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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 checkpoint 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-Track Sramik Union office, the transport workers backed by local people rushed to the BDR checkpoint 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-Track 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 Amlad 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 Amlad 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.

Inside Today Article

When 'Green' is Not Good

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by Abdul Bayes
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Star Literature

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Criticism: The biographical novels of Hasnat Abdul Hye; and
Reflections: Thoughts from the other side of 50
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Supplement

One page supplement on Third Convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh on
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Prayer Timings

May 29	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	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

Chhatak MP Manik arrested

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, May 28: Ruling party MP Muhibur Rahman Manik 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 and one of his cousins were critically injured in explosions.

while making bomb at his Chhatak residence on March 15.

A team of CID officials and policemen led by ASP Aminul Islam of Chhatak thana picked up Manik from his residence at the thana headquarters at 4-40 am today and took him to Sunamganj where he was produced before a Magistrate's court at 7-15 am.

The Magistrate ordered sending him to jail immediately. He was then taken to Comilla Central Jail by road 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-Spaker 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

See Page 12 Col 2

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. See Page 12 Col 1

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

See Page 12 Col 7



TODAY'S MATCHES

England vs India
Venue: Edgbaston
Live Coverage: BTV and Star Sports (3:45 pm)

South Africa vs Zimbabwe
Venue: Chelmsford
Live Coverage: ESPN (3:45 pm)

TOMORROW'S MATCHES

Australia vs West Indies
Venue: Old Trafford
Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

Sri Lanka vs Kenya
Venue: Southampton
Live Coverage: Star Sports (3:45 pm)

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 an 83-run stand for the seventh wicket with Chris Har-

ris. Harris went near the end for 42.

Seamer Azhar Mahmood, who removed Chris Cairns and Adam Parore off successive balls, finished with figures of three for 38.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mush-taq 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

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.

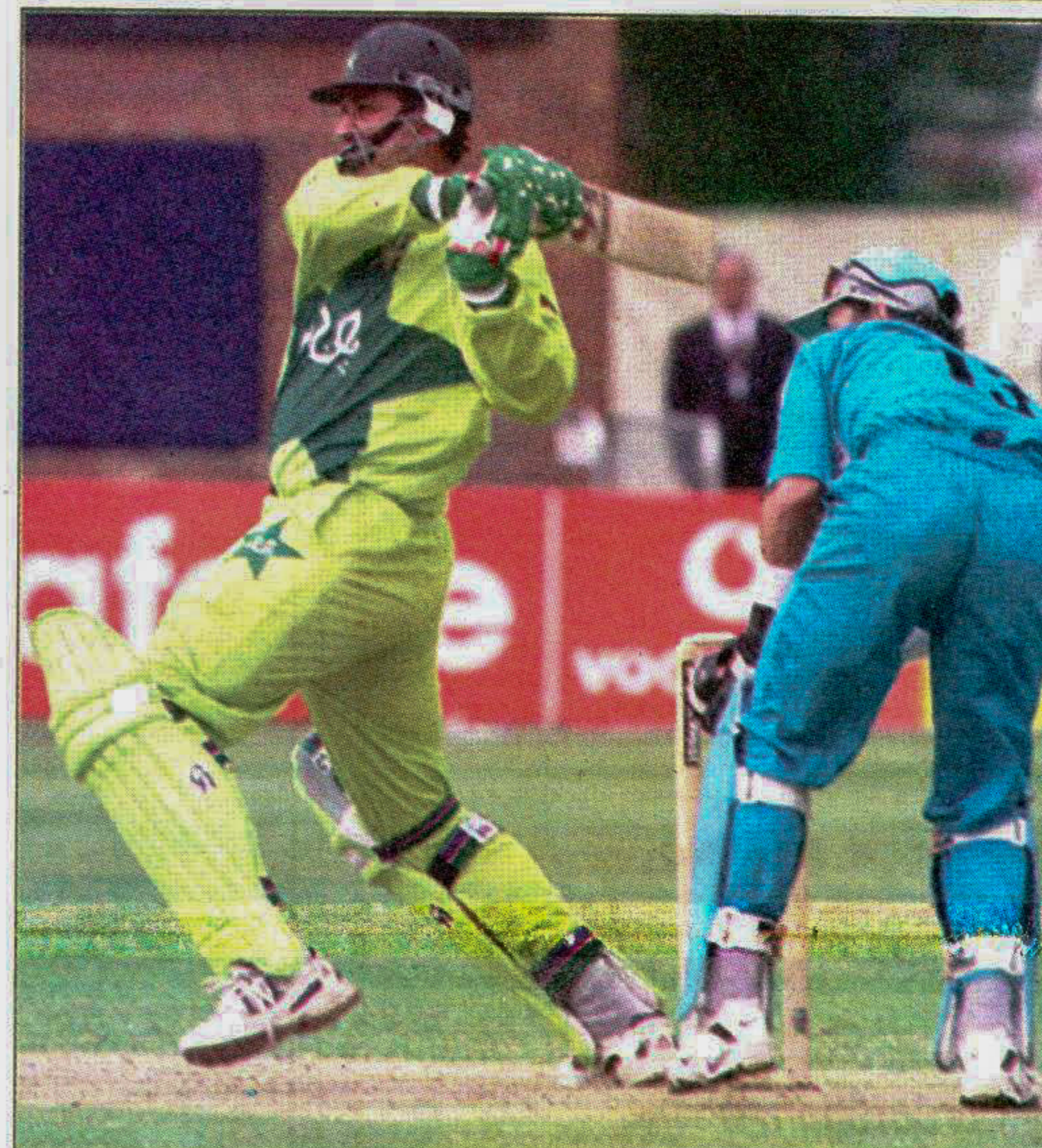
They slipped to 71 for six by the 20th over, before Fleming and Harris came together to take the score to 154.

