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## Civic reception to Bangladesh team Friday

Sports Reporter

The victorious Bangladesh cricket team, who registered one of the greatest upsets in the history of World Cup defeating Pakistan by 62 runs at Northampton on Monday, will return home on Friday to attend a civic reception to be held at Paltan Maidan the same day at 10:30 am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the reception as the chief guest which will be organised by Dhaka City Corporation.

The team is being flown back under special arrangement, and will return to England on June 8 to fulfil tour commitments.

This was announced by State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader at a press conference yesterday.

## Sharif greets Hasina

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for victory of the Bangladesh Cricket team over his country's cricket team in a World Cup match at Northampton, England on Monday, reports BSS.

The Pakistan Prime Minister said, "The cricket team of our brotherly country Bangladesh played well and it deserves congratulations," a message from Islamabad said yesterday.

Bangladesh team defeated Pakistan by 62 runs.

## Help root out terrorism, PM urges Opposition

KHULNA, June 1: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today sought cooperation of the opposition parties in eliminating terrorism from the society to ensure peace and security of public life, reports UNB.

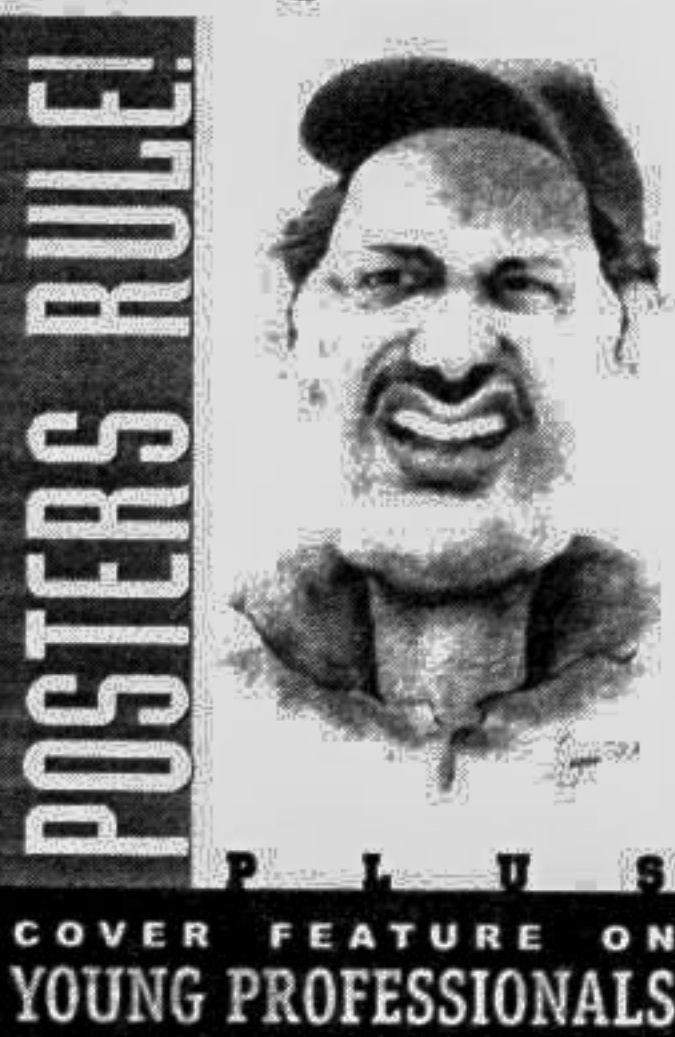
"We want cooperation of the opposition parties because we want to ensure a peaceful life for the people," she told a golden jubilee function of Awami League at Khulna Stadium reiterating her strong stance against terrorism.

Hasina said her government had taken stringent actions against the terrorists and was trying to ensure peace and security in every sphere of life.

"People expect a lot from Awami League," she said asking the party leaders and workers to work for people's welfare and make sacrifices further for the prosperity of the nation.

Awami League has taken countrywide programme to celebrate its 50th anniversary of founding this year and the Prime Minister is attending the functions at divisional level.

