

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the installation ceremony of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Dhaka Metropolitan (north south) at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers in the city yesterday. -Star photo

Minister tells JS Plan to build Sonargaon Hotel chain taken up

By Staff Correspondent **Čivil Aviation and Tourism** Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told the parliament that the government had taken up a plan to build Sonargaon Hotel chain in six important tourism sites in the country.

Replying to question in parliament, he said the chain hotels will be constructed at Cox's Bazar, Sundarban, Kuakata Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban with the objective to attract tourists from home and abroad.

"I am hopeful that this plan would be implemented within next one or one and a half years," he added.

Miscreants cut off hand, leg of a fisherman

By Staff Correspondent Miscreants cut off a hand and leg of a fisherman at Gopibagh in the city yesterday

noon.

rickshaw.

The victim was identified as Alamgir Hossain Bullet, a resident of a city slum near Segun-

bagicha water tank. Hospital sources said the incident took place when Bullet went to Jonaki cinema hall to enjoy the movie at about 12:30 p.m.. When he went to get the ticket at the counter a gang of five young men tied and took him away to Gopibagh by auto-

The gang then cut off his right hand and leg with a sharp weapon. The gang left the spot soon after by auto-rickshaw. The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a pool of blood.

'Govt to back research on hybrid rice'

By Staff Correspondent

Food and Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury yesterday said the government has given importance on research for inventing variety of hybrid rice which suits the climate of the country.

She said agreements have already been signed with four firms for the marketing of new hybrid seeds. The four firms will import 2000 MT of rice from China and India this year.

Replying to questions in parliament, Motia said China first invented hybrid rice and gave it to India and Bangladesh for research in 1993. "India carried out research and made progress but the previous BNP government declined to go for research for unknown reason and now Bangladesh is lagging behind in producing more rice," she ob-She, however, thanked the

then Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who had given permission to import 800 kg of high yield variety in 1995 which finally resulted a bumper production this year.

"We might have made a lot progress if we could start research in 1993. I don't know the logic why BNP government did not go for research in 1993. May be the motive behind this was to create a market for others," the Agriculture Minister said.

She said currently the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) is carrying out research on hybrid variety, which is expected to be completed within next two years. She also hoped that Bangladesh would be able to invent its own variety of

hybrid rice in near future. On exceeding the target of rice production. Motia Chowdhury said the country yielded a bumper rice production in the current season with the blessing of Almighty Allah, tireless efforts of the farmers, smooth supply of fertiliser and good management of the government.

Osmani Medical College 1st year

classes from June 14 The first year MBBS classes (1998-99 session) of Sylhet Osmani Medical College will begin

on June 14, reports UNB. The students and their guardians have been advised to attend an orientation class to be held at the college auditorium at 10 am on the day.

Call to launch vigorous movement against govt

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has called upon the people to launch vigorous movement against the government and remain alert against its fascist activities, reports UNB.

"The fascist government is unleashing oppression on the opposition leaders and activists apprehending people's movement," Mannan said in a statement yesterday.

He condemned bomb attack on the residence of a central Chhatra Dal leader and arrest of some leaders of BNP and its front organisations in different parts of the country including Laxmipur, Bhola and Barisal districts.

"They have been harassing the leaders and workers of the opposition parties including BNP. They are killing the opposition workers and leaders, filing false cases against them, arresting and unleashing oppression after assuming power through fraud and conspiracy, Bhuiyan said.

He said 70 false cases have so far been filed against Chhatra general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu. The JCD leader was arrested three times during the last three years and was jailed for 14

months, he said. Bhuiyan said that attack on him was not stopped even after he was set free by High Court

USAID to train PDB officials, employees

By Staff Correspondent

The Power Development Board (PDB) and the USAID have initiated a scheme to train the officials and employees of PDB to improve their efficiency.

Director, Dhaka Mission of USAID David Sprague yesterday met. PDB Chairman Kamrul Islam Siddique and assured that the USAID would provide all types of assistance in this regard as soon as possible. Under this project, PDB offi-

cials and employees would be given training on better communication, technical and managerial aspects and human resource development.

