

## ECNEC approves dev projects worth Tk 749.17cr

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved 8 projects involving about Tk 749.17 crore including about Tk 217.25 crore as project assistance, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the 57th meeting of the ECNEC held in the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The projects include emergency expansion and renovation of Dhanmondi 132/33 KV Power Sub-station, procurement of equipment and spare parts for emergency renovation and re-establishment of transmission and distribution system of Power Development Board, Sholoshahar power distribution project, renovation and development of jails, construction of three district jails, project on development of water supply and sanitation system in the three hill districts, renovation and development of Syl-

het Osmani Airport (amendment) and emergency procurement of equipment and spare parts for renovation and re-establishment of sub-transmission and distribution system of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA).

The meeting was told that 1097 projects out of 1,216 under the Annual Development Programme of 1998-99 fiscal were approved by the ECNEC in its 56th meeting.

The percentage of approval stood at 87.99 as against 82.73 per cent during the same period of the previous year, which is 6.91 per cent higher.

Four hundred foreign funded projects out of 414 have been approved by the ECNEC till its last meeting and the percentage of approval stands at 96.62.

The prime minister at the meeting underlined the need for transfer of the convicts to their respective district jails so that their relatives can visit them. She asked the concerned

authorities to expand the length of runway of the Sylhet Osmani Airport to 10,000 feet to enable wide-bodied aircrafts to take off and land smoothly.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Tourism and Civil Aviation Engineer Musharraf Hussain, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and State Minister for Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam attended the meeting.

Principal secretary to the prime minister, secretary of the Planning Commission, members of the Commission, finance secretary and concerned secretaries and officials attended the meeting.

## BSMMU employees' union threatens work stoppage

By Staff Correspondent  
Employees of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday threatened non-stop work stoppage if their five point demands are not met immediately.

The BSMMU employees' leaders at a press conference at the National Press Club Tuesday announced action programmes of 12-hour work stoppage on each day of May 30 and 31 and a two-day non-stop work stoppage on June 6 and 7 to press home their demands.

The employees' demands include disbursement of salary, benefits and pension of employees through AGB, formation of local pension cell, ensuring all government holiday for employees, free treatment of employees and their wards and ensuring the provision of promotion for deserving employees according to government rules.

"The authorities failed to realise our demands though they admitted that those were logical and pledged to accept it," said the written statement presented at the press conference. The BSMMU employees' union leaders also alleged that they were being harassed by the authorities in different ways.

The BSMMU employees' union leaders held the press conference under the banner of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samannoy Parishad (Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordination Council).

## Housewife set on fire, dies at hospital

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife who sustained serious burns when her husband set her on fire at a pasture near her home at Agargaon died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Hospital sources identified the victim as Parveen, 32, a resident of PWD slum in Agargaon. Parveen was admitted to the DMCH in critical condition on Tuesday night.

According to sources, Khokon, the husband of the victim, along with his three brothers-in-law, tortured Parveen on Tuesday night as her parents failed to give Khokon Tk ten thousand as dowry.

At one stage, they doused Parveen with petrol and set her on fire. Later, she was rushed to the hospital but died 12 hours after the admission.

Her body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## BNP accuses govt of plotting to erase Osmani's name

BNP yesterday accused the government of plotting to erase the name of liberation war hero Gen M A G Osmani, reports UNB.

"The government is up for erasing the name of Gen Osmani by constructing an international conference hall in Osmani Uddyan," city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka said accusing the government.

Addressing a press conference at Osmani Uddyan in the afternoon, the city BNP chief asked the government to shift the venue of proposed international conference hall somewhere.

"Though we had political difference with Gen Osmani, but we don't want to undermine his contribution and image," he said and expressed solidarity with the demand of erasing the ground for erecting a 11,000 trees in Osmani Uddyan most of which would be felled for construction of the hall.

He said the government should keep in mind the importance of Osmani Uddyan which was raised to uphold the dignity of Gen Osmani.

