The Daily Star

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Peace restored in SW region: Home Minister

47000 terrorists held, 1500 arms seized in 47 days

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday disclosed in Parliament that 47,000 terrorists were rounded up and 1,500 arms seized in 47 days from April 23 during a special combing operation across the country, reports UNB.

"People got back confidence and peace has been restored in southwestern region, the stronghold of outlaws," he said making a statement under Rule 300.

"But it's unfortunate that many hardened criminals, who were arrested by police taking lot of risks, are getting bails from the court within 24 hours," the Home Minister said. "I don't disfespect the court, but the criminals are taking advantage of legal loopholes."

Reiterating the government's pledge to eliminate terrorists, he said: "We will never compromise, nor give any concession to them since this government was voted to power by the people, not by the terrorists."

The Home Minister said that over the years terrorist groups had created a reign of terror in the southwestern region under different 'imaginary' political groups. They were used during local and national elections by different political parties and given shelter.

"Today, they are surrendering their arms and returning to normal life," he said.

Nasim said more than 200 terrorists surrendered to the government Monday at the Jessore Town Hall maidan, where 10 people were killed in powerful bomb blasts at Udichi cultural function on March 7.

He said peace now prevails in Jessore. Terrorists forming syndicates were involved in smuggling and had smuggled arms under the shelter of different political parties. Those syndicates were demolished during the operation.

The Home Minister urged the terrorists, who were still absconding, to surrender and assured them that if necessary they would be rehabilitated.

He also requested the opposition leaders not to raise any demand for the release of terrorists or accused people for the sake of rule of law.

"It's a double standard to seek trial of the killings and release of the killers," he said and referred to BNP's demand to release the accused in Mukul murder case in Jessore.

"We did not make any demand for releasing the man (Mohibur Rahman Manik MP) found involved in Chhatak bomb blast," the Home Minister said. "Why are you are demanding the release of an accused (Tariqul Islam) in the killing of Runner Editor Mukul? he asked.

He said terrorists must be defeated for the sake of democracy, peace and stability and sought sincere cooperation from the opposition.

7 pc growth rate projected in FFYP, Kibria tells JS

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the Fifth Five-Year Plan has projected an average growth rate at seven per cent during the five years of the plan period from 1997-98 to 2001-2002, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mostafizur Rahman (AL-Chittagong), the finance minister said that the annual growth rate, was projected at 6.30 per cent in 1998-99, 6.80 per cent in 1999-2000, 7.60 per cent in 2000-2001 and 8.32 per cent in 2001-2002.

The minister furnished a list of growth rate achieved so far since 1991-92. As per the list, 4.2 per cent was achieved in 1991-92, 4.5 per cent in 1992-93, 4.2 per cent in 1993-94, 4.4 per cent in 1994-95, 5.3 per cent in 1995-96, 5.9 per cent in 1996-97 and 5.7 per cent in 1997-98.

The finance minister said the government has taken a good number of steps for enhancing the rate of economic growth and added that special emphasis has been given for increasing investment in the country. Besides, steps for the development of agriculture, industries, construction, communications, power and gas sectors would continue, he added.

Share scam case

Mohiuddin's quashment petition undisputed

Star Report

The High Court fixed June 23 for verdict as hearing in one of the petition seeking quashment on a charge framing order by Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions' Court concluded yesterday.

Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, petitioner MKM Mohiuddin's lawyer, argued that the Metro court framed the charge against Mohiuddin as director of First Capital Securities for an offence committed between July-December 1996 while, Mohiuddin had resigned on December 31, 1995 from the company.

Huq also produced copies of the resignation and communication between the company and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) and Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam said, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed the case against the directors of the company and before filing the cases the SEC had not received Mohiuddin's resignation letter.

He, however, said, the SEC now had the letter and was not disputing the submission of the petitioner.

The judge, then, fixed the day for verdict.

Meanwhile, three other cases involving Sharif Ataur Rahman, Mahbub Morshed and Hemayetuddin remained partially heard.

The hearing on the cases will resume, Monday next.

Dialogue in city told

Evolve strategy to reap maximum benefit from globalisation

Participants at a business dialogue on "Sub-regional Trade Cooperation: Opportunities and Concerns" in the city yesterday suggested that Bangladesh evolve a strategy to reap maximum benefit from globalisation of trade, reports UNB.

They said formation of WTO has evaporated the idea of a captive market. Opening up the markets is the order of the day and the world will observe global duty free market in near future.