PDB has formed a task force with PDB Commercial General Manager Syed Abdul Mueed as its convenor.

Work stoppage paralyses Bangabandhu Hospital

By Staff Correspondent

Medical services at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital standstill yesterday due to work abstention by nearly 900 nurses, cleaners, security guards, ayas, and ward boys and other support staff.

Services at the university, particularly treatment facilities deteriorated further yesterday as striking workers under the banner of Sarkari Karmachari Samanya parishad extended their work stoppage for the second consecutive day and enforced a fresh work abstention programme. Earlier the work stoppage was due to end yesterday morning but was extended till 8 am this morning in pursuance of the staffis fivepoint demand.

The demands of the striking Reception to cricket heroes

in Ctg tomorrow CHITTAGONG, June 7: The stage is set to accord a grand citizens' reception to the national cricket heroes at the M A Aziz Stadium on June 9, reports

Chittagong City Corporation has organised the reception to the cricket heroes who beat mighty Pakistan in a World Cup match in England

A 551-member strong reception committee has been formed with the City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury as its Chairman

Fuel dealers call off strike in Rajshahi

From A Correspondent BOGRA, June 7: The Rajshahi Divisional Fuel Dealers and Tank Lorry Owners Association (RFDTLOA) yesterday

called off its indefinite strike. RFDTLOA and the district administration at a meeting at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner, Bogra today decided to defer strike for one

The meeting was attended among others by police super Luthfar Rahman Miah, president of RFDTLOA Shahjada Anwarul Kadir and secretary Mizanur Rahman.

staff include disbursement of their salary and other al lowances directly through the (BSMMUH) virtually came to a AGB office, formation of a pension cell in the hospital, granting of two-day weekly holiday and all public holidays, provision for free treatment for the staff and their families and supply of clothing for class four employees on time.

The situation worsened as tension gripped the hospital following a clash between the leaders and activists of the Parishad and police yesterday afternoon.

At least ten employees were injured, two of them seriously when police resorted to baton charge at a procession of the striking employees of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH).

Meanwhile, Dr. M.A. Quadri at a press conference yesterday evening blasted the employees for their irresponsible activi-

Dr. Quadri termed the movement as politically motivated and said, iThere is some political element in the movement of the Parishad.i

Chhatak

From Page 1

men, commissioners and members) demanded immediate release of Manik to give him a 'chance to join' the budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Parishad leaders at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club this afternoon alleged that the Foreign Minister was 'involved in ill-practices' that went against the interest of the commonman of Chhatak and Doarabazar. The arrest of Muhibur Rahman Manik is part of a conspiracy, they added. A number of terrorist groups 'blessed' by the Foreign Minister have turned the area into a den of criminals, they

alleged. The leaders also alleged that elected people were also being implicated in false cases and harassed for unknown reasons before and after the arrest of

They also extended support to the programmes of Chhatak and Doarabazar thana Awami



PDB Chairman Quamrul Islam Siddique held a meeting with delegates of USAID mission at the board room of the WAPDA building yesterday.

'Govt taking steps to give autonomy to Radio, TV'

The government is planning to give the much-debated autonomy to the state-controlled Television and Radio with the operation of a private TV channel, reports UNB.

"Private Ekushey TV is to go on air by March next year. Alongside it, practical steps are being taken to implement our commitment for giving autonomy to the radio and television," State Minister for Information prof Abu Sayeed said.

"We'll give autonomy to fulfill our election pledge, not under any opposition pressure," he made it clear talking about the state of media in present Bangladesh in this information age when the world is going through rapid changes due to revolution in Information Technology.

The Information Minister gave a broad view of the media sector in an interview with UNB, marking completion of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina government's three years in of-

He said within a few months of assuming power the Awami League government set up a commission to prepare recommendations for autonomy. But the commission's report could not provide a clear-cut recommendations on legal and administrative aspects, uniform job criteria etc that stood in the way of giving effective auton-

Sayeed dispelled the notion that the Awami League government was delaying the autonomy as a political strategy. The freedom of the BTV screen has to be ensured on the basis of certain policy guidelines as it happened in other countries, he observed.

