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CMC dental unit students' action programme

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 28: Dental Students Action Committee of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) has decided to go for a 19-day agitation programme from May 30.

The programme includes student strike, sit-in, token hunger strike, rally and procession.

Addressing a press conference at the press club here this afternoon, committee leaders urged the authorities to meet their 5-point demand without further delay. The demands include appointment of required number of teachers for nine departments of the Dental Unit of CMC, turning the Unit into a full-fledged college and hospital, separate allocation of funds for the Unit providing necessary equipment.

The committee leaders said they were compelled to announce this programme as the authorities failed to respond to their demands by May 22.

BNP leader held with arms in Chougachha

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, May 28: Police arrested Chougachha thana BNP secretary from his house today on charge of possessing illegal arms and ammunition.

Police said Zuhurul Islam, chairman of Patibila Union Parishad, was arrested following a confession statement of a terrorist, identified as Lokman. Lokman was arrested in the early hours of today on charge of terrorism in Patibila union.

Acting on Lokman's statement, police raided Zuhurul's house in Patibila union and recovered three pipeguns and four bullets.

Local BNP activists brought out a procession at thana headquarters demanding Zuhurul's release.

Boundary

From Page 1
imise their each and every move on a cricket field. The Pakistanis on the other hand, as far as the sheer class and natural ability of the individuals are concerned, Under Wasim Akram, for the first time ever, Pakistan has been able to harness all the necessary ingredients to come up with a winning formula. The South African desire is kept under wraps, and at most, it could be considered to be something below the surface. The Pakistanis show their hunger quite openly and make no qualms of the fact that they are out for the kill. On the field they pelt.

Against New Zealand, the Pakistan batting, after the initial and by now customary hiccup, put up 269 runs almost as a matter of course. It is an achievement bordering on the remarkable, that a nineteen year old Abdul Razzaq could bat at number three, putting on a most crucial partnership for the second match in a row. It is perhaps commonplace for the team to see him bowl an equally vital spell with the ball. This is the sort of advantages that Pakistan, with its almost embarrassing luxury of a surfeit of quality all rounders, can take at any time of the match. It is doubtful if any other side can match such an extra dimension that can be brought into play whenever required.

Pakistan carries a very heavy-duty armoury, both in terms of its batting and bowling. The sheer depth in both these areas has ensured that Pakistan are always able to post a total of 250 plus, which, in turn, can be defended through no great effort by the most balanced and lethal bowling attack in the business. In Shoaib Akhtar Pakistan has a bowler who can rock the batting side in the very first over itself. Sheer pace is always a frightening proposition. Allan Donald comes on as first or second change, without perhaps the same degree of intimidation for the batsman. Akhtar, with a new hard ball, coming at a batsman at meteoric pace, does put the batting side under immediate pressure. It is all part of the plan that after the shake-up has been completed, the wiles and guiles of the old master Wasim Akram should mastermind the sequence of body blows.

The Pakistani plays have served them well so far. They go into the Super Six with maximum points, barring the unexpected at Northampton. It would be cruel after all these days of near-perfect cricket if they were to miss out on the big stage thereafter. On present form that is highly unlikely. But Pakistan are their own enemies at times. How well they can come to terms with such a sustained level of aggressiveness has to be the moot question. At least for now, the odds are certainly in their favour.



Painting competition at the Shishu Academy yesterday in observance of Shilpacharya's death anniversary. — Star photo

MP Manik arrested

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his immediate release.

The recently formed Nagorik Forum, backed by Makin's rivals in the ruling party and opposition parties, held a rally and brought out a 'victory procession'. The rally came under attack allegedly by Manik's supporters at about 6-30 PM. Ten persons were injured in the chase and counter chase, police said.

Many activists of the Nagorik Forum jumped into the adjacent Surma river, witnesses said.

As police intervened, the agitators attacked them and opened fire, police claimed. Police also fired two blank shots to disperse them and held 10 persons including two UP Chairmen — Arjak Ali of Dakshin Khurma UP and Abdul Aziz of Dolarbazar UP, police said.

