

## Students couldn't pass MFA in 14 years!

## Charukala Institute hostage to session jams

They were supposed to have completed their MFA degree seven years back. But the students of 1985-86 academic session of Dhaka University Fine Arts Institute could not pass the MFA in 14 years. The blame goes to vexing session jams, reports UNB.

Students of the oldest batch of the institute, popularly known as "Charukala Institute," took admission in 1985-86 academic year and their final examinations were scheduled for 1993. They at last were able to appear in their MFA final examinations only months ago. The result is still to come.

Meanwhile, the 1997-98 batch has got admitted to the institute. But the students do not know when their classes will begin.

There are at present 12 batches in the institute and seven of them are under the traditional (BFA, Bachelor Degree) system while five others are honours courses.

The institute has been reeling under session jams with

seven batches from 1985-86 to 1991-92 sessions still stuck in the process.

Students of the 1986-87 batch were supposed to have completed their MFA final examinations in 1994. Six years have already elapsed and they will sit for the MFA final examinations in August this year if all goes well.

Until 1991-92, students of the institute had to study a five-year BFA and two-year MFA courses under the traditional system. Dhaka University authorities later introduced honours courses in 1992-93 academic session and the students now have to study a four-year BFA and two-year MFA courses.

The authorities' move to introduce the honours courses and reorganise the course system was apparently to eliminate the session jam. But the session jams still remain.

Most students blame the teachers for the session jams.

MN Alam, a BFA final year student of Drawing and Painting Department, said, "Many of

our teachers are not sincere, they take months to evaluate the answer scripts causing delay in declaration of results."

"They have enough power to do our academic life because our result scores are in their hands. So, we cannot go against them," he said responding to a question as to why students don't protest against the teachers.

Director of the Institute Prof Mahmudul Haq, however, shouldered the responsibility saying, "The sincerity is ours and the main problem lies with the examination pattern."

"I am trying my level best to remove the session jam and took five examinations in last five months," he said adding, "I hope the institute will be free from session jams within the next two years."

Alok, an MFA student of Drawing and Painting said, "Our art education is far better than India, no other sector is so rich like fine arts in Bangladesh, but we get no recognition for it."



Visiting Malaysian Transport Minister Dr Ling Liong Sik called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhavan office yesterday. — PID photo

## President's Parade at BNA held

CHITTAGONG, June 14: The President's Parade marking the commissioning of a batch of midshipmen of Bangladesh Navy was held at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) Parade Square at Patenga here this morning. An ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher reviewed the midshipmen and took salute at the march-past as the chief guest. He also distributed the awards to the outstanding midshipmen. Meanwhile, Rear Admiral Taher gave away the Bachelor of Science degree certificates, conferred upon them by the National University, to the midshipmen. Six midshipmen received B.Sc. certificates.

Midshipman M.F. Hossain achieved the "Sword of Honour" for his outstanding performance as the best all round cadet. He also received the "Osmani Gold Medal" and "Chief of the Naval Staff Medal" for credible performance in academics and professional subjects respectively.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by the Local Area commander of the Bangladesh Army Major General Abu Kaiser Fazul Kabir and members of the diplomatic missions, Principal Staff officers of Bangladesh Navy, Air Force, senior military and civil officers and guardians of the midshipmen.

## Int'l symposium begins at ICDDR,B 'Better maternal nutrition will improve LBW problem'

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf yesterday reiterated government's commitment for ensuring better health for all along with possible help to weight (LBW) problem in the country, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a four-day international symposium and workshop on "Low Birth Weight" at the ICDDR,B in the city, he called for first improving the maternal nutrition to improve the state of LBW of babies at birth in countries like Bangladesh.

"I urge you to take up similar initiatives and necessary action research to improve mothers' health in Bangladesh and other developing countries," he told the symposium attended by national and international experts in the Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDR,B.

The minister said the government would welcome the participating scientists in the symposium from abroad to find more ways for strengthening the scientific collaboration with Bangladeshi scientists to further improve the quality and quantity of health research and solutions of health problems including LBW.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Project Director of Bangladesh Integrated

Nutrition Project (BINP) M Abu Hafiz, Milla Melachlan of World Bank (Washington) and Roger Shrimpton of UNICEF (New York). Interim Director of ICDDR,B Prof George Fuchs welcomed the participants.