The participants urged the government to set up a consultative committee to formulate the future strategy and rectify the mistakes, if any, done by the previous governments for protecting the interest of the local industries.

Speaking at the dialogue organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said the present government has transformed the concerns of regional trade cooperation into opportunities.

He said this was done through a series of negotiations at different levels with the regional and sub-regional trading partners.

Tofail said the reason behind the trade deficit with India is because "We import most of our raw materials while our export facilities, scopes and capacities are very limited."

Presided over by the ICC Bangladesh president Mahbubur Rahman, the dialogue was participated by two vice presidents of ICC — Latifur Rahman and A Rob Chowdhury, former advisor to caretaker government Syed Manzur Elahi, MCCI president Mahbub Jamil, Foreign Investors Chamber president A K M Shamsuddin, DCCI president M H Rahman, Md Ali Ashraf MP, S M Akram MP, former commerce minister Shamsul Islam MP, Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury, Industries Secretary K M Ejazul Huq, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, former deputy prime minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed, former foreign secretary M R Osmany, former president of DCCI A S M Quasem and other business leaders and academicians.

Tofail said Bangladesh has to know the actual amount of gas reserve and future local demand for producing value-added products. "If we have excess gas after meeting the local demand, then the question of gas export may come." Because as per the production sharing contracts Bangladesh will have to buy 50 per cent of the produced gas.

The minister said government has a plan to set up five urea factories besides gas-based

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JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid is known for his sheer sense of humour. And he lived up to his reputation yesterday when he abruptly invited the members in both the benches to have a funtime.

"We talk about many things everyday and sometimes we quarrel with each other. But let's talk in a lighter vein today as we're going to see the new national budget tomorrow," a beaming Hamid said. "Laughing keeps the heart well".

BNP lawmaker Fazlur Rahman Patal spared no time to join in and referred to the Chair's earlier remark about love letters. "We always find you taking deep interests in love even at this age. We really enjoy your comments about love."

Minutes before Hamid made the invitation, Awami League MP H N Ashiqur Rahman had insisted on a provision for free mailing of letters to and from the MPs.

"I hope love won't find its place in those letters," said a witty Hamid at his best.

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City BNP brought out a mourning procession yesterday in observance of the 18th death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman. —Star photo

Privatisation

Biman opens bids for consultant today

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman opens bids today to choose a consultant who will prepare guidelines for privatisation of 40 per cent shares of the national flag carrier.

Under a two million dollar World Bank aided project, Biman invited bids from consultants last year and short-listed four companies in March this year.

They are ANZ Investment Consortium of UK, Citibank, USA, Flemings Consortium, UK and ABT Associates, USA.

Biman sources said that the selected consultant would design a privatisation programme that would include finding a strategic partner for an alliance to take the airline to new heights in Asian sky.

The privatisation process is expected to be completed by June 2000.

The airline has a fleet of four DC-10-30 wide-bodied aircraft, two A310 medium haul aircraft, three F-28 and two Advance Turboprops. It also has 5,500 personnel.

Another DC-10-30 is likely to join Biman's fleet sometime this month to bolster its international operations. It is currently operating in 24 destinations across the globe.

Biman's attempts to sell the Advance Turboprops have so far failed.

Allies resent BNP's 'failure' to arrange liaison body meet

Components of the allied opposition resented BNP's "failure" to arrange a liaison meeting yesterday as per earlier decision, reports UNB.

The liaison committee of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote in their Sunday's meeting at 29 Minto Road had decided to hold a meeting yesterday to work out a course of agitation ahead of national budget for 1999-2000 that will be placed in Parliament this afternoon.

Leaders of the liaison committee told UNB last night that Anwar Zahid of BNP had been assigned to coordinate them. "But till 9:30 pm, we did not receive any news from him," said one.

He expressed his dismay over the "miscommunication" by the BNP leader who had talked with him on Tuesday last.

When contacted, a BNP leader who represents that liaison body said that the meeting would be held today to analyse the impact of the national budget.

Curator

From Page 1

investigating death of the lion on May 12. The report blamed a veterinarian at the zoo for negligence of duty which led to the animal's death.

The meeting took a number of decisions, including setting up of a police outpost immediately to strengthen security at the zoo.

A five-member task force with the Joint Secretary (Livestock) as its convenor was formed to oversee and guide the zoo administration.. It would make surprise visits to the zoo.