## Gully

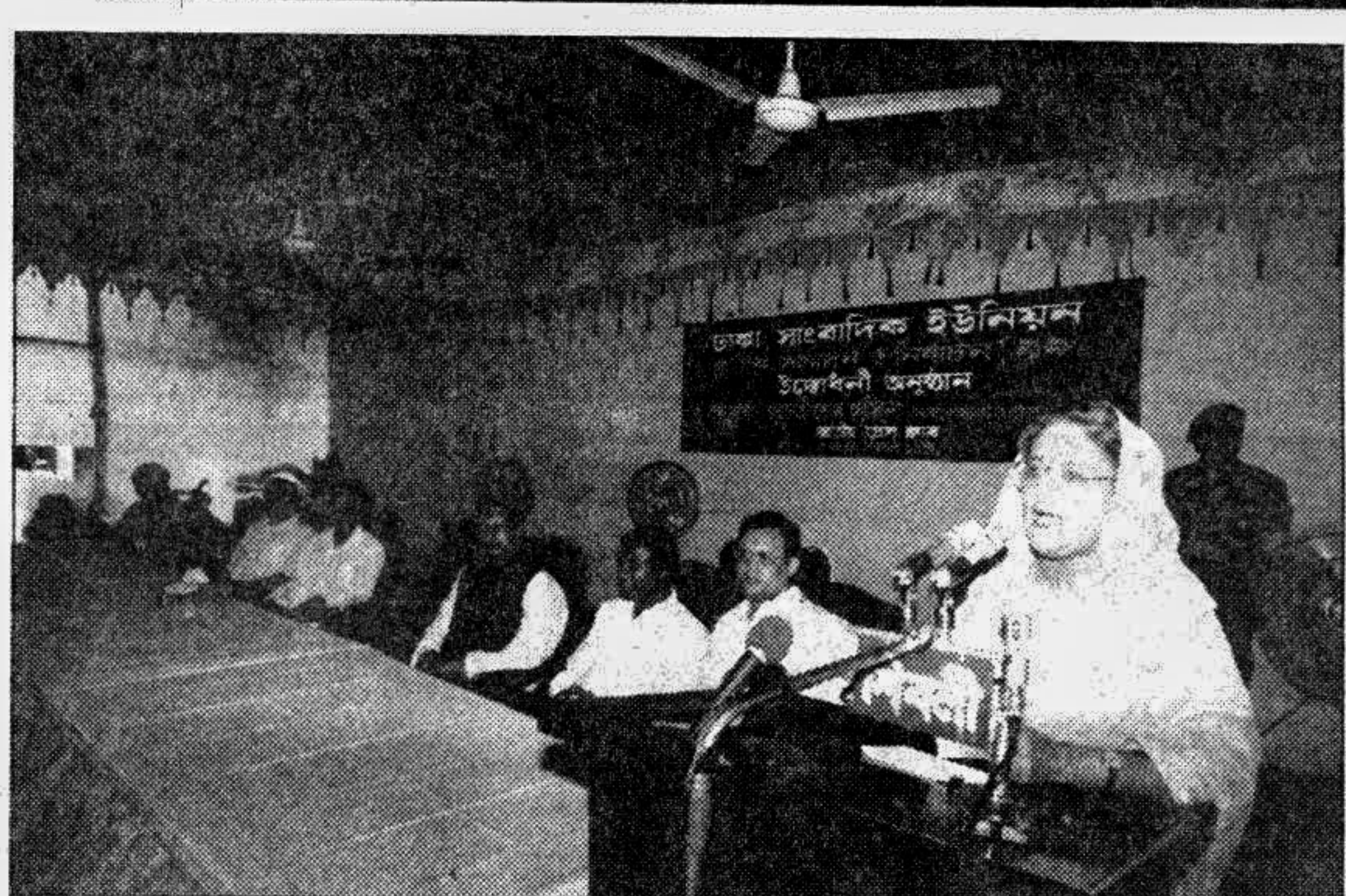
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Group A. Nottingham — Trent Bridge became a cricket ground due to the enterprise of William Clark, according to Wisden. A brick-layer by trade, William Clark was also the organiser of Nottingham 1837 XI in the 1830s. In late 1837 he married Mrs. Chapman the landlady and lessee of the Trent Bridge Inn and the open ground behind the building.