## THIS THURSDAY IN Rising Stars



COVER FEATURE ON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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## Prayer Timings

June 2		
Fajr	Azhan	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

Source: Islamic Foundation



The happy faces

Dhaka University students are over the moon at the Aparajeyo Bangla yesterday.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

# A nation in euphoria

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

No, not just another glorious chapter framed in gold.

What happened at Northampton Monday may have been ranked among the greatest upsets in cricket World Cup's 24-year history, but for Bangladesh the victory meant something amply symbolised by the ecstatic celebrations across the country.

For a nation, notorious for its factionalism in all spheres of life, it gave something to cry in unison.

From the president to squatters, from politicians to poets, from students to professors, from clergy to laity, from millionaires to beggars, all joined the band of revelers to hail the heroes of the historic

win against the 'indomitable' Pakistan cricketers.

In many years, nothing of the sort has happened in a country short of achievements and national heroes.

The last such national euphoria was generated by the lifting of the ICC Trophy, but the nature and stature of the opponent this time far exceeded the status of the achievement

two years ago.

"Bangladesh enjoy their greatest day," rightly wrote The Independent of London in a screaming headline spreading eight columns Tuesday.

The Times of London invoked Rudyard Kipling to describe the greatest upset in cricket history on a pitch that had previously hosted soccer matches.

As the green-and-red flags fluttered in the English town Monday evening, turning it into a mini-Bangladesh, there were only tears of joy back in Bangladesh after the fairy tale encounter.

Tens of thousands, glued to TV sets all over the country, took to the streets to tell the story to themselves as soon as Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq failed to make to the crease. That was the 10th Pakistan wicket.

Thousands of Bangladesh fans invaded the pitch, racing across the outfield waving the bi-colours even when the third umpire was taking a look at the run-out appeal.

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For Long Lasting Fresh Breath and Sparkling White Teeth

## A view from the Gully

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

There is more than meets the eye.

The law of averages was only the cue, the actual works came from the cricketers themselves. It was not a mere flash in the pan nor a manna from the heavens, but an achievement through sheer force of will, utmost discipline and enormous talent. It was a remote possibility, a hope against hope one that could be dashed, could also be true. The tigers were determined rather than pretentious. They had a point or two to prove to the cricketing world and they did that with aplomb. Call us not 'miraculous' anymore, for this word is so hackneyed and disgraceful. There are lot of other words in English language which are more dignified. We are no longer 'small fishes'.

This victory is very important for this nation in more ways than one.

In our struggle for survival, in our fight against poverty and illiteracy, we have forgotten the brighter side of life, we have forgotten how to smile, how to laugh. Thanks to our cricketers

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## Beyond the boundary We Need Protection

Shakil Kasem

Understandably, it will be quite a while before this national euphoria quiets down to acceptable levels. The future then needs to be charted and in earnest.

There is just that discernible hint of pathos underlying our team's performance. Having made the rest of the world sit up and take notice, the cricketers are going to come back and find they have no place they can call their own. The Bangladesh National Stadium, so long the scene and hub of our cricketing activities, both domestic and international, is now lost to football.

Ever since the ICC triumph there had been talk at all levels, and promises made, that the National Stadium would be handed over to cricket. The fact that it has not been done yet, is perhaps less galling than the spectacle of renovation work that has been carried out in the

middle of the square, nullifying and negating the effects of the crores of takas pumped into its very arteries, until now.

There has to be a blueprint that needs to be chalked up and put into place, as far as the future projections and plans for Bangladesh cricket are concerned. High on the agenda must be the demand for an exclusive ground that the Bangladesh Cricket Board can call its own. Cricket and cricketers have performed at every level of the game so far to stake such a claim. There has to be a concerted public demand and outcry, a form of citizen's appeal to the powers that be, so that this long felt need is fulfilled. The first step towards developing our infrastructure in cricket is now likely to be sooner rather than later, must be the headquarters of the game itself.

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we scored... the world watched

Standard & Chartered

## Looking back at first round

# All is well that ends well

LONDON, June 1: It was as if David had slain Goliath.