Salauddin Yusuf said that while Low Birth Weight is blamed for 40 per cent of child mortality rate, nearly 50 per cent children in South Asia are born with a weight of less than 2500 grams.

The Symposium is being jointly organised by USAID, World Bank, UNICEF and ICDDR,B with participation of the scientists from different national and international institutions with specialisation in the health and health-related research programmes.

World Bank representative Milla Melachlan (Washington) said the cost of preventable LBW situation in social and economic terms to Bangladesh was enormous. "It is estimated that each child who grows up stunted will produce US dollar 1,150 less in his or her life time," he said. For Bangladesh as a whole, such cost would stand up to US dollar 10 billion in 10 years period, he added.

The ICDDR,B Interim Director Prof George Fuchs said the LBW infants has the extreme rates of morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases.

## Plant two trees each: PM President stresses importance of planned tree plantation

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has emphasised the importance of planned tree plantation to protect the environment and development.

In a message on the occasion of countrywide Tree Plantation Drive, he said the demand for timber and firewood is increasing day by day following the country's population boom.

"Our forest resources are also being damaged by natural calamity every year. So, planned demand afforestation can help alleviate poverty and meet the increasing demand for timber and firewood," the President said.

Welcoming the countrywide plantation drive, President Shahabuddin said we all should feel that trees are intimate friends of the people.

He wished the tree plantation drive an all-out success.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to participate in conserving a pollution-free environment and contribute to economic development of the country by planting two trees each.

In a message on the eve of three-month long countrywide

tree plantation drive beginning today, the Prime Minister said tree is one of the main ingredients for conservation of environment and development.

She said, "We want to build for the future generation a pollution-free and economically prosperous Bangladesh rich in bio-diversity and wild animals."

Congratulating the recipients of National Tree Plantation Award 1998, she expressed the hope that this effort of the government would inspire the people of all strata in planting more trees.

Referring to the tree exhibitions to be held in different areas of the country during the National Tree Plantation Drive, Sheikh Hasina said this would create a sense of unity for the people to collect saplings of necessary, rare and attractive trees.

She said the exhibitions would also provide new ideas on afforestation, tree plantation and conservation of environment and usher in a new horizon through exchange of knowledge in plantation of trees and their care.

## What's on today....

**Tree Plantation Drive:** The inaugural ceremony of the National Tree Plantation Campaign '99, the National Tree Fair '99 and the Prize Giving Ceremony of the Prime Minister's National Award on Tree Plantation '98 will be held. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the programmes as chief guest. Venue: Dhanmondi playground, Road No 8, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Cultural soiree:** A fortnight-long cultural programme will begin on the occasion of the National Tree Plantation Campaign '99 and the National Tree Fair '99. Organiser: Directorate of Forests of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Venue: Fair premises, Dhanmondi playground. Time: 6:05 pm. Bulbul Lalitkala Academy will present a dance drama and Shama Rahman, Salma Akbar, Ajit Roy, Nilufar Yasmin will render songs on the inaugural day.

**Science lecture:** A lecture on The Solar Photovoltaic Project at Narsingdi will be held as part of National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) Lectures on Popular Science Series. Keynote speaker: Dr M Eusuf, Ex-chairman of BCIR and consultant, BCAS. Venue: NMST auditorium, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4 pm.

## Weather

## Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 24.7 degree at Chuadanga.

The sun sets today at 6:47 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	34.5	27.8
Chittagong	33.2	26.0
Rajshahi	34.0	25.3
Khulna	35.0	27.0
Barisal	33.5	26.6
Sylhet	33.0	26.4
Cox's Bazar	32.7	26.5
	Morning	Evening
	71	71
	82	73
	81	68
	77	74
	78	72
	82	92
	74	78



## Filmmaker QM Zaman dead

QM Zaman, renowned film maker, died of cardiac arrest at a city clinic yesterday. He was 72, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife — Sultana Zaman, a famous actress of 60s, son, daughter and a host of relations and admirers to mourn his death.