As such, the State Minister observed, there was no problem with BTV's various programmes covering socio-cultural issues. drama and music, other than news bulletins. There may be some ques-

tions about BTV's news bulletins that cover only one hour 20 minutes out of the total telecast times. When the autonomy will be given, time allocation

for the government and opposi-tion parties will also be fixed. The minister admitted that due to lack of hi-technology, skilled manpower and other logistics, BTV could not produce quality programmes and news bulletins on a part with inter-national televisions like BBC

for CNN. Sayeed, however, said the government had taken up massive development plans to mod-ernise BTV to cope with the foreigners. challenges of private TV chan-

nel which will go on the air in next one year. He said BMRE of BTV was completed, and now it needed ground stations, SNG and cooling system to compete with the private channel.

The government has plans to replace the age-old transmitters of different TV relay stations to enable people across the country to watch good pic-

He admitted that BTV does not have adequate skilled and talented manpower. In this con-text, he cited a decision of the Ershad government that allowed a low-grade employee to become a producer through promotions. This may be one of the reasons for low quality programmes on the state media.

Asked whether the private channel would be able to independently produce news bulletin, Prof Sayeed said the private TV would operate on set guidelines. 'Yes, it can telecast news bulletin independently with its own script, but they will have to abide by the policy guidelines.

Asked about more private TV channels, he said under the present VHF system, the government could give permission to only one and that had been given to Ekushey TV.

But under the UHF system more than one channel can go into operation. He said the question of giving permission

to others would be considered on the basis of performance of the Ekushey TV channel.

Asked for his comment on people's inclination for listening to BBC news instead of BTV's Sayeed said, "As national media we have certain responsibilities towards the nation, which BBC or others may not

Even BBC programmes for domestic viewers are quite different from those telecast for

In reply to a question, the State Minister said BTV's independent reporting cell would function from this year which he hoped would improve the standard of news.

He said with setting up of two more relay stations at Ukhia and Rangamati, the entire country would come under the BTV network. Work on the two stations is likely to be completed by next year.

Asked about allegations of nepotism and corruption in se-lecting artistes for BTV programmes and news, Prof Sayeed did not disagree with corrupt practice in the past. To avert nepotism and scandal, he said, some practical procedures are being followed in selection.

About permission of radio in the private sector. Prof Sayeed said slot had been given to a private company named Metro

He informed that the Information Ministry had sent a proposal to the Home Ministry for considering opening a FM channel to control traffic jams in the capital.

He dismissed the allegations that government ads were being distributed to newspapers on political grounds. Advertisements are distributed on certain guidelines that include publication of news on the spirit of Liberation War, developmental activities and circulation, said the minister.



Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association brought out a precession in -Star phot support of their various demand in the city yesterday.

BTA urges PM to fulfil her

commitment Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BTA) has urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to fulfil her commitment given during their movement in 1994,

reports UNB. The association yesterday handed over a memorandum, containing its demands, to the Director (Admin) of the PM office to submit it to the Prime

Minister. Their demands include providing 100 per cent of their basic salaries by the government as a step to nationalise their services, cancelling the manpower structure, giving succeeding scale for headmasters and assistant headmasters, increasing house rent and providing festival bonus.

BTA leaders also threatened to launch an agitation programme if their demands were not met by June 30.

One killed in Rangamati

RANGAMATI. June 7: Jebumoni Chakma, a 'Karbari' of Kukichhari village in Barkal thana died of bullet injury on Saturday, according to delayed report reaching here today, reports UNB.

The police said village rivalry led to the shooting of Jebumoni at about 8:45 pm. He died on way to Barkal health complex. None was arrested in connection with the murder till Monday night.