Bangladesh, which has little international sporting glory to its credit, attained instant fame Monday after handing a shock defeat to stalwart Pakistan in the tournament's most stunning upset since Zimbabwe beat India twelve days ago, reports AP.

The victory is 'history for us,' Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam said.

There was excitement in Edinburgh also where the fortunes of three teams were decided by the New Zealand-Scotland match. New Zealand defeated Scotland by six wickets but a win wasn't the Kiwis' only goal. They had to overhaul Scotland's total of 121 in 21.2 overs to qualify for the second round and they did it in 17.5

overs.

New Zealand's success spelled doom for the West Indies. A contender for a place in the second round, it was beaten by New Zealand's superior run rate and was eliminated for the tournament.

Australia, which had played mathematical games besides cricket on Sunday to prevent New Zealand from qualifying, failed in its gambit.

After the last matches in the preliminary round were played Monday, the boys had been separated from the men. The strongest advanced to the Super Six round: from Group A, South Africa, India and Zimbabwe and from Group B, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand. Eliminated were England, the West Indies, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Scotland and Bangladesh.

happy, their pride restored.

The winner of the International Cricket Council trophy, Bangladesh not only posted its highest World Cup score (232) but also the best first-wicket partnership of 69 against Pakistan by any team in the tournament. The previous best was 14 between West Indian openers Ridley Jacobs and Sherwin Campbell.

Their victory was nothing short of spectacular.

Defending a total of 223, Bangladesh's new ball bowlers Khaled Mahmud and Shaifuddin Ahmed sent the Pakistan top order reeling at 42 for five in the 13th over and bundled them out for 161 in 44.3 overs.

"I am happy we lost to our brothers," Pakistani captain Wasim Akram said. "I think we should praise their win —"

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# The 'mystery' about the growth rate

By Inam Ahmed

Call it a miracle, or a riddle?

Only to ignite the debate and the controversy, the government has confidently upped its GDP growth projection from a previously anticipated less than four per cent to a surprising 5.2 per cent.

But this has left economists, donors and the business community of the country wondering what actually boosted the government's confidence in projecting this nice figure even after the onslaught of the century's most devastating flood.

The government claims a bumper boro has propelled the growth figures show that despite a bumper boro harvest, both foodgrain and rice productions exhibit a negative trend both in comparison to last year's achievement and this year's target. At the same time, industrial growth this year is already down.

According to sources, the Ministry of Agriculture had originally set a target of 8.2 million tonnes (MT) of boro production this year. In its first and second revisions of the target in August and December last year, the target was still unchanged. In a third revision in

mid-February, the target was raised to 8.7 MT and when the fourth revision was made in April this year, it was further increased to 9 MT.

On the other hand, two other sources of information, the food ministry and the USAID, had given a completely different picture. The ministry had set the target at 7.8 MT and, but later revised it at 8.2 MT. The USAID figures show a slight increase in projection from the original 8.3 MT to the current 8.35 MT.

The Daily Star talked to some leading experts in the field who said the realistic range of estimate should be between 9 and 9.5 MT even with the aid of bumper crop that the government has been contemplating. With 9.5 MT, the agriculture growth becomes slightly positive.

"But with a 9 MT production, we will witness a downward trend in food production this year," said a senior economist who wanted not to be identified. "This is true if considered both from last year's production and this year's target point of view."

Last year, the actual foodgrain production was 20.66 MT. This included 1.87 MT of aus, 8.85 MT aman, 8.14 MT boro

and 1.8 MT wheat production.

Against this, the target for this year was set at 21 MT, a realistic 2.4 per cent over that of last year. It was thought that aus production would reach 1.90 MT, aman 9.5 MT, boro 7.8 MT and wheat 1.8 MT.

However, the floods had upset the apple-cart for the statisticians, as there was a 0.3 MT loss in aus and a even bigger 1.8 MT was wiped away from aman production.

Taking these into account, the aus production comes to 1.6 MT, aman 7.7 MT, boro a bumper 9 MT and wheat 2 MT. Together, these result in 20.3 MT of foodgrain production this year.