Additional police force has been deployed at the Chhatka thana headquarters, police said.

The Nagorik Forum, formed at Chhatka after the March 15 incident, had been demanding Manik's arrest. After the bomb explosions, Manik had lodged a case with Chhatka thana on March 16 alleging that an organised gang backed the district Police Superintendent was behind the blast. It was aimed at killing him, the ruling party MP alleged.

But, later a team of explosive experts from the Army arrived to make a huge quantity of bomb making materials, live and operative bombs and weapons from Manik's house. The team also dismantled some bombs.

The experts had also said that the blast took place when bombs were being made on the first floor of the two-storey building.

Police then lodged another case. Later, the case was transferred to CID which started investigation on April 3 and interrogated about one hundred people from Chhatka and Doarabazar thanas. Sylhet and Sunamganj. Those interrogated included local leaders and workers of Awami League, BNP, Jaitiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, some influential people including the Pourashava Chairman of Chhatka and a number of UP Chairmen.

The CID also talked with the DC, SP, Additional District Magistrate, Civil Surgeon and other government officials who visited the spot and the Medical Officer who performed autopsy of the bodies.

CID personnel also interrogated the MP's elder brother Mujibur Rahman, Mujibur's wife, younger brother Jewel and other relatives who were staying at the house on the day of the incident.

Almost all the political parties in Sylhet and Sunamganj demanded punitive measures for those responsible for the incident.

The CID later arrested Jagadish Das, Joint Convenor of Sylhet district Juba League and Ward Commissioner of Sylhet Pourashava, Manik's cousins Abdul Lais Choudhury and Babul and Biplab, an employee of the shop belonging to his brother.

Acid burn victims

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birth to a son while she was hospitalised," said Dr S L Sen, a senior plastic surgery consultant of DMCH.

A generous, Pakistani-born British millionaire Javed Majid lodged and paid for the hospital fees of Majeda in the UK. Dr Charles Viva — one of the best ophthalmic surgeons of the world — operated on her, free of cost. Through multiple surgeries Majeda's eyesight was restored a little (four per cent).

There are thousands of Majedas who die or survive, untreated. An estimated one million (ten lakh) such incidents occur, each year. DMCH is the lone place in the country with some medical facilities for such cases. With only 16 designated beds and three plastic surgeons, DMCH can hardly take care of two hundred selective patients, a year.

"We have to refuse the bulk of patients with serious burns simply because the hospital lacks a full-fledged management centre for them," said the Bangladesh government, recognising the need for a separate burn unit at DMCH, has allocated Tk 6 crore for its construction but the fund is yet to be placed. There is no specific time-frame for establishment of the promised 50-bed facility.

Meanwhile, a foundation was formed on May 12, 1999 for survivors of acid victims in the country. The foundation was formed to serve also as a platform for a mass movement against repression on women.

"We have the foundation which would mainly be working to help the victims and co-

Khaleda's remarks

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for disclosing her 'secret intention' regarding the general elections, reports UNB.

"Neither in accordance with the Constitution nor when people will want, the election will be held when she (Hasina) and her party will be sure of their win," the BNP chairperson told her party colleagues Thursday night referring to the PM's statement.

"She spoke of what she believes in or cherishes in her mind," Khaleda said addressing party leaders from different districts at her official Minto Road official residence.

At the annual conference of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Wednesday, Hasina said that next general election would be held when her Awami League will win.

"Both base and future of democracy become weak and uncertain when the prime minister of a democratic country herself makes an open announcement that election will not be held until she is certain of her party's win," Khaleda said.

The Constitution says it's mandatory to hold elections as per the schedule to be determined by the Election Commission, she said.

The BNP chairperson asked her party leaders and workers to intensify the countrywide movement.

Free quota

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would reduce the burden on the EPB because 60 per cent of its work was related to free quota distribution issues, he added.

