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## Euphoria

From Page 1

As Khaled Mahmud, the hero with three for 31 and a quick-fire 27, was handed the bottle of champagne, streets of Bangladesh were already celebrating the greatest win since being granted one-day status last year. This was Bangladesh's first over Pakistan in seven encounters.

The prime minister was one of the first to come up not only with warm words of congratulations, but also a fat load of money for the performers at Northampton. Her bitter foe in politics, the Leader of the Opposition did not also mince minutes to make her statements.

So did the corporate chiefs, announcing cash rewards following in the footsteps of the nation's chief executive. But the jubilation went far beyond what the big sums of money could express.

Joining the nightlong mirth were the old and young, men and women, boys and girls, rich and poor. They waved the national flags, danced, sang, chanted slogans, exploded firecrackers, beat drums and blew whistles on the streets of Dhaka and elsewhere.

Some 20,000 gathered on the Dhaka University campus alone in a midnight reveling Monday.

On Mirpur Road, slogan-shouting people marched through the avenue splashing coloured water on passers-by.

In the Old City, in similar fashion, the night lost its usual calm.

At Gulshan -- the quiet, posh northern district of Dhaka -- cars honked horns as merrymakers sped away to destinations unknown.

At suburban Uttara, jubilant crowds broke the regular midnight silence, said an excited professor calling The Daily Star Monday night.

In the northern administrative district of Natore, the deputy commissioner made a midnight announcement for cash rewards to the winning cricketers.

Correspondents from across the country called the Star News Desk, so did so many readers, some of them suggesting headline to the story of the day.

It suddenly became difficult for the staff writers at Star to move ahead with their copies despite the late night habit of producing volumes -- good or bad. After all, they were citizens of Bangladesh too!

A kid -- five-year-old, so said a sports reporter attending the phone at 1:00am -- called to say how he was feeling.

But poet Rafique Azad felt younger than ever, calling it the victory fantastic. "Since 1971, nothing has done me so much proud," said a tearful Azad who came to The Daily Star Monday night, accompanied by wife Dr Dilara Haifiz.

The merry-making that went long into early Tuesday morning continued all day -- declared a half-day holiday by the government.

At the Secretariat, the seat of government, scene was completely different. Ministers failed to keep appointments. Bureaucrats talked cricket. Employees at canteen sipped tea, had sweets and discussed the victory.

Schools had no classes. At Dhaka University, the vice-chancellor himself led a procession of students, teachers and employees.

At the Teacher-Student Centre, the heart of DU campus, students raised a podium to give everyone around a chance to perform and sing the victory.

Rivals -- pro-Awami League Chhakra League and BNP-backed Chhakra Dal -- sang the same tune.

At Motijheel, the city's business district, the scenes were far from normal. Stock brokers took a break to brood over the World Cup event.

Businesses had a different day. There was nothing, and there was too much.

Sweets, the most common means of manifesting joyous events, sold more than ever. The shops sweated to meet the mounting demand of customers in long queues. Top makers such as Alauddin, Maran Chand, Ambala and Mahaan Chand struggled even after huge extra production.

Biriani, another traditional item for festive occasions, ran out of supply. Star, a famed biriani house, said it cooked 50 dekhis (big bowls) in addition to normal catering but failed to meet the demand.

Dwellers in shanties celebrated. The men and women watched their children dance and sing -- perhaps without much knowledge what exactly had happened. Rickshaw-pullers ran faster.

Political adversaries competed with each other in colourful processions and in public pronouncements.

The prime minister ordered a civic reception next Friday. The opposition BNP announced one too.

Even the conservative Jamaat-e-Islami would not lag behind. Jatiya Party had something similar in mind.

It was all because of the history written by the boys from Bangladesh in their first-ever World Cup campaign, first celebrated by the May 24 win against Scotland.

Just for a reminder, Monday's scorecard at Northampton read:

Bangladesh: 223 for nine

Pakistan: 161 all out in 44.3 overs.



Justice Mostafa Kamal is seen with President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after taking oath as Chief Justice at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo



## A view from the Gully

From Page 1  
who have given us something to cheer about, a precious little to rejoice.

To the history of Northamptonshire is now added the greatest achievement of Bangladeshi who convincingly defeated the 1992 world champions Pakistan on Monday 31 May 1991 in a World Cup match.