Left-handed Fleming, who came in the sixth over, stayed till the 39th when he pulled Mahmood to his counterpart Akram at mid-wicket.

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

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, it added.

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

See Page 12 Col 4

Tea output drops by 2m kg in 4 months

From 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.

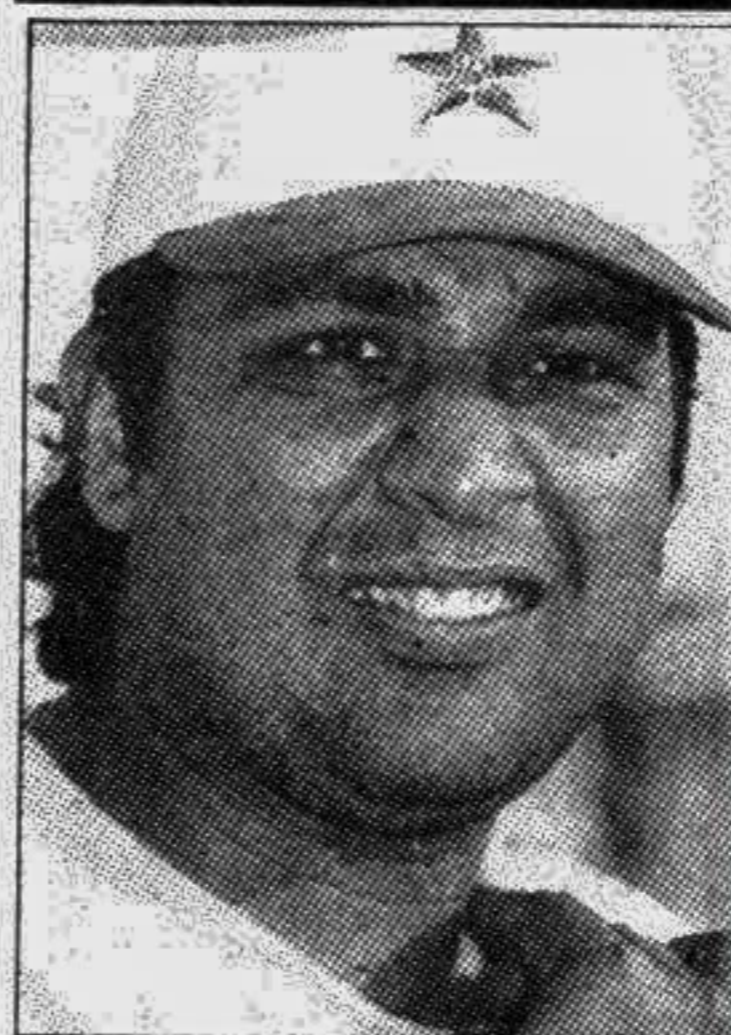
Tea growers attributed the production fall to the severe drought that hit the gardens in recent months.

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

See Page 12 Col 6



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 pubs 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. The difference is elementary, my dear Watson. The South Africans have fairly average and mediocre players whose skills and commitment have been programmed to max-

See Page 12 Col 1



Thousands die or survive untreated

No treatment facilities yet for acid victims in country

By Naimul Haq



Agony and ecstasy

The new-born has brought semblance of happiness in acid-burnt Majeda's woeful life.

—Photo: Shafiqul Alam Kiron/Map

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 her eyes, completely and burning many parts of her body, especially her face. She fell on the ground, immediately, screaming out for help.

"Oh, Ma (mama), Oh 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.

The tragic incident happened on June 9, last year, in Mithalma village of Burichang

thana under Comilla district. Majeda's sisters and neighbours helped her to the local thana health complex hoping to get medical intervention but they had no treatment for acid-burns.