Last year the government had formed a probe committee headed by a director general of the EPB to investigate into various irregularities regarding free quota distribution.

The committee found that five per cent free quota, supposed to be reserved for state-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), was being misused as TCB sold it through tender. The committee had recommended to cancel those reserve quota for the TCB because it does not manufacture or export any garment items which was the main condition for getting free quota allotment.

Getting allotment from the 'free quota', a section of unscrupulous garment traders did brisk business by transferring the quota for money. This had led to an unofficial quota market in the garment sector, the probe body report said.

According to sources, many people made their fortune through quota business. Some high-ups in the society including some former ministers were involved in quota business.

The USA and Canada give a limit to garment export from Bangladesh every year which is called garment quota.



Garments workers staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding weekly holiday on Friday. — Star photo

3 muggers held in city

By Staff Correspondent
Three muggers were caught while fleeing with Tk 80,000 from the passengers of an autorickshaw in front of the city's Suhrawardy Hospital in early yesterday morning.

The arrested were Mostafa Kamal, Farooq and Munna, police said. They said they could recover Tk 60,000 from them. A motor bike used by the miscreants were seized.

Globalisation

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and giving more emphasis on technology transfer.

The panelists regretted that the city societies in South Asian countries were highly polarised and divided.

Role of non-government organisations were lauded, specially in developing leadership at grassroots level and empowering women. Besides, it was stressed that the issue of child labour should be considered in the broader perspective of South Asian economies.

Pan-South Asian programme to fight poverty proposed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proposed a pan-South Asian programme to create employment opportunities and changing lifestyle of the masses, reports UNB.

"We have to take opportunity of regional and sub-regional groups. Let us start a massive poverty-alleviation programme from Peshawar to Chittagong, from the Maldives to Arunachal, from Karmya-Kumarka to Himachal," she told a regional youth congregation that began in the city yesterday.

Hasina hoped that youths from Khaibar valley of Pakistan would take a bus ride to Teknaf of Bangladesh for picnicking and youths from Tribandram of India enjoy summer vacation in Kathmandu.

She dreamed of a huge computer village linking Bangalore, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Dhaka and Islamabad through mutual assistance and healthy competition.

Inaugurating the South Asian Youth Meeting on Employment, Development and Cooperation at Osmani Memorial Hall in the morning, the PM said there was little time to spare for the past differences of opinion.

Hasina said a segment of youths of South Asia was suffering from unemployment, illiteracy, superstition and unemployment are minimising the prosperity of the South Asian youths.

The government is aiming to provide micro-credits to 800,000 trained unemployed youths by 2002, she said, adding Youth Development Directorate has been provided with a fund of Tk 247 crore for this purpose.

"We have been implementing different development programmes, including poverty alleviation, skill development training and self-employment, at a cost of Tk 628 crore." She in this context mentioned the opening of employment bank for the self-employment of youths.

Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP presided over the inaugural function, also addressed by World Federation of Democratic Youth General Secretary Harshad Singh, Indian Rajya Shava member and World Federation of Democratic Youth Coordinator Mohammad Selim, Tripura (India) Tourism and Youth Minister Jitendra Chowdhury, Nepalese MP Pospati Chowgali and Jubo League General Secretary Kazi Iqbal Hossain.

Stop harassment against newspapers in the name of libel suit: BSP

Bangladesh Sangbadpatrika Parishad (BSP) yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps to stop 'planned harassment' against newspapers in the name of libel suit, reports BSS.

A BSP statement issued after a meeting expressed concern over the misuse of sections 501 to 505 under the Bangladesh Penal Code against the Press saying this trend creates planned impediment to free opinion and press freedom.

"The press is not above the law but the indiscriminate use or misuse of the relevant penal code against newspapers must be stopped for the interest of democracy and free press," the statement said.

The newspaper owners' association said there were provisions to lodge complaints with the Bangladesh Press Council for the aggrieved persons.

