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20 injured
BDR open fire
on mob in
Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent
CHUADANGA, May 28: At least 20 people were injured, two of them seriously, when BDR personnel opened fire on a mob at Jibannagar thana headquarters at around 10:30 am today.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted as BDR personnel allegedly harassed some women passengers of a Kaliganj-bound bus at Jibannagar BDR checkpost after they found smuggled sugar and motor parts in the bus.

The driver and conductor of the bus were also assaulted by BDR men.

When the news reached Jibannagar Bus-Truck Sramik Union office, the transport workers backed by local people rushed to the BDR checkpost and attacked it.

The BDR men informed Chuadanga headquarters of the matter and sought reinforcement. There was a brief clash between BDR and local people when BDR men tried to chase the agitators.

Later, the clash spread in the small town when more BDR personnel from Chuadanga headquarters joined them.

The BDR men fired on the agitators in front of Jibannagar Bus-Truck Sramik Union office, leaving 20 people injured, two of them seriously.

The transport workers called an indefinite transport strike in Chuadanga from today protesting the incident.

A tense situation is prevailing at Jibannagar thana headquarters.

Gold worth Tk 54 lakh seized from Indian national at Ctg airport

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 28: Customs officials today arrested an Indian national at Chittagong airport and recovered gold ornaments worth Tk 54 lakh from his possession, Customs sources said.

Md Anjum arrived at Chittagong airport at 3-10 pm from Calcutta by a Biman flight, Customs officials said.

Assistant Commissioner (Preventive) of Chittagong Customs House Al-Amin Promanik told The Daily Star that Anjum was challenged by Customs team while he was coming out of the airport through Green Channel.

Being suspicious of his movement, the Customs officials searched his body and found the gold ornaments weighing 6.5 kg in some packets. See Page 12 Col 5

Mostafa Kamal made CJ

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday appointed Justice Mostafa Kamal, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, as Chief Justice of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The President will administer the oath to the newly appointed Chief Justice at Bangabhaban at 9 am on June 1.

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Bangladesh on
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Prayer Timings

May 29	
Azan	Jamaat
4:15	4:20
Zohr	12:45 1:30
Asr	4:45 4:55
Maghrib	6:40 6:43
Esha	7:40 8:10

Chhatak MP Manik arrested

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, May 28: Ruling party MP Muhibur Rahman Chhatak was arrested early this morning from his Chhatak residence and sent to jail on charge of involvement in bomb making at his house.

Official sources said CID has gathered "substantial evidence" regarding Manik's involvement in bomb making "which had been going on for long at his house".

Two persons -- Arif Hairder, a local activist of Juba League and Babul, an associate of the MP -- were killed on the spot in the afternoon under tight security, the sources said.

The arrest sparked off

protests by pro-Manik factions in local Awami League and Juba League and a "victory procession" by rivals, leaving 10 persons injured in clashes between the two at Chhatak.

Manik's supporters, reportedly backed by the "Suranjit-Speaker group" in Sylhet AL, put barricades at many points on the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road in the morning, disrupting traffic.

The barricades were cleared by police after three and half an hours. They also held a protest rally and brought out a procession at the thana headquarters in the afternoon demanding

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Kashmir militants down Indian chopper using Stinger missile

NEW DELHI, May 28: India suffered a second setback today in an air campaign to root out infiltrators from its part of Kashmir when guerrillas brought down an attack helicopter with a Stinger missile, killing all four crewmen, reports Reuters.

The use of the Stinger by the separatists, who have dug themselves in on high ground, introduced a new and lethal element into the conflict in the Subcontinent.

An alliance of guerrilla groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir later claimed it had shot down two Indian helicopters. An Indian defence official said only one had been lost.

But the nuclear-capable neighbours also appeared to pause in their worst direct confrontation in nearly three decades.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a public meeting in Karachi he had spoken to his Indian counterpart, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and told him the Kashmir issue could

not be resolved without talks.

"I talked to Vajpayee today and asked where is this leading to," Sharif said. "I told him and he agreed that there is no solution to Kashmir except table talks."

But Sharif also warned that any Indian aircraft violating Pakistan's airspace would be shot down.

India lost two jet fighters on Thursday. It has demanded that Pakistan immediately return the pilot of a MiG-27 whom Islamabad has said it will treat as a prisoner of war.

The Pakistanis are provoking us to escalate the conflict," India's Air Vice Marshal S K Malik told a briefing, saying the helicopter had been brought down on the Indian side of the ceasefire line dividing Kashmir.

"We will be reviewing some of our options of evicting infiltrators from our territory."