Abahani retain title

From Page 1 shots. But he almost saved the fifth spot kick taken by Dulal. However, that was not to be as the ball rolled into the righthand side of the post after kissing the outstretched hands of Biplob.

Muktijoddha did dominate the final in front of a 15,000strong crowd at the big bowl, but the all reds have only themselves to blame for eventually returning with a wooden-spoon.

With national right-wing back Hasan al Mamun playing like a spring chicken, Muktijoddha simply tore apart the Abahani defence. But the defending Premier League champions failed to break the evening's duck due to poor marksmanship.

Muktijoddha were denied a golden opportunity to lift the Federation Cup for the second time when their lanky striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib failed to tap the ball into an empty net from virtually the goal line in the 89th minute. Surprisingly, he had the ball stuck between his feet.

During the sudden death extra-time, both sides survived a few close calls. But lady-luck seemed to have smiled upon Abahani when Aminul parried out a fierce right-footer pointblank from substitute Mamun Joarder, much to the disbelief

tightly Despite being marked, Raman Vijayan showed his prowess as a lethal marksman with two brilliant headers. But his first attempt in the 44th minute narrowly missed the mark while the second one, 10 minutes later, was tipped over the bar by the Muk-

tijoddha goalie. Abahani almost found a golden boy in Zakir 13 minutes into the extra time. But the nimble midfielder's left-footer missed the far post by a yard.

State minister for youth and sports Obaidul Qader, the chief guest at the concluding ceremony, later distributed prizes among the winners. Abahani got a cash award of Tk one lakh apart from the glittering champions trophy for their sixth title. Muktijoddha pock-

eted Tk 75,000. Incidentally, Muktijoddha finished as the only undefeated team in the tournament. Abahani started this year's Federation Cup with a stunning defeat at the hands of Bauda Jagorani. Yellow cards: Hasan al

(Muktijoddha), Iqbal and Munir (Abahani). Teams: Abahani KC: Aminul, Munir, Ranjan Dey, Kingshuk, Dulal, Prodip (Sohel Reza), Za-

Mamu, Mamun Joarder, Liton

tion Abu Sayeed was present at the House. But the Deputy

> although none of them wanted to have a say on the matter. The commerce minister said he did not see any problem with airing of the 'expunged proceedings' as the entire nation heard them live on radio. He, how-

coverage by the BTV. "Well, there is scope for the opposition to object to the bias reporting by the BTV," Tofail

be objective in broadcasting parliament proceedings in fu-

tion for ruling by the chair, the ments."

Sit-in at CMC

CHITTAGONG, June 7: Dental College Student Action Committee staged a sit-in at Chittagong Medical College today as part of its 19-day agitaits five-point demand.

ing the dental unit into a fullfledged college and Hospital, and separate fund for the unit.

Bill soon to save city's water bodies from land-grabbers

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said that a bill would be introduced in the house for the protection and preservation of canals, beels, and other water bodies in and around the Dhaka City, reports

Replying to the call attention notice of Awami League MP Haji Md Selim (Dhaka-8) on the rehabilitation of displaced per-sons in Dhaka City, the civil aviation minister said the pro-posed bill aimed at preserving the water bodies and saving them from land-grabbers.

He told the Sangsad that the Prime Minister has given a clear cut direction not to evict the slum dwellers but to rehabilitate them properly by shifting them to suitable places.

The minister informed the house that Rajuk has prepared a master plan for Dhaka city. The plan recommended shifting and rehabilitation of unplanned slums and houses in and

around the capital in phases. Rajuk, he said, has in the meantime taken up some pro-grammes in the light of the recommendation of the master plan. Under the programmes, the displaced persons of Gul-shan, Baridhara, Banani, Uttara, Nikunja and Badda areas would be rehabilitated in the khas land of Gazipur and Narayangani districts, he

Mosharraf said 1,000 families from slums adjacent to Sonargaon Hotel have been shifted to government land at Mirpur recently. Besides, a plan has been taken to shift and rehabilitate 9,000 more families in different thanas under Narayanganj district. The plan would be implemented when land would be available, he

He further said about 50 acres of land have been identified at Section 16 of Mirpur for construction of flats for the slum dwellers.