Besides, the affected parties could also claim compensation before a civil court, the BSP said and urged all concerned, including the Law and Justice Ministry to take necessary steps to save the press from the 'planned harassment'.

BSP president and Editor of the Akjer Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed chaired the meeting.

BNP concerned at Indo-Pak tension

By Staff Correspondent
BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed grave concern at the 'war-like situation' between India and Pakistan and called for settling the crisis through talks.

In a statement yesterday, he said the peace-loving people of the world have become worried after Indian fighters intruded into Pakistan's air space and Pakistan shot down two Indian jets following air strike by India on the Kashmiri people, struggling for self-determination.

"As the neighbouring country, our anxiety is much more than others", Bhuiyan said.

Tea output

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May 11, only 10,000 chests of tea were put on sale as against more than 20,000 chests in the similar auction a year before, the sources mentioned.

On the other hand, tea market has not yet picked up in the current season as export enquiry was very poor, brokers said. They hinted that foreign buyers might take part in the auctions if supply of better quality increased.

In the last two auctions only local buyers operated, auction sources said.

Bangladesh tea, produced in 156 gardens, are mostly exported to 25 foreign countries.

4 electrocuted in Natore, Jhenidah

By Staff Correspondent
Four people were electrocuted in Natore and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our Natore Correspondent adds: Abdul Razzaq, 55, died when he came in contact with a live electric wire at his residence in Kandibitua in the town.

According to family sources, the incident occurred at around 12 noon when Razzaq touched a wet towel on the electric wire.

Razzaq's 17-year-old son was also electrocuted as he tried to rescue his father.

A neighbour, Advocate Nazir Ahmed, who visited the victims suffered a heart attack and died at his residence.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent, quoting police, reports: Uzzal, 24, and Shukumar, 25, died at Kola when high voltage electric wires fell on the bus they were travelling in hit a roadside electric pole.

The 51-seater passenger bus (Kushtha-Ba-73) was coming to Jhenidah town from Chuadanga.

Three others were injured during the accident. The bus fell into a roadside ditch.

BNP programme

From Page 1
large committees to undertake elaborate programmes and observe the day with due respect.

The BNP release said different units across the country have also taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day. Black flag will be hoisted at party central office in the morning while the national flag will fly at half mast.

BNP leaders, workers and supporters led by party chief Khaleda Zia will place floral wreath and offer *fateha* at the *mazar* of Ziaur Rahman at 9 am. Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal will arrange *milad mahfil* at the *mazar* premises at 9-30 am.

Dhaka city BNP will distribute food among the destitute in all wards from 10 in the morning. Khaleda herself will take part in food distribution. Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddaha Dal will arrange a discussion meeting on the day at 5 pm.

Jatiyatabadi Jubadal, Mohila Dal, Jasas, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Sramik Dal, Secchashak Dal, Tanti Dal, Krishak Dal and Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan will arrange discussion meetings separately from May 31 to June 8.

The 12-day programme will conclude through holding a mourning procession jointly organised by city BNP and different front organisations in the capital on June 9.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged leaders and activists of all strata of the party to observe the 'martyrdom' anniversary of Ziaur Rahman in a befitting manner.

He said Zia, who proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh, freed the country from the clutch of one-party fascist rule by restoring multi-party democracy, ensured freedom of press, took efforts to make Bangladesh a self-reliant country and placed the nation in a dignified position in the world community.

"Zia is our source of inspiration at the hour of disaster, crisis, struggle and uprising," Bhuiyan said.

The ways and means of completing IDs for all the voters would be decided after the Chief Election Commissioner returns home in the middle of next month. He left for Mexico and the United States Wednesday.

ID cards

From Page 1
per cent of the voters have so far been photographed. ID cards for 75 per cent of the voters would be prepared by June 30.

The ways and means of completing IDs for all the voters would be decided after the Chief Election Commissioner returns home in the middle of next month. He left for Mexico and the United States Wednesday.