After suffering from prolonged illness, Zaman breathed his last at Cardio Hope Clinic at 10:30 am.

After the namaj-e-janaza after Asr prayers yesterday, his body was taken to Shaheb Bari in Hajiganj, Chandpur, for burial at his family graveyard.

Zaman worked as cameraman of the first full length movie in this country Mukh-O-Mukhuosh. He worked in about 70 films.

He retired as Chief Cameraman of FDC (Film Development Corporation) in 1971.

Zaman directed two films in his long career Venumoti and Chhadabeshi and was recipient of many awards.

BSS adds: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of film director QM Zaman.

Prof Sayeed visited the residence of the film director and expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Obituary

Asiya Khatun, mother of MA Khaleque, Director of Prime Bank Limited died of cerebral haemorrhage at Al-Razi Clinic in the city recently, says a press release.

Her namaj-e-janaza was held in the city. She was buried at the family graveyard at Baridhara, Radhanagar village, under Vandaria thana of Pirojpur district next day.

She left behind two sons and a daughter and a host of relatives, admirers to mourn her death.

## US Democratic Party member meets FM

Chet Szarejko, leader of the Democratic Party and Vice President of Queens County of New York city of the United States of America, called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The foreign minister informed him of the glorious fifty years history of Bangladesh Awami League and various development activities undertaken by the government.

Szarejko explained the activities of the Democratic Party in New York and problems and prospects of the Bangladeshis living in New York.

## Canada donates Tk 10.45 lakh to CHT project

Canada has donated Taka 10 lakh 45 thousand to a Ranganamati-based training project to promote entrepreneurship among indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports BSS.

The project will be implemented by an NGO named Green Hill for training 150 illiterate and semi-illiterate local people including 40 per cent women.

Canadian High Commissioner Nicholas Etheridge handed over the cheque for the amount to Coordinator of Green Hill Maung Thowai Ching at the high commission.

Director of the Programme Support Unit of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) John Jackson and Consultant Coordinator of Local Fund Management Office of CIDA Dr Rokeya Khatun were also present.

## Obituary

Mahfuzur Rahman Noman, a member of the National Sports Council and Bangladesh Swimming Federation, died of heart attack at his residence at Bhola Sunday evening. He was 52, reports BSS.