During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the United States supplied Afghan guerrillas with the portable Stingers.

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55pc of ID cards ready: EC

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission has so far been able to prepare identity cards for 55 per cent of some six crore voters in the country and only 36 per cent of the cards have been distributed among the voters, EC sources said.

The EC is scheduled to complete the job by June 30 this year.

Sources close to Voters ID Card Project said yesterday 64

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We give you
MORE

TODAY'S MATCHES

England vs India

Venue: Edgbaston

Live Coverage: BTV and Star Sports (3:45 pm)

TONIGHT'S MATCHES

Australia vs West Indies

Venue: Old Trafford

Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

TOMORROW'S MATCHES

Sri Lanka vs Kenya

Venue: Southampton

Live Coverage: Star Sports (3:45 pm)

Garment exports to US, Canada

Free quota system to go from next year

By Rafiq Hasan

The government has cancelled free quota system for garment exports to the USA and Canada, according to commerce ministry sources.

The commerce ministry in a notification recently amended the textile trade quota administration rules '91 and cancelled the five per cent free quota system from next year.

All quota would be distributed as performance quota from the year 2000," the notification said. Therefore, no quota would be distributed as free quota and the order would be executed from January 1, 2000.

The officials at the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) which distributes quota among exporters said that the main objective behind introducing free

quota system -- to encourage new exporters -- had already been achieved.

When the system was introduced in the 80's, the number of garment factory in the country was only 800. Now the number of garment factory has risen to around 3600," said a senior official of the EPB who did not wish to be quoted by name.

"So the free quota system is no longer necessary. Besides, the system caused much corruption in garment sector," he observed.

Meanwhile, as the number of exporters increased tremendously, many garment exporters started manipulating the free quota system, the official said.

The cancellation of system

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Tea output drops by 2m kg in 4 months

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Tea production in the country dropped to two million kg in the first four months of this year from 5.5 million kg in the corresponding period of last year, according to an official estimate.

Tea growers attributed the production fall to the severe drought that hit the gardens in recent months.

Meanwhile, the weekly tea auction which resumed this month in the port city, witnessed a short supply amid a dull trading, market sources said.

Due to poor production, supply was badly affected.

In the first auction held on

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No treatment facilities yet for acid victims in country

By Naimul Haq

It was a hot, humid, tropical summer evening when Majeda and her older sister Nasima were cooking dinner for the family. They were almost halfway through when a young man in his mid-twenties entered the back yard with a glass of concentrated sulphuric acid.

He then called the eight-month pregnant Majeda and without a word tossed the deadly glassful onto Majeda's face destroying many parts of her body, especially her face. She fell on the ground, screaming out for help.

"Oh, Ma (mama), O Allah, bachao (save me)," Majeda cried in agony from the biting pain of the deadly liquid. Her younger sister - Sajeda - vainly tried to get hold of him. The alleged criminal - Hanif - a shopkeeper from the same village - had earlier propositioned Majeda and was refused.

During her six month stay at the hospital we tried to repair the skin particularly her blinded eyelids. She also gave

Pakistan storm into Super Six

DERBY, May 28: Wasim Akram's unbeaten Pakistan beat New Zealand by 62 runs here today to reach the second round of the cricket World Cup, reports AFP.

Inzamam-ul Haq, man of the match for the second consecutive game, hammered 73 not out off 61 balls and Ijaz Ahmed made 51 as Pakistan scored 269 for eight after being sent in.

New Zealand were then restricted for 207 for eight by the destructive Pakistani attack led by Shoaib Akhtar, the fastest bowler in the world.

Shoaib began the rout with two wickets in his first three overs, openers Nathan Astle and Matt Horne both departing caught behind.

Wickets continued to fall steadily, with the only resistance coming from skipper Stephen Fleming, who made 69 during a 83-run stand for the seventh wicket with Chris Harris.

The West Indies on Sunday.

Otherwise their fate could be decided on run rate.

New Zealand, who caved in against the West Indian pace bowlers on Monday, found the Pakistani quicks too hot to handle as well.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq took two for 34.