On 10 July 1838 he organised the first cricket match on the ground behind the Inn between T. Baker's Side and W. Clark's Side. In July 1840 the first county match was staged with Sussex the visitors and the first Test match at Trent Bridge was played in 1899, exactly hundred years ago, against Australia. Harold Larwood and Bill Voce, who started as a left-arm spinner, formed as menacing a fast bowling partnership as county cricket has seen. They were the instruments of Jardine's leg theory or 'bodyline' in the 1932 Tour of Australia by England that caused furor and was outlawed. Denis Compton the Middlesex and England star scored his mastery 278 against Pakistan in 1954 on this ground and Sir Frank Worrell of the West Indies had his 261 in 1950.

On this famous ground the English bowlers were superb with their length and line and Gough and Co bowled their forty overs for a miserly 102 runs. The African lions were left hungry by British lions.

This easy win of the English team not only took them closer to the Super Six but also gave some of their lost prestige against the South Africans. Stewart's men were very careful about the run rate also lest they are faced with such a problem.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the annual general meeting (AGM) of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the Jatiya Press Club premises yesterday.

—Star photo

## DU students celebrate maiden World Cup victory

DU Correspondent

It was a real feast. Their joy knew no bounds. Ecstatic students slaughtered a cow, cooked its meat and had a grand feast last night. It was their way of celebrating the maiden victory of Bangladesh in the World Cup Cricket match against Scotland.

The students of Dhaka University involved in various socio-cultural organisations bought a cow from a city market a day after the minnows brought unprecedented pride for a nation of 120 million cricket fans.

The cow was slaughtered yesterday afternoon at a pasture near the Teachers and Student Centre (TSC) on DU campus with much enthusiasm among general students, many of whom joined the feast last night. Cooks of the TSC cafeteria joined the merry-making putting their contribution into the feast with chef service.

The man behind students novel venture of victory celebration was Kamal Pasha Chowdhury of Sammita Sangskritik Jote, Dhaka University Film Society, Orka, Kanthashilin, Muktiyoddha Chhatra Command and others TSC-based students organisations joined the euphoria.

## Boundary

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are unfolding a layer after layer. There was much about the proceedings. Numbers two and three of the light blues took it upon themselves to come out of the looming shadows cast by Tendulkar over the side, that is otherwise long on talent and class but abysmally short on self belief. A partnership of 316 runs are not the stuff that run of the mill World Cup matches throw up for the patrons, every so often. But Ganguly and Dravid took the Sri Lankan attack and carved it to little pieces and distributed the proceedings to all parts of the ground and beyond.

Ranatunga's decision to field first might go down in World Cup lore as something similar to famous last words of retiring generals looking for that last ditch victory, before being swept away by the tides of uncomprehending history. This competition had been unfair to the credentials of the world champions. But their problems were compounded by their innate inability to face the realities of life in a fast changing world of cricket that has no room anymore for sentiment or ageing stars who crave, but are not able to create anything out of the ordinary.

It was precisely this difference that separated the men from the supermen. As India went from strength to strength in a manner that took the world by surprise, Sri Lanka opted to curl up and die. There was no motivation in the side, the hunger was lacking for the last few months, and whether Ranatunga liked it or not, a number of inner resources of his two thousand year old culture could prevent the inevitable. India came up with trumps, much to everyone's surprise, not forgetting certainly their own.

They came, they played and they proved a point. Ganguly and Dravid ensured the match was as good as over before Tendulkar could even lay claim on the eraser. It meant the Master did not have much to do, but the point was driven across. This is likely to be a different team. Ignore it at your peril.

## Bus link suspended after girl dies in road accident

PIROJPUR, May 26: Movement of passenger buses on Pirojpur-Mathbaria route remained suspended after a bus ran over a teenage girl near Tushkhalai baily bridge at 10 am today, reports UNB.

Lucky Akhter, 13, was crushed under the wheels of the bus when she was crossing the road. The bus sped away before the angry people gathered from around the place.

The mob hurled stones and damaged two other buses passing through the area. Following this, transport owners and workers suspended the plying of the buses.

Transport workers said they would resume operation after the problem is resolved.

## Cerebral malaria claims 15 in Sunamgnj

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, May 26: Cerebral Malaria has claimed 15 lives in Sunamganj district during the last two weeks. About 1500 are also affected and the disease is fast spreading in the 4 thanas located in the border areas informs local sources.