Kashmir

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Indian says Afghan mercenaries are among the hundreds of guerrillas it had tried to flush out of dug-in positions on remote mountains in Kashmir with three days of air assaults.

Islamic guerrillas have made no secret of their infiltration of Jammu and Kashmir state to fight Indian rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir controlled by New Delhi. Pakistan controls the rest.

Major General J Singh, additional director general of operations, said proof came today that Pakistan helped a group of 'intruders' in a sector of the ceasefire line away from the Kargil-Drass-Batalik enclave, the main scene of the action.

India's Singh said 24 Indian personnel had died in three weeks of hostilities, while 131 had been wounded and 12 were missing.

"Just today there was an attempt from the Rajouri sector where armed intruders tried to attack one of our forward posts and that attack was repulsed with heavy casualties to these intruders. And their attack was supported by Pakistani artillery from the Pakistani side of the LOC (Line of Control)," Singh said.

Major General Singh estimated that more than 200 of the militants had been killed and said logistical support routes from Pakistan for 300-400 others had been choked off by the Indian army. Malik said Indian aircraft had flown between 40 and 50 sorties since Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a land mine blew up an Indian army bus in India's Jammu-Kashmir state today, killing four members of an officer's family.

Six soldiers also were injured in the explosion on the main highway at Nowgam town, 200 kilometres north of Jammu, police said. Two of the injured were hospitalised in serious condition.

Gold seized

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pasted to his legs. The seized ornaments included rings, bracelets and chains, he added.

During interrogation the India national told the Customs officials that one Bangladesh national Zainal Abedin had engaged him in Calcutta and assured him of paying Tk 10 thousand for carrying the gold ornaments to Chittagong.

Another man engaged by Abedin outside Chittagong airport was supposed to receive the gold ornaments from him, Amjad said.

He was handed over to port thana police.

Pakistan

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Akram said: "We are confident and enjoying every bit of the World Cup, just as our fans are — everybody is enjoying themselves."

Fleming added: "We were outplayed. Their bowling attack is very good. It will be down to run rate now but at least we will know what we need against Scotland."

Earlier, left-arm pace bowler Geoff Allott picked up four for 64 to rattle the Pakistani top order.

Pakistan lost four middle-order wickets in quick succession to make it 226 for seven before Inzamam hit out, with 83 coming off the last 10 overs.

Openers Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi began the day by cracking 12 runs, including a six and a four, off the first six balls by Dion Nash.

They went on to hammer 40 off 30 balls before Afridi edged Allott to the wicket-keeper.

Left-hander Anwar hit 28 off 25 balls before Allott bowled him around his legs.

Abdul Razzaq helped Ijaz Ahmed carry the score from 51 to 127 for two before running himself out in the 29th over.

Ijaz then became the latest victim of Inzamam's poor running.

Inzamam, who ran himself and Yousuf Youhana out against Australia, played Gavin Larsen to short third man, then refused to non-striker Ijaz's call for a single. The stranded Ijaz was beaten by a direct throw by Harris.

Moin Khan added a quickfire 41 for the sixth wicket with Inzamam.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND:				
M Horne c Moin b Shoaib	1			
N Astle c Moin b Shoaib	0			
C McMillan c Malik b Akram	20			
S Fleming c Akram b Mahmood	69			
R Twose c Inzamam b Saqlain	13			
C Cairns lbw b Mahmood	0			
A Parore lbw b Mahmood	0			
C Harris c Razzaq b Saqlain	42			
D Nash not out	21			
Extras: (lb15, w13, rb10)	38			
Total (for 8 wickets, 50 overs)	207			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-12, 3-34, 4-69, 5-70, 6-70, 7-152, 8-200				
Did not bat: G. Allott				
Bowling:				
	O	M	R	W
Akram	9	0	27	1
Shoaib	7	1	31	2
Mahmood	10	0	38	3
Saqlain	10	1	34	2
Afridi	6	1	26	0
Razzaq	8	0	35	0