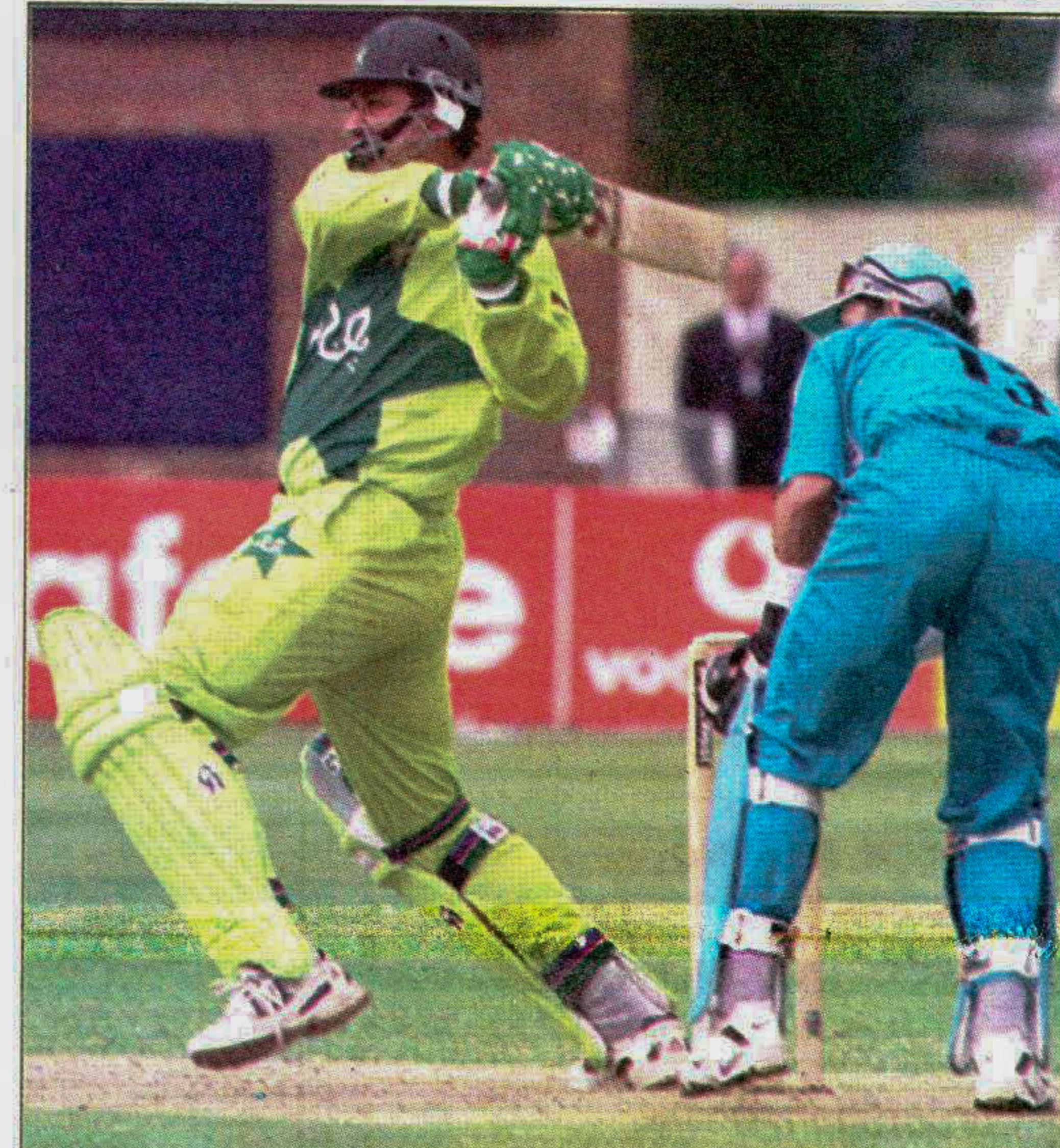
Pakistan now have four wins in group B, with their last game against minnows Bangladesh on Monday.

The Kiwis, with two wins out of four, will reach the second phase if they win their final game against Scotland, also on Monday, and Australia lose to

See Page 12 Col 1



For Long Lasting Fresh Breath and Sparkling White Teeth



Pakistan's top scorer Inzamam-ul Haq pulling yesterday.

— AFP photo

APTECH COMPUTER EDUCATION

We change lives



INZAMAMUL HAQ

(Pakistan)

Man of the Match

New Zealand vs Pakistan

Beyond the boundary Too Hot To Handle

Shakil Kasem

For the second day in a row, events relating to Group B followed the same mundane pattern. Talk of upset results remained just that, confined to the pub and TV screens. Pakistan snuffed out the Kiwi challenge even before it could be mounted.

The Kiwis have been quite a disappointment so far, particularly as I had rated them fairly high in my pre-tournament projections. Another of the arm-chair critic's kiss of death you might say. Except for their win over a lackadaisical Aus-

tralian side, Stephen Fleming and his men have shown no indication really to certify them to be front-runners anymore.

Pakistan in the meanwhile continued on their remorseless run to the top of the leaderboard. South Africa may be high-profile favourites, but Pakistan look a more dangerous side