Indo-Pak match

From Page 1

trouble, just glorious cricket. His Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Junejo, said: "We don't think of Kashmir, we think of

cricket. But authorities remain watchful. Khan Moghal, Pakistan director of the city council's community relations, went on radio three times last week asking for calm.

Police have already spread the biggest security net yet in the tournament.

Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin refused to be drawn into the politics.

"Politically we are not bothered," said Azharuddin, who'll be playing to keep his captaincy following India's dismal loss to Australia. "We are only bothered about winning the game."

For all his diplomacy, there is no denying that the tension is electric on the field when the two sides clash even though Indian and Pakistani players insist they are good friends out-But many fans consider los-

ing to Pakistan or India even more shameful than losing the World Cup. Azharuddin dismissed a suggestion by a reporter that Indian players suffer from an in-

feriority complex when facing Pakistan "That's what the public thinks all the time. I don't think we have an inferiority complex at all. We have done

well against them," he said. Not exactly. Pakistan has beaten India 46 times, including four times in March and April, while India has won only 26 times in head-to-head

thing to lose and gain while we have four points and another chance," Wasim said.

Shoaib Akhtar vs the world's No 1 batsman Tendulkar. Saurav Ganguly, the second

Haq's sledgehammer bat. "They have got class bowlers but that doesn't concern me

only two games between the sides," Azharuddin said.

been. The heat is on.

Pakistan would be unleashing their battery of fast bowlers against a batting side, that looks invincible on paper, and in fact, against any other side in the world. But, against Pakistan this batting has crumbled and disintegrated more times than one cares to remember. It is one of the paradoxes of this World Cup that, India has still not been able to decide where to hide the best batsman in the world. The Indian obsession of keeping him under wraps yet expecting him to perform, has so confused and demoralised the man concerned, that neither Tendulkar nor India have caused any inconvenience to the bowling opponents. Tendulkar, thanks to his over protective team management, is now reduced to a pale shadow of what he was. Nervous and edgy, he has gone into a shell. In the West Indies, the cry would no doubt have arisen in a similar situation, to "let de tiger loose, maan!". But the twain shall never meet, and now that it is too late, India can repent at leisure, once the heads have rolled.

Pakistan go into this match as firm favourities. They have played India many a time before, and know their weaknesses inside out. They have taken perverse pleasure in kicking the soft underbelly of the Indian line-up so many times before, that barring a totally unexpected shock that has to register fairly high on the Richter Scale, the outcome of this match is in little doubt. Pakistan only needs a sensible collected approach to get the two points they need. Two defeats in the recent past, may have shaken their confidence levels somewhat, but India seem to be the cool and soothing balm for any lingering effects of their trauma. India needs a massive win to keep their hopes alive in this competition. That, Watson, is not on the cards. Cricket may be a funny game. but it has not got funnier to the extent that warrants the im-

In 1993 in Sydney, India won by 43 runs, aided by 54 not out by Sachin Tendulkar, then a 19-year-old freshman. In Bangalore in 1996, India won by 39 runs. Seven of the Indian players from that team will play tomorrow as will five from the

Pakistani side. Pakistan is the firm favourite this time given its

tournament record. Wasim's team has lost only twice - a shock defeat to Bangladesh, which did not effect its position, and by three wickets to South Africa in the

Super Six stage on Saturday. The defeat meant it still has four points that it carried over from the preliminary stage, and needs at least one win to reach the semifinals. India entered the Super Six

with no points and its loss to

Australia on Friday has virtu-

ally ended its chances of a semifinal berth, barring an improbable set of results by the other "Obviously they have every-

Whatever the motives driving the two teams, the contest is expected to be sharp with fans waiting to see several mini-duels: world's fastest bowler

Wasim's guile vs the wits of highest run maker in the tournament with 350. And Anil Kumble's spin vs Inzamam-ul-