She was referred to the Comilla district hospital. This, too, was no better. Finally, Majeda and her relatives had to make a four-hour tortuous journey to reach Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she was given emergency medical treatment. The trip was longer than usual as there was an Opposition-lead 'Haka-Chitragang' highway that day.

The next day plastic surgeons desperately worked for several hours to save Majeda's life and restore her melted skin and open her eyelids. Both the eyes were fully destroyed.

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

See Page 12 Col 2

Dialogue at BIIS told Go with globalisation, set own strategies

By Staff Correspondent

Panellists at a dialogue in the city yesterday emphasised keeping up with the pace of globalisation and at the same time setting strategies suiting the interests of South Asian developing nations.

They were speaking at a "Public Dialogue on Globalisation and Civil Society" jointly organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, The Daily Star and the Centre for Alternatives.

Experts from home and abroad took part in the lively discussion at the BIIS auditorium.

The speakers stressed reading the pulse of post Cold War world order and cope with the trend.

Referring to the WTO regime reality, they said that South Asia has to play a greater role in global decision making process. The nations in this region should carefully analyse their respective needs in the changing scenario and make collective efforts to match the new

world order, said some of the experts.

With BIIS director general Brig Shahedul Anam Khan in the chair, the dialogue was participated by, among others, Prof Ataur Rahman, Dr Ahaduza-man Mohammad Ali and Dr Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University. Dr Abur Rab Khan of BIIS, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Prof KB Kesawan and Prof Indira Nath Mukherji of Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Amera Saeed and Zafar Nawaz Jaspal from Pakistan, Santishree Pundit of the University of Pune, India, and Dr Vasily Mikheev of the Institute for Far East Study, Russia. Lalufar Yasmin and Sohela Nazneen of DU acted as rapporteurs.

The dialogue suggested changing political culture, developing information sharing network, strengthening governance, increasing the literacy rate in South Asia, building pressure for free movement of labour like capital movement

See Page 12 Col 4

A view from the Gully

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Bangladesh had no pretensions to upset the Australians rather they were keen to give a good account of themselves after their victory over the Scots and they did that.

But the Australians, with one win from the previous three matches, were in a hurry. Naturally they would put any weak team on any wicket to bat first, bundle them out cheaply and then knock off the required runs as quickly as possible to improve upon their net run rate to avoid being nosed out at the finish for a place in the Super Six. Still nothing can be predicted in a game of cricket.

Durham has a brand new ground for cricket and has been hosting the county team since 1995. The ground is one of the most beautiful that we have seen so far with the grass manicured in an exquisite manner and the surroundings magnificent.

When top players were scoring 'ducks' regularly what could go wrong if Shahriar was given another go instead of trying Khaled Masud as an opener. The story of the top was once again the monotonous repetition. Six wickets fell for 99 runs that includes a consecutive 'duck' by Akram Khan and poor innings from Faruq, Aminul and Naimur, who had played well in his previous two

See Page 12 Col 5

Golden jubilee AL programmes begin today

A meeting of the Awami League presidium yesterday discussed the golden jubilee programme of the party, reports UNB.

The meeting held at Ganobhaban with party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair emphasised on making the golden jubilee programme an all out success.

The month-long golden jubilee programme begins today from Chittagong city with a grand celebration there. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the opening programme.

All members of the presidium were present at the meeting.

BNP programme to observe Zia's death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has taken up an elaborate programme both at home and abroad to observe the 18th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman tomorrow in a befitting manner.

Zia was killed in a coup at Chittagong Circuit House on May 30, 1981.

A 201-member national observance committee headed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof QM Badruddin Chowdhury has been formed, said a press release yesterday.

Sadek Hossain Khoka MP has been made member secretary of the committee.

A 12-day long programme to observe the death anniversary of the party's founder begins today with a discussion meeting at Engineers' Institution in the city at 4 pm. Leading intellectuals, personalities and politicians of the country will take part in the discussion.

BNP will make arrangement to publish special supplement in national dailies highlighting the significant of the day.

The observance committee at a meeting yesterday also asked all city, district, thana, municipal, ward, union and vil-

See Page 12 Col 7

Mismanagement!

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 28: Jessore Education Board (JEB) Wednesday asked an examination centre of this district to take the Accounting first paper examination of the on-going Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination with the question papers of the previous year.

Officials of Magura Adarsha Degree College Wednesday morning found that the board authorities were bearing the labels of the previous year -- 1998.

The college authority soon informed the district administration about the wrong delivery before opening the sealed packet of the question papers.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura then contacted the Controller of the Board. But the Board Controller asked the district administration to take the examination with the same question papers that have been sent, a teacher of the college told this correspondent.

Finding no alternative, the teachers took the examination with the 1998 question papers which created resentment among examinees and guardians.