Now comes out another story about projecting the GDP growth from government sources. The government had originally estimated a 3.8 per cent GDP growth, which was later revised to 4.5 per cent keeping in mind a bumper boro. This figure was also used in the Economic Survey for the next budget. The same figure was also used in the summary paper placed before the National Economic Council (NEC) on last Wednesday, which approved the next ADP. But, then this was

See Page 12 Col 4

# The Daily Star investigates Charges against Titas officials contradictory, serve TU

By Sharier Khan

The suspension order issued on nine high officials and a former Managing Director of Titas Gas last week was based on self-contradictory allegations and was apparently to serve the interest of an unscrupulous group of trade union activists in Titas.

These officials were suspended on the ground that they had "illegally" provided gas connections to some 21 industries between April 1995 and October 1997 under a so-called "cost sharing scheme". It was also alleged that Titas gave away equipment worth Tk 22.69 crore free under the scheme.

It was further alleged that the officials made Titas spend Tk 11.89 crore for setting up gas supply infrastructure for those industries which were located outside the gas supply network.

But according to official documents obtained by The Daily Star, revenue earnings from these pipelines stood at Tk 44.39 crore. It was also found the documents that these industries had paid Tk 1.59 crore to Titas to construct the pipeline infrastructure under the cost sharing scheme.

Besides, the pipeline infrastructure set up by Titas under the scheme is owned by Titas. No pipeline was actually given to any industry under this scheme, sources said.

"Titas did not lose any money and none of the suspended officials misused their power. The pipeline networks built to serve these 20 industries

are now serving 36 industries. As a result, Titas has not only recovered its expenses but has gained impressive revenues," said a source.

The controversial cost sharing scheme was introduced in 1993-94 when some newly set up industries located outside Titas's gas supply network applied for gas connection. At that time, the annual budget for expansion of supply network was exhausted. "But the industries were in dire need," said a Titas official.

Titas, which had a plan to install gas supply lines up to these industries sometime in future, later agreed to the applicants' proposals that it would install the pipelines but the industries would provide the cost. The Titas Board, which is comprised of high officials from the Energy Ministry, Petrobangla and its sister concerns, and the Titas Gas had approved each of these cost-sharing schemes.

Titas then built an 8 inch 18 km Bhaluka-Sreepur Pipeline in early 1995 and another 8 inch 13 km Chandra-Beximconagar Pipeline in mid-1995. Later, these pipelines were expanded following fresh applications of similar nature.

However, from mid-1998, a group of unscrupulous trade union activists in Titas started interfering with the decisions of the Titas Board. At one stage, they managed to stop approval of budget for construction of a pipeline for a garments factory under the "cost-sharing

scheme". They had demanded Tk 2 lakh for 'clearance' of the scheme.

The Titas high officials were getting "shares" from these industries for providing with gas lines and threatened that they would "stop the cost-sharing schemes at any cost".

The then Titas MD Mukhtar Ali then told the union activists that they should place their objections and proposals to the Titas Board.

Following this, on November 1, the Energy Ministry suddenly suspended all cost-sharing schemes till further instruction.

Interestingly, on November 22, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed in a letter requested State Minister for Energy Prof Rafiqul Haq to relax the suspension order as he found that the cost-sharing scheme had helped industrialisation and benefited Titas Gas. He said that one textile mill, set up with Tk 35 crore machines, could not start production due to lack of gas supply and requested the State Minister to provide gas connection either by cost-sharing or by using Titas' own funds.

The State Minister then instructed the Titas MD to take necessary action.

If cost-sharing was damaging the interest of Titas, how this scheme is again being promoted by higher authorities?" questioned a source.

Since then, some half a

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা  
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

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ও অবৈধ রিকশা ইত্যাদি সংস্থার পক্ষ থেকে পরিচালিত উচ্ছেদ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে

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## Super Six Round

Wait for World Cup Super Six round: It begins with India facing Australia at The Oval on June 4. Bangladesh Television and other cable TVs will telecast the match live.