When contacted this afternoon, an official in the Health department of Sunamganj district however, confirmed only 7 deaths in the villages under Rangar Char union of Sunamganj Sadar during the period from May 3 to May 18. Several hundred others have also been suffering in Doarabazar, Biswambharpur and Sadar thana villages, the official added informing that, the authority had already sent 10 medical teams to Biswambharpur and 5 in each of the Sadar and Doarabazar thanas as an immediate measure. An emergency medical camp has also been set up at Mangalkata village in the Rangar Char union.

The UP chairman has alleged poor performance of the health workers and officials. He said that, there is apprehension of outbreak of the disease in an epidemic form, if immediate measures for large scale spraying are not taken. The local people have also urged upon the Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon and TNO to take necessary steps.

Meanwhile, a team of experts from the capital reached Sunamganj and visited the badly affected areas in the Sadar thana today, informed an official. The 3 member team includes, Chief Antomologist, Chief Superintendent of Health and an Assistant Director from the Department of Health. The team will organise mixing of pesticides on the Mosquito nets used by the people in the affected villages, mostly in the Biswambharpur and Tahirpur thanas. These are situated in the remote and bordering hilly areas.

## Holzman calls on PDB chairman

John Holzman, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, yesterday called on Damrul Islam Siddiq, Chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) at his office in WAPDA Dhaka, says a press release.

The US ambassador stressed on the need for proper training for PDB officials to keep in with the changing technology. Flynn Fuller of USIS and other high officials of PDB were present during the meeting.

## DU Sanskrit Deptt admission test June 4

By DU Correspondent

The admission test for first year honours classes of Sanskrit and Pali Department of Dhaka University has been postponed, said a DU press release.

The admission test which was scheduled for May 28, will now be held on June 4 at 10 am at the Arts building.

## Klusener cripples Kenyans

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successive win in group A, assuring them of a place in the Super Six even if they lose against Zimbabwe for the first time in their history on Saturday.

For Kenya, a non Test-playing nation who produced the shock of the last World Cup by beating the West Indies, it was their fourth straight defeat.

Some 4,000 fans at the VRA ground on the outskirts of the Dutch capital watched the formidable South Africans top with the opposition in the first World Cup match in mainland Europe.

The Kenyans, put into bat, raced to 80 for one before losing their last nine wickets for 72 runs.

Opener Ravindra Shah made 50, but seven batsmen failed to reach double figures as the South Africans ripped through the middle order.

Klusener, whose batting feats earned him the man of the match against Sri Lanka and England, took his fifth five-wicket haul in one-day international.

Both Jacques Kallis and Allan Donald suffered their most expensive opening spells in the tournament so far. Kallis con-

ceded 35 runs and Donald 32 off their first six overs. The South Africans chose to field a full-strength team against the minnows, although they had indicated on Tuesday they may test their bench strength.

Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs put on 55 or the first wicket when a minor collapse saw South Africa lose three wickets for the addition of 31 runs before Kallis and Cullinan saw them home.

Addressing a rally in New Market area, the BSD leaders also urged people to join the month-long signature campaign, which will be ended on June 15 through a procession towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Campaigners belonging to the left-leaning political party collected signatures from members of the public in support of their demand that government should realise defaulting loans and confiscate illegal assets and utilise those to invest more in the public sector on priority basis.

Addressing a rally in New Market area, the BSD leaders also urged people to join the month-long signature campaign, which will be ended on June 15 through a procession towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

## SCOREBOARD

**SOUTH AFRICA:**  
G Kirsten b Oshane 27  
H Gibbs lbw b Oloyo 38  
M Boucher c Sheikh b 3  
Angara 3

J Kallis not out 44  
D Cullinan not out 35  
Extras (b-4, w-1, nb-1) 6  
Total (for 3 wickets, 41 overs) 153  
Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-58, 3-86

Did not bat: H Klusener, S Rhodes, S Pollock, L Klusener, S Elworthy, A Donald

**Bowling:**  
Suji 6 0 18 0  
Karim 7 0 43 0  
Angara 8 1 34 1  
Odoyo 9 3 21 0  
Sheikh 4 0 21 0  
Oshane 7 1 15 1

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies

and Centre for Alternatives will hold a Public Dialogue on

"Globalization and Civil Society"

on Friday 28 May 1999 at the

BIISS Auditorium,

1/46 Elephant Road [West of Ramna Police Station

& Meghna State Guest House], Dhaka-1000.