Among others, Speaker Humaun Rashid Chowdhury, former Chief Justices ATM Afzal, Habibur Rahman, cabinet ministers, Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament attended the ceremony.

Bangladesh more than obliged Akram and his team. The fearsome trio of Akram, Yunis and Shoib had little impact on Shahrir and Mehrab and at past fifty the Pakistanis panicked a bit and despite two quick wickets the middle order reasonably held out the challenge and with sloppy fielding and a generous dose of wides and no Bangladesh crossed the 200 mark for the first time in the tournament. Akram Khan found his touch quite late in the day and held the innings together. Even a five wicket match have by Saqlain could not halt the progress of Bangladesh.

Pakistan appeared to be a hobble horse in a steeple chase as Bangladesh medium pacers Mahmood and Shafuddin ran through the Pakistani top order without much fuss and when Azhar was brilliantly run out by Aminul, the end was in sight. Mahmood, who until then had a bad tournament made it up with the bat and ball to become the man-of-the-match, the second Bangladeshi to achieve this honour in their first World Cup.

It was a day for Bangladesh, a rare one, when everything went their way and the boys accepted them with both hands.

It was the finest hour in our cricketing, nay, sporting history and will remain so till the day of resurrection.

The Kiwis beat the Aussie calculators and booked their berth in the Super Six ahead of Australia with two crucial points. Scots were beaten comprehensively at Edinburgh by New Zealand on Monday by six wickets in their allotted 20 overs.



The other faces

Boys from the shanties at Mill Barracks in the Old City are in merriment yesterday. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## President congratulates Bangladesh team

President Shahabuddin Ahmed congratulated the Bangladeshi cricket team for their remarkable victory against Pakistan, reports UNB.

In a message of warm greetings yesterday which was read out by the Cabinet Secretary Qazi Shamsul Alam at the beginning of oath-taking ceremony of Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal, the President said the remarkable success of the Bangladeshi team is a glorious occasion for the whole nation.

The country sincerely wished that the trend of such achievement would continue in future, he said.

"Let us extend our standing ovation to their glorious victory," the message added.

## 7 hurt in Nagar Bhaban clash

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were injured when employees of Nagar Bhaban attacked some businessmen who went there to protest snapping of power supply lines at noon yesterday.

Witnesses said that some businessmen from City Super Market of Fulbaria had come to Nagar Bhaban to meet the mayor as their power lines had been cut off four days ago. Several fourth class employees attacked them at that time. At least seven people were injured during the clash that followed between the two groups.

Police said that the clash ensued when Nagar Bhaban employees tried to stop some angry people who damaged furniture of a bank in the building. Two of the bank employees Shajahan and Fazlu were injured by the attackers during the clash, police added.

The injured were admitted to the different city clinics.

Police arrested nine people during the clash. They were identified as Delware Hossain, Noor Mohammed, Monirul Islam, Aslam, Nazmul Hossain, Rajendra Chandra Mondal, Shahjahan, Zilur Rahman and Suraj.

A case was lodged with Ramma thana in this connection.

## 10 revellers hurt in city

At least 10 revellers, celebrating the country's massive victory against Pakistan in the World Cup Cricket, were injured in different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Saiful Islam, 26, of Mirpur was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab wounds.

## Mystery

From Page 1  
corrected once again and the growth rate was increased to 5 per cent.

But in the press briefing following the NEC meeting, the growth figure that was revealed to the press was 5.2 per cent.

According to sources, the BBS has now been asked to 'back calculate' the other figures to match the 5.2 growth rate and the 'boro' output has been refixed at over 10 MT.

Meanwhile, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury has come out with a new set of figures. According to her, this year's 'boro' output is 10.03 MT and the growth in agriculture is five per cent. The growth rate directly contradicts with what had been given at the Wednesday's NEC meeting. The summary paper of the meeting said agriculture would post a three per cent growth.

The latest growth figure of 5.2 per cent has certainly surprised all including the donors and the business community. Country Director of the World Bank Frederic Temple in a lunch meeting with the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Sunday has termed the growth 'miraculous' and mentioned that both exports and industrial output are down this year.

The whole GDP estimation process now puts the BBS before questions. How authentic is the Planning Commission figures is now being asked by many.

The donors including the World Bank had estimated that this year's growth would be around 4 per cent because of the flood losses. Independent economists of the Centre for Policy Dialogue also put the growth around this figure, which the government also accepted.

