new power plants, the existing plants should be properly maintained and the efficiency of the sector should be increased.

"The time has come to ask whether we are scientifically planning the power sector. And whether the plants are cost effective and whether the power demand forecast is correct," he said.

Science and Technology Minister Noor Uddin Khan said the power crisis takes acute shape during the months of March and April every year for decades. He added the power problems were particularly concentrated in Dhaka. "For any government, handling Dhaka had been always a major problem."

Former Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed noted that against an installed capacity of around 3000 MW, the country was getting around 2200 MW power. He said the country had actually lost 800 MW installed power generation capacity because of negligence in the maintenance and management of power plants. "Why don't we upgrade these plants?" he asked.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad said that DESA power distribution system was already overloaded and if new power generation could be added right now, DESA could not support it.

"There is no harmony between the growth of other sectors and the power sector. There is a serious gap between the real power supply and the real demand and it has not been addressed in years," he added, "there had been a high growth in the construction sector in the last two years and this was not taken into account."

Dr Samad also said that various clients did not pay bills. "Private sector owes PDB a lot. But how about the government sector? The Adamjee Jute Mills alone owes PDB Tk 80 crore."

"Different government offices do not pay bills. It's amazing that all offices have separate allocation to pay the electric bills but they would not pay. This is a cultural problem which needs to be addressed. The PDB itself owes government Tk 9000 crore in arrears," Dr Samad pointed out.

He maintained that the trade unions resisted system's loss removal measures and lent support to the unscrupulous section of PDB and DESA employees responsible for pilferage.

Former minister for planning Zahiruddin Khan said that there was a genuine crisis in the country's power sector despite the fact that there was adequate gas to overcome it. "This calls for developing a think tank in the government and chalking out a new strategy."

Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain said that with a daily gas production of 987 million cubic feet (mmcf) of gas, currently there was no gas shortage. "We keep gas reserved for power. But unfortunately, the power plants do not utilise them optimally," he pointed out and said, "but within a few years we would be needing more gas. Therefore, new gas fields should be developed and exploration should be encouraged."

Former deputy prime minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed drew a bleak picture of the power sector saying, "Power shortage is so acute that we suffer even on Fridays. All the industries are now operating their own generators. Most of the tall buildings in Motijheel use their own generator for lifts. Some 90 per cent of ready-made garments industries use generators."

"Due to power crisis, the cost of production has gone up. Garments exports slid down by 20 per cent in the recent years due to this problem. All other industries are suffering."

In Chittagong, load shedding usually remains for 3 to 4 hours and sometimes would last up to 8 hours a day. And we have a feeling that it could be worse in the future," said Jamaluddin.

"No government has actually given a serious attention to the power sector it deserved," he noted, "as a result, foreign direct investment (FDI) is reducing. In fact, there had been no major FDI in the last three years due to power problem."

"We need a national focus on power. Demand is rapidly rising and the government alone cannot cope up with it. Get the whole nation working for it," he added.

When asked by Rehman Sobhan why the private power projects took so long to get launched, former PDB chairman Nuruddin Kamal said that the PDB literally began the private power schemes from the scratch.

"There was no document, no guideline, no expertise, no negotiator or anything to initiate private power in the country," Kamal said. "PDB started it all and as time went by PDB came across various legal and financial aspects of private power not seen before. And delay was only a natural consequence," he added.

Newly appointed PDB chairman Quamrul Islam Siddik said that there was a load shedding of 330 MW presently. "DESA is the main problem area. It takes 900 MW from PDB and has a system loss of 25 per cent."

প্রথম আলো

ক্রিকেট আয়োজন
হাড়িয়ে গেছে প্রত্যাশারও
বাউভারি।
বিশ্বকাপ উপলক্ষে প্রথম
আলোর প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বের
আয়োজনটা দেখুন

- খেলার জন্য স্পেশাল দুটো পুঠা। এছাড়া প্রথম পুঠা ও শেষ পুঠায় থাকে খেলার আকর্ষণীয় খবর ও ছবি।
- বিশ্বকাপের খবর ইল্যাত থেকে সরাসরি পঠান দেবের সেরা ক্রিকেট রিপোর্টার **উৎপল ভদ্র**। ইল্যাত থেকেই বাংলাদেশের ম্যাচ নিয়ে লেখেন জাতীয় ক্রিকেট দলের সাবেক অধিনায়ক-মানেজার **পাজী আশরাফ লিটু**। ইল্যাত থেকে মনোমুগ্ধকর ক্রিকেটরচনা নিয়েমিড পঠাচ্ছেন আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকার **পৌতম উজ্জ্বল**, ভারতের প্রখ্যাত ক্রিকেট-কলামিস্ট **অমৃত মাধুর**, পাকিস্তানের বিখ্যাত ক্রিকেট রিপোর্টার **ইমতিয়াজ শিখা**, শ্রীলঙ্কার খ্যাতিমান ক্রিকেট-সংবাদিক **রজন পানানাডিভানা**।
- জমে উঠেছে **ওয়ান ডে কুইজ**, প্রতিদিন কুইজ, প্রতিদিন টেলিভিশন। রোজ খেলার ফল আগাম বলে দিয়ে টেলিভিশনসহ তিনটি পুরস্কার নিয়ে যাবেন পাঠকেরা।
- **কুপন ছাপা হচ্ছে রোজ**।
- এ-ছাড়াও চলছে **মেরিল-প্রথম আলো বিশ্বকাপ কুইজ**। আরও ৩টা পর্বে আপনি পাবেন ৫টি রঙিন টেলিভিশনসহ ১ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার টাকার পুরস্কারের সুযোগ।

প্রথম আলোয় থাকছে নিরপেক্ষ ও বস্তুনিষ্ঠ রিপোর্টিং, প্রতিদিন আলোনা রঙ বালমেলা সৃজনশীল ফিচারপাঠা, আব্দুল গাফফার চৌধুরী, মুহম্মদ জাফর ইকবাল, আবেদ খানসহ সেরা লেখকদের কলাম ও শিল্পীরের কার্টুন।

আম

এমন দুকূল উপচানো
প্রত্যাশারও বাউভারি-ছাড়ানো ক্রিকেট কভারেজ
আজই আপনার হকারকে প্রথম আলো দিতে বলুন

প্রথম আলো
দ্রুত অগ্রসরমান দৈনিক