Time: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

All are invited.

(Scholars and researchers, including government officials, from Bhutan, Germany, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia and Bangladesh will participate in the discussion. It may be mentioned that the foreign delegates are participating in the three-day International Workshop organized by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies in the same week.)

## JS body reviews demands of BCS associations

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Establishment observed that there should be provision for at least 12 per cent promotion in each cadre service for the efficient and talented officers, report agencies.

The opinion came from a meeting of the committee held with its chairman Khandaker Asaduzzaman in the chair.

The meeting also reviewed the demands of various BCS cadre associations and the ministry's opinion in this regard.

Reviewing the recruitment and transfer of government officers in the hill districts, the meeting called for properly following government circulars in this regard.

The committee also discussed the progress of implementation of its previous decisions.

Committee members Abdul Mannan, S M Akram, Prof Dr M S Akbar, Mohammad Abu Hena and Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain attended the meeting while Advocate Rahmat Ali appeared as Prime Minister's representative. Secretary Shah Mohammad Farid and concerned officials were present.

## JUTA concerned

By DU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) yesterday expressed their resentment and deep concern at the government's decision to buy Mig-29 aircraft.

In a statement, the JUTA leaders said it was not considerable to buy the old-fashioned aircraft at a time when the economic situation of the country in the doldrums due to natural calamity like flood.

JUTA leaders said that with the price of eight Mig-29 aircraft, a hundred year's budget of a university like Jahangirnagar can be prepared.

JUTA urges the government to refrain from taking such 'suicidal' decision.

## FBUTA silent procession today

By DU Correspondent

Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) will bring out a silent procession in the city today demanding exemplary punishment to those involved in the recent violence on BUET campus.

In a statement issued yesterday, the federation urged all concerned to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere at all educational institutions.

They also demanded formation of a judicial probe body to investigate the 'mysterious' role of police forces during the massive vandalism on the campus.

The federation leaders urged the BUET teachers to join the procession, which will be brought out from the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:30 in the morning.

## Tempo driver killed in city

By Staff Correspondent

A tempo driver was strangled to death allegedly by another driver near the BDR gate one in the city on Tuesday night, hospital sources said.

The dead was identified as Abu Jafar, 20, son of Abdul Hakim, a resident of Kamrangir Char.

Sources said Jafar and Jahangir, another tempo driver, were locked in a brawl over serial of vehicles at tempo stand adjacent to the cinema hall at around 10 pm.

At one stage, Jahangir took off his shirt and strangled Jafar with it.

In an unconscious state, Jafar was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead at about 10:20 pm.

Police, however, could not confirm the incident till last night.

## Data recovery software released

By Staff Correspondent

MABS Computers, which has recently developed a data recovery software to recover data lost by CIH virus attack has released its software for people to use it free of charge.

MABS Computers authorities told The Daily Star that, DBACK — the data recovery software that recovers hard disk partition and other data with hundred per cent success was now available as a shareware in the following Internet address:

http://www.members.tripod.com/MabsComp

## Cairo+5 seminar adopts plan of action

A three-day Cairo+5 media seminar of South Asia region concluded at a hotel yesterday with adopting a plan of action by the participating seven countries.

Thirty-five media professionals prepared the guidelines for respective countries in the working sessions to make the Plan of Action of Cairo International Conference of Population and Development a success.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Iran participated in the seminar, organised jointly by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB).

On the concluding day, Nina Puri, President of Family Planning Association of India presided over the seminar, said a press release.

Lena Choudhury, programme advisor South Asia region of IPPF, Dr Ahmad Neaz, Director General of FPA, Bangladesh and Pervais Alam, senior producer of BBC addressed among others.

## Seminar on 'SA 8000 awareness' BGMEA has implemented welfare projects: Sinha

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday stressed the need for awareness about social accountability among garment exporters to dispel growing concern of consumers in the West over the workers' welfare, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS), a Geneva-based international service company, the seminar was held at Sonargaon Hotel.