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World Cup

A view from the Gully

From Page 1

better of the two teams any time, any place. It was a good toss for Azhar to win and, better still, was his decision to bat on a hard surface despite the downpour the night before. Old Trafford is notorious for its weather and there are umpteen examples when play was either curtailed or suspended because of rains. Fortunately, this important match went on without interference from weather and a packed house of 22,500 with a pronounced and boisterous presence of the subcontinentals enjoyed a thrilling encounter that kindled a ray of hope in the Indian hearts for a place in the semis.

The Indians were very cautious in the beginning and they had particular reasons for being so after their match against Australia. The opening pair was weakened in the absence of Ganguly and the thought of McGrath must have been in the minds of Sachin and Rahul. But neither Wasim nor Shoaib was in full cry as they concentrated more on length and line instead of pace. Indian progress was slow but steady. As Tendulkar departed after a rare tennis shot seen in this pajama cricket, the centurian of the last match Ajay Jadeja showed up very briefly. Two quick wickets enlivened the Pakistanis but Azhar knew his job. This was an occasion to get his confidence back and stop his critics. He launched himself with full vigour with only one aim — score runs, and in the process made some uncricketing strokes and a timely half century. But he showed remarkable imagination on field. Once again Rahul Dravid proved he was as good a batsman for tests as for one-dayers.

With four of the Pakistani fielders hobbling around with injuries Wasim Akram was a lost man. He made the injured Saqlain bowl to Azhar and Robin Singh in marauding mood. He could try Afridi or Selim Malik.

The Indian total was modest but at the same time difficult to overhaul in English conditions. The story of the Pakistani chase was no different from their previous ones, specially against Bangladesh. This time the bowling was superior. The top order again buckled under pressure having turned on the heat themselves. It was again left to Moin Khan and Inzamam to reconstruct the innings and that too at a time when Prasad and Srinath became unplayable.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and Pakistan was once again shut out well under 200 mark leaving them smarting under a hattrick of defeats. If the Pakistanis have been doing their homework for taking the second or third place in the Super Six to face a lighter opposition in the semis then they are living in fool's paradise. In this game of cricket all the pieces of jigsaw puzzles do not fall in right places at the right time. Instead they should have cashed in on their four point advantage and tried to be on top so that they could meet the number four in the semifinals. By now they may have missed the boat.

This tournament has so far seen the success of medium pacers and seamers. Very few slow spinners have succeeded compared to their quicker cousins. So, if there be important changes in the Pakistan team for their all-important match against Zimbabwe it should not surprise their supporters.

Erratum: Please read Murray Goodwin in place of Mervyn Goodwin as published on Tuesday. The mistake is regretted.

Liaquat killing

Gani contractor's bank account frozen

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Bank account of Gani contractor, an absconding accused in Awami League leader Liaquat Ali killing case, was frozen today, reports UNB.

There is a large sum of money in the account at Pubali Bank, said a bank official.

According to the order of the court on June 7, movable property of Gani contractor's Chalitabari residence have already been seized.

Meanwhile, two others accused in the case, Tamanna Begum and Akbar Ali were taken to police remand for two more days and interrogation was going on.

Dental students call strike at CMC today

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Dental Students Action Committee has called a day-long student strike at the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) tomorrow to press home its five-point demand.

The demands include turning the dental unit of CMC into a full-fledged college and hospital, appointment of required number of teachers for the dental unit and fund for necessary equipment.

Earlier, the Action Committee enforced day-long strike on the Campus on May 31

World Cup

From Page 1

H Streak not out	18 (29)
Extras (lb-6, w-13)	19
Total (for six wickets, 50 overs)	259

Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-153; 3-154; 4-188; 5-189; 6-200.

Did not bat: P Strang, A Whittall, H Olonga.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	10	1	33	1
Fleming	10	0	46	0
Warne	9	0	55	1
Reiffel	10	0	55	3
Moody	6	0	38	0
Bevan	5	1	26	1

Summer delight
Pineapples, a delicious summer fruit, popular for both its tangy taste and rich Vitamin C content, are aplenty in the city market. —Star photo

Work stoppage at BSMMUH suspended

By Staff Correspondent

The Sarkari Karmachari Shamannay Parishad of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) suspended their work stoppage yesterday.

The leaders of the parishad announced their decision after a two-hour discussion with the health and family welfare minister at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon.

"We have decided to suspend the work stoppage from 8 pm Wednesday. During our meeting with the minister he assured us of accepting our five-point demand. Detailed discussion on the demands will be held on Friday (June 11) at his residence," said Abdul Quashem, president of the parishad.

"The minister also assured the 15-member delegation of the parishad that the transfer order against 17 nurses of the hospital would be withheld and the false cases would be withdrawn," he said.