India's record is better in the very much. We have batsmen World Cup where it has won the who have done well against all

Beyond the boundary As far as England '99 is con-

cerned, India and Pakistan are

but passing ships at sea. Before

will have enacted another chap-

ter in one of the most abiding

and intriguing sporting rival-

Share scam

From Page 1

powerful," Mahbub-e-Alam re-

sponded. He also noted, "the

opinion of judges varies". His

ries of our time.

the day is dead, however, they

From Page 1

several lives would be flashing past Azhar's eyes, as his team nears the end of the road of its star crossed campaign. Theoretically, India's input left in this competition is just that of being of nuisance value. Presently, they are very much on the floor, having suffered a series of mortal blows in the past few days. But that, as every Tom. Dick and Abdul who can tell his cricket from his Colgate knows, is of little concern today. This match is special, it has always

remark angered the judge. "What do you mean? What kind of argument is this? Are you saying, we are all fools and other judges are clever? Every judge will give the same opinion if you come up with clear evidence," Justice Rabbani said. Earlier, senior advocate A Malek appearing on behalf of the petitioner said, the sessions' judge acted "mechanically" on non-specific allegation. He said, Runa Alam was accused as chairman of SES company while the complaint did not say that she was involved in arranged dealing while managing affairs of the company. "She is neither a director nor a manager," Malek said. "A court cannot frame charge against her, since she is not accused. Even the report of the expert committee did not say she was an offender." Mahbub-e-Alam appearing

settled.

He also contradicted the statement of lawyers that the complaint did not say Runa Alam was involved in arranged dealing. The additional attorney general read out a section of the complaint petition which said, "the accused firm and the other dealers/brokers were active in fraudulent activities in July -December 1996". He said the offence was detected by an enquiry committee formed by the Security Ex-

change Commission (SEC). The

for the state said the accused

manipulated the market by

showing false delivery versus

payment (DVP), which was not

report said the accused being a dealer and broker committed the offence. Mahbub-e-Alam also read out a section of the probe committee report which said the accused firm was "mainly a seller, most of the sales are in big volumes likely to be owned by big shareholders. Major buyers also seemed to be selective,

ing the market.' "Anyone influencing the market is punishable under Section 17 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance 1969," the additional attorney general pointed out.

which leaves scope for influenc-

kir, Iqbal, Mintu, Arman of Muktijoddha. An apparently mediocre (Sentu) and Raman Vijayan. Muktijoddha: Biplob, Hasan Abahani, however, tried to take al Mamun, Rajani, Jewel, Titu, the attack to their more illus-Masud Rana, Joy Tushar, Liton, trious opponents. But they could hardly penetrate the wa-Walid (Mamun Joarder) and ter-tight Muktijoddha defence Nakib. manned by national captain Referee: Golam Mostafa

'BTV politically motivated' and Jainal Abedin Farook --

From page 12 day," Chowdhury reminded the

"But BTV broadcast Nasim's speech, while it deliberately blacked but opposition versions." He said it was injustice on the opposition. "Besides, airing of the proceedings expunged by the Chair is tantamount to dishonouring the parliament

The Opposition leader also observed that this was not the first time that the governmentcontrolled BTV has discriminated against the opposition, especially in terms of broadcasting parliament proceedings. Demanding an immediate ruling by the Chair on this issue. Chowdhury hoped that the Chair would "censure the BTV authorities and the State Minister for Information for the malpractice".

Earlier, two other BNP lawmakers - Hafizuddin Ahmed

spoke on the same issue. Farook said the BTV behaviour goes against the four-point agreement signed between the Treasury Bench and the opposition that promised neutral coverage of parliament proceed-State Minister for Informa-

Speaker gave floor to Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed ever, found substance in the opposition allegation of selected

said. "I hope that the BTV would

On insistence of the opposi-

Deputy Speaker said, he did not watch BTV on Sunday. "I will give my ruling on the issue after examining the relevant docu-

From CU Correspondent

tion programme to press home The demand includes turn-

probable.