Presided over by BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha, the "SA 8000 (Social Accountability) Awareness Seminar" was addressed by Director of ILO Area Office M A Hassanein, Global Programme Manager of SGS Mark Miller and Managing Director of SGS, Bangladesh, Peter Haas.

Speaking on the occasion, BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha said his association is quite aware of the growing non-tariff barriers like eco-labelling, child labour and human rights issues being imposed by buyers in the USA and

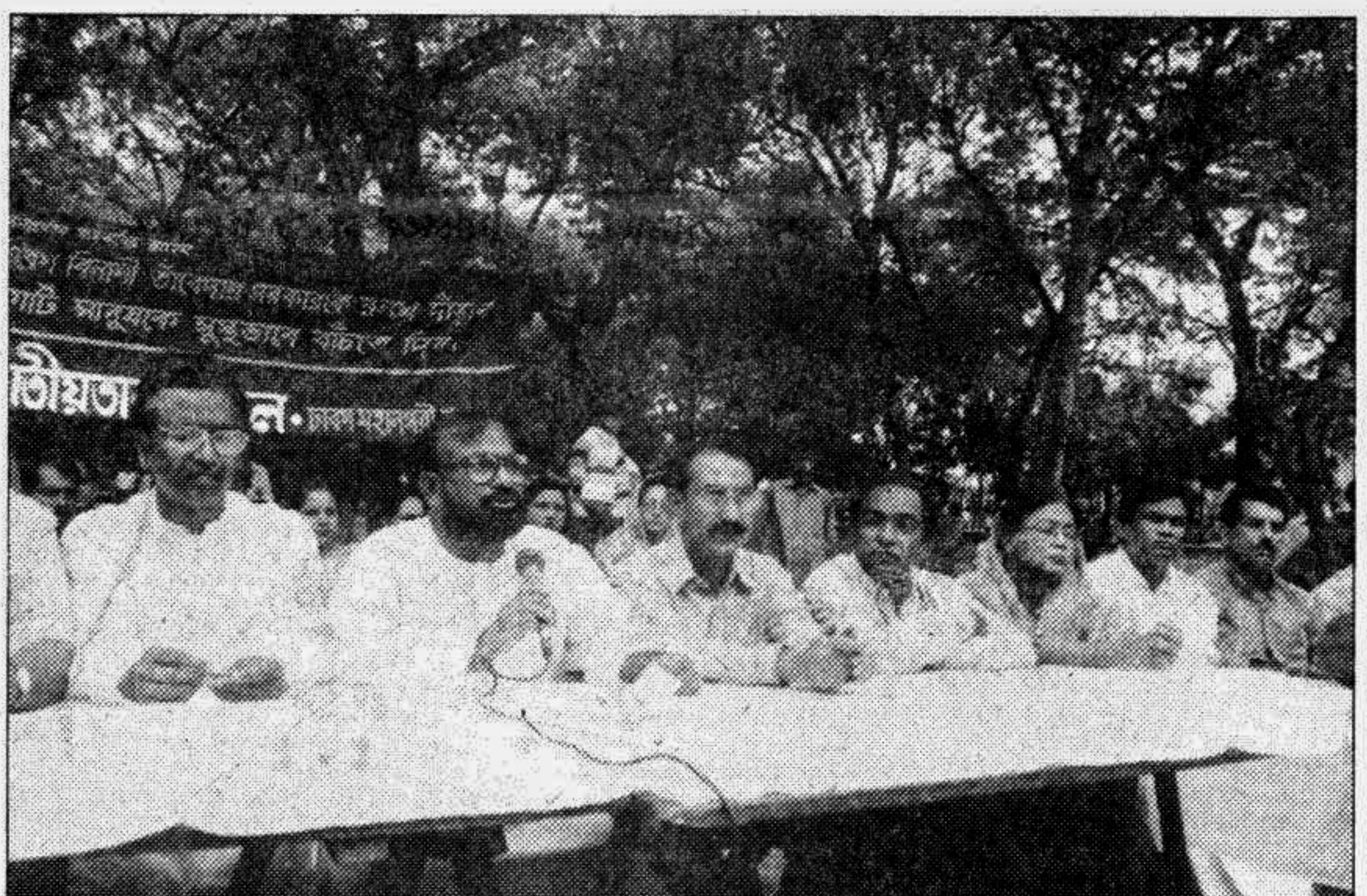
European countries.