Three policemen suspended in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Three police personnel including an assistant sub-inspector were suspended on charge of negligence on duty during yesterday's looting of over Taka seven lakh, official sources said.

The three police personnel, including two constables, were on duty when the armed miscreants snatched the money from a garments factory at Shulakbahar in the city yesterday, police said.

However, the money was yet to be recovered and none was arrested so far, police added.

'Bangabandhu Fellowship' approved

Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) in a meeting yesterday approved a proposal to introduce a Bangabandhu fellowship for developing human resource on science and technology, reports BSS.

The meeting, held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, was told that under the proposed fellowship 220 scientists would be sent to reputed universities abroad in the next ten years for PhD programmes.

The students of science and technology of different universities who obtain first class will be nominated on basis of merit for the fellowship. The fellows will be known as Bangabandhu Fellow.

Rousing reception to cricket heroes in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Euphoria gripped the port city today when the cricket heroes were accorded a grand civic reception at the local stadium for their historic performance in the World Cup.

Thousands of cricket fans thronged Chittagong M A Aziz Divisional Stadium to greet the heroes who defeated cricketing giant Pakistan by 47 runs.

The reception was arranged by Chittagong City Corporation.

Presided over by Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, convenor of the 551-member reception committee, the ceremony was attended by State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader as the chief guest, State Minister for Local Government and chairman of BCCB Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Zainal Abedin Hazari MP as special guests.

People from all walks of life started pouring into the reception venue from early morning. They came in processions carrying festoons, placards and banners welcoming the team and their victory. Defying scorching heat, also a little shower they waited till 4.40 pm when the cricket heroes arrived at the reception venue boarding a huge bus followed by a motorcade.

The entire stadium was reverberated with slogans and shouts when the cricket heroes went round the stadium by a truck.

Girl Guides and students of different schools performed physical display while band party beat the drum at the function.

Obaidul Quader recalled the glorious role of Chittagong in the cricket arena and expressed the government's firm commitment to promote sports in the country.

Quader said the Chittagong Divisional Stadium will exclusively be used for cricket. He urged the City Mayor to build cricket fields for practice so that more cricket stars like Nannu and Akram could be groomed up from Chittagong.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury said the present government is doing all to reactivate the sports arena.

Minhajul Abedin Nannu in his speech urged all to keep the cricket above politics.

The national skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul said, the encouragement given by the people will help the country to win World Cup trophy one day.

Later, the City Mayor handed over the crests and bouquets to the cricket stars amidst thunderous applause by the cricket fans.

The cricket team left the port city for Dhaka in the evening.

Indian national shot dead in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: An official of a shipping company was gunned down by unidentified assailants in Agrabad commercial area this afternoon, police said.

Jibran Tayabi, 28, a representative of Meridian Container Line and an Indian national, came under attack at around 5:30 pm at Agrabad Road while he was returning to his residence at Kulshi, police said.

The armed assailants riding a motor cycle, intercepted his car and sprayed bullets at him, police said. Tayabi was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

None was arrested so far, police said.

College student gangraped in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 9: A student of the Government City College here was raped by an unidentified gang at Rajarhat area under Boalia thana in the city this morning.

Police said that when the 20-year-old victim, a second year student, went to the area, the gang forcibly took her to an abandoned house and raped her. Then they left her unconscious.

Local people found her there in the afternoon and took her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. She was admitted there.

Police visited the spot and a case was filed with Boalia thana in this connection. None was arrested.

Five children rescued, trafficker held in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 9: Five children were rescued and their alleged trafficker was arrested from the city's central bus terminal under Boalia thana here last night.

The rescued children were identified as Gobinda Mormu, 6, Moheshwar, 9, Pipul, 8, Santash, 10, and Rubel, 5, and the alleged trafficker as Santash Kisku, 42.

Police sources quoted the arrested person as saying he brought the children from Pabna Christian Mission and was taking them to India.

A case has been filed with Boalia thana in this connection.

গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের অপব্যবহার রোধ করুন
নিয়মিত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকায় খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান শুরু হয়েছে। একই সাথে বিশেষ টাস্ক ফোর্স টীমের মাধ্যমে অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ কার্যক্রম চলছে।

গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ এড়ানো জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অবৈধ ব্যবহার বা অপচয় রোধকল্পে সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
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ফোনঃ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭-৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা-রাত্র)
পিএবিএক্স ঃ ৮১২১৩৫-৪২।
তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/১২৭/৯৮-৯৯
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