## Beyond the boundary

From Page 1

Bangladesh Cricket Board must then put into practice, what has been preached by every self-respecting Test playing country over the years. It must formulate without any delay, a format of the longer versions of the game at the domestic level. The acid test of any batsman or bowler at the topmost level of the game, is his ability to perform for protracted periods of time. This is only possible when they have the required temperament, technique and the concentration levels relevant for the purpose. Only the longer version of the game allows them that luxury.

Even at the school level such a programme must be put in place, for this is where the nursery of the game in this country is likely to be. Granted, there will be difficulties in arranging grounds and other logistics. Therefore there has to be governmental effort and assistance in overcoming this problem. It is time indeed for

## Mbeki set to succeed Mandela as South Africa goes to polls today

By M Anwarul Haq, back from Cape Town

Washed by the waters of the Indian and Atlantic oceans, with hundreds of miles of scenic coastline and a bounty of natural flora and fauna, is straddled by the picturesque Table Mountain.

Cape Town, lying at the tip of the African continent, is home to the Legislative Capital of South Africa. The garden route city is agog with electrifying excitement as it participates with the rest of South Africa in polls today to elect 400 new members of parliament in the country's second all-race elections.

Some thirty parties, ranging from white far right to black socialist left, are set to contest the elections in a country with nearly 41 million people of a variety of races.

Although several parties are in the fray, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) is poised to win the largest number of seats, perhaps close to two-thirds, and once again form the government, according to pollsters.

In fact, Thabo Mbeki, who served as Mandela's deputy and now heads the ANC, is considered as president-in-waiting. The ANC is expected to sweep most of the seats in seven of the

nine provinces with the exception of Kwa Zulu Natal and Western Cape.

The ANC won 252 seats (out of 400), obtaining nearly 63 per cent of the votes in the first all-race elections in 1994. That poll marked the end of four decades of despised apartheid rule and installed Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black President.

Mandela, now 80, has become the icon of new South Africa and a symbol of reconciliation, transition and stability. He has opted out from contesting. Despite more than 55 years of political struggle and imprisonment for 27 years, he chose to lead South Africa for only a five-year term, paving the way for what many would say 'more reconciliation, more transition and more stability'.

The pollsters now say that ANC which has a long history of struggle and sacrifice may win two-thirds seats in the new parliament and make constitutional changes according to their suitability, a charge presidential hopeful Thabo Mbeki strongly denies.

The leader of opposition par-

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## Citizens, activists urge ministers

## 'Shift NAM confce site'

Concerned citizens and environmentalists trying to protect the Osmany Udayan yesterday reiterated their demand to shift the proposed International Conference Centre for the NAM summit from the Udayan to an alternative site.

Their sentiment was conveyed at a meeting convened by Minister for Public Works Department (PWD) and Civil Aviation Mosharraf Hossain at the Secretariat. Minister for Forests and Environment NGOs, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Dr Atiq Rahman, Dr Saleemul Huq of BCAS, Rizwana Hasan of BELA, Hasan of Porosh, Salahuddin Badal, Quamrul Islam Choudhury, Bakhtiar Rana and Shehab Ahmed of FEJB attended the meeting.

The citizens representing different NGOs and civil society suggested a committee be formed to select an appropriate site with both government and civic bodies representing it.

They further said that a number of appropriate sites are available in the city befitting the International Convention Centre. One of the prime sites is the open space besides the Bijoy Sarani, a portion of which is marked for the military museum and another is being used as an exhibition vegetable gar-

den by the military farm.

Besides, lands most of less significance, have been earmarked to be cleared for the convention centre.

But the prime minister has directed me to plant three trees for each felled.

Mosharraf Hossain said he appreciated the concern of the citizens, but the government had been unable to find appropriate space for a centre befitting the international meetings like the NAM summit elsewhere in the city. Such a centre is located in city centre as close to hotels as possible and that was a big factor, he added.

Moreover, the sites suggested like the one at drum factory near the Prime Minister's Office was too tight to have any landscaping; the old airport was marked to be used as the alternate airport, the site near military museum was rejected as it stands on the 'air-pocket' to the old airport and the land beside the Sonargaon Hotel was not considered because it would have required earth filling and may prove expensive, he added.

## বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

প্রথম বর্ষে ভর্তি কর্মসূচি সম্মেলনের কার্যালয়