He said the BGMEA has implemented a raft of programmes to ensure welfare of the labourers working in the sector. He mentioned the elimination of child labour from factories, implementation of the 'earn and learn' project, annual health check-up of workers and regular training for officers and workers on safety measures in this regard.

Sinha recalled the help and cooperation of the government to this end and said the government has allotted land for setting up a hospital in Mirpur of the city for garment workers and land in Savar for establishing a garments village.

SA 8000 is a programme of the SGS to make the exporters aware of the concern of the global consumers over the work place code of conduct and welfare condition of the labourers.

SGS is mainly a certification company relating to standard, quality and level of social accountability maintained by the manufacturers and exporters across the world.



City BNP unit held a press conference yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision to fell trees at the Osmani Uddyan in order to build the NAM conference centre. Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, is seen addressing the conference. —Star photo

## Indian air strikes

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bigger conflict." The attack began at 6 am (0030 GMT) and at least four Cheetah helicopters fitted with missiles flew toward the mountain ranges of Dras and Kargil. They returned a short while later, their missile racks empty. Five hours later, another four helicopters again headed to the mountains, one behind the other.

Four or five times in the morning, Indian jets, singly and in pairs, roared across the Indian sky. Officers told a visiting reporter they may be Mirage fighters.

Not far away, a couple of mortar shells hit the mountainside in a puff of smoke. It was not clear where the shells came from. A faint thump of exploding shells echoed off the mountainsides once in a while. Unarmed helicopters skimmed the ground. Soldiers said the fighting usually occurs at night.

Indian army officers pointed to the mountains toward Pakistan, saying 60-70 infiltrators had entrenched themselves in a dozen places on the slopes of the snowcapped hills of Dras, looking down at Indian army convoys, 900 meters on the meadows below.

Their command of the heights handicapped Indian soldiers trying to evict them, officers told an Associated Press reporter who drove up from state capital Srinagar to Dras, 160 kilometers to the northeast. Army officers in the area said the infiltrators must have taken months to occupy the posts. They said Indian forces could take three to six months to clear them.

One army soldier was killed in the shelling today, an officer said in Madyan, a village near Dras. It was not known if there were other casualties.

In New Delhi, army officials said some 600 infiltrators, mainly Afghan mercenaries, supported by the Pakistan military and Inter-Services Intelli-

gence agency moved into uninhabited Himalayan ridges early this month in India-occupied Kashmir, posing threat to Indian supply lines in the Himalayan state.

Army intelligence units say the infiltrators have anti-aircraft missiles, radars, snow mobiles and sophisticated communication equipment.

"This is the start of operations and they will continue until our defense forces recapture our territories. Any escalation of this conflict will be entirely the responsibility of Pakistan," the Defense Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

The attacks were carried out within Indian-held regions, well beyond the Line of Control that separates the two countries, said army Brig Mohan Bhandari, deputy director-general of military operations, told a news conference in New Delhi.

The attack came a day after Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said all steps — including air strikes — will be taken to push back the infiltrators. Vajpayee said he warned his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, in a telephone conversation Monday.

The exchange of mortar and heavy artillery fire at Kargil and Dras regions in the last two weeks has left at least 160 people dead, said army Brig Mohan Bhandari, deputy director-general of military operations.

The government halted all civilian flights to and from Srinagar and Jammu, the summer and winter capitals of Jammu-Kashmir state. The military also took control of the only highway linking Srinagar to the rest of the country, to the south.

Today, army soldiers dug trenches along the road leading to Dras, which has turned into a ghost town. Its 2,000 residents have fled to nearby villages along the Suru River. Anti-aircraft batteries were being reinforced along the route.

## Cultural team off to Beijing

A 20-member cultural delegation led by Cultural Affairs Secretary Mohammad Azizur Rahman left here yesterday for Beijing on a cultural exchange programme, reports BSS.

The delegation will perform solo dance and drama — "Nakhshikanthar Maath" — and cultural programmes depicting the glorious history of Liberation War of Bangladesh. The delegation will return home on June 11.

Delegation members also include Curator of Bangladesh Museum Syed Siddikur Rahman, TV personality Mamunur