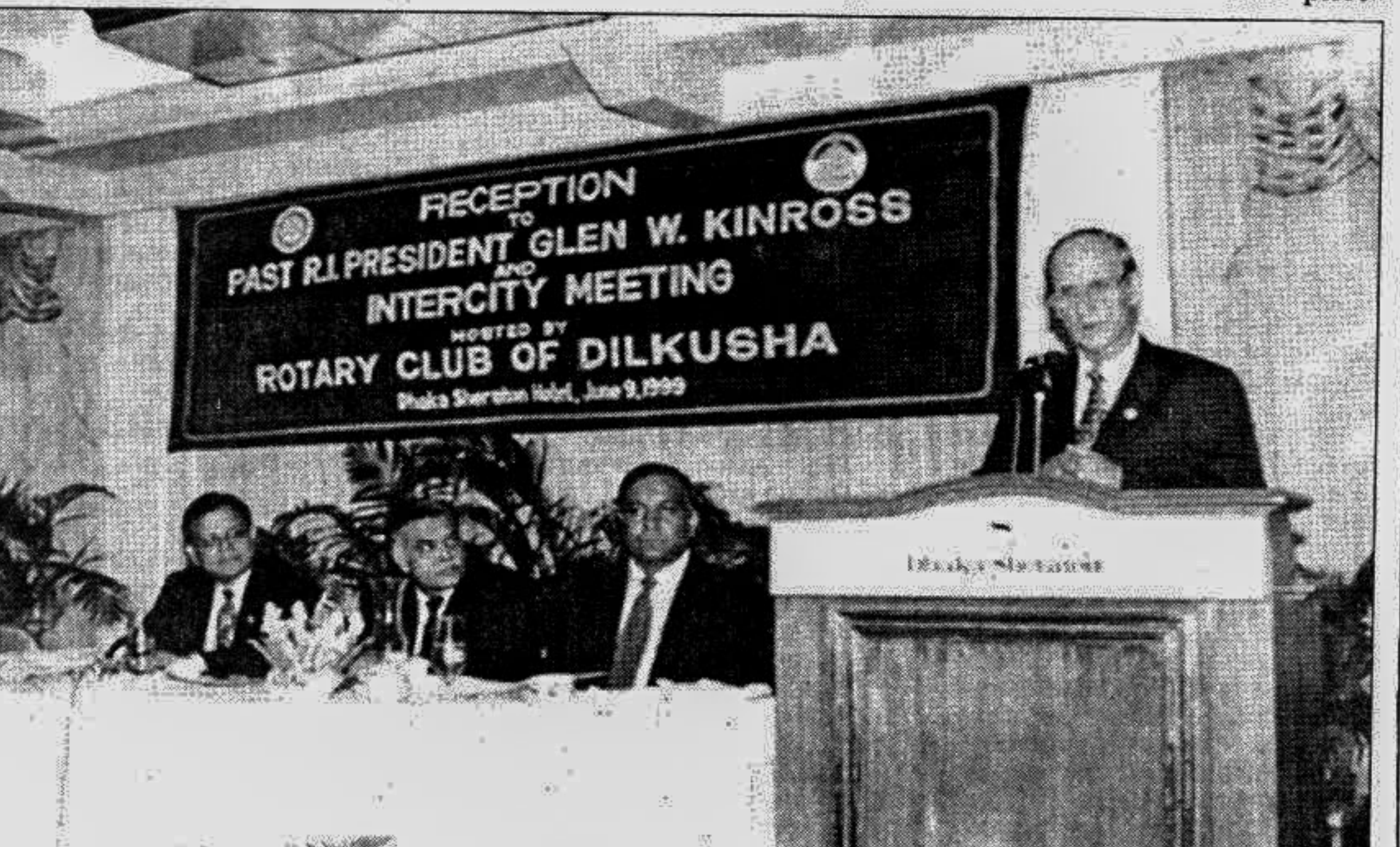
Noman left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

The former general secretary of Bhola District Sports Association, Noman was associated with different sports and cultural organisations.

Officials of NSC and Bangladesh Cricket Board condoled his death.



Residents of Tungibari thana of Munshiganj district brought out a procession yesterday in the city protesting the terrorist activities and demanding an end to it. — Star photo



Immediate-past President of Rotary International Glen W Kinross speaking at an inter-city meeting of the Rotarians of Bangladesh. Rotary Club of Dilkusha organised the meeting. Rotary District Governor MA Awal and District Governor for the next year Ozaer Farook and past president Kazi Wahidul Alam were present.



Employees of Gano Sahajiya Sangstha (GSS) brought out a procession protesting the prevailing situation in the organisation. — Star photo

## Beyond the boundary

From Page 1  
Lanka, West Indies and India were found woefully short of the business acumen required to survive in this cut-throat world of dog eat dog.

Sri Lanka landed on the shores of Old Blighty as reigning world champions. They never played anywhere near the level expected of them. The world watched in horror and stupefaction the frenetic decline and demise of a team that had, only months ago, been one of the most feared teams in contemporary one day cricket. The ageing process, the result of the cruel dictates of time, had left its mark. Try as they might, Sri Lanka never could battle the currents of time and tide. Since 1996, Sri Lanka has made very few changes in their line up. The nucleus remained the warriors who had fought those classic battles in 1996. But this was a different day and age. They did not have the answers to all those questions that the present posed for them.

Arjuna Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, household names only a few seasons ago, could hardly have prayed more fervently than in this World Cup, for the earth to move apart and swallow them en masse. Such was the abject nature of their collective failures. The team looked aged and fatigued. Their mental state was in shambles and they were easy prey to the vultures in their group. If ever there was a side that had death spelled all over it, Sri Lanka was that team. They proved every prophet of doom right, by the manner in which they capitulated against India. Sri Lanka now needs to go back to the drawing boards. There is a whole lot that needs to be done. With the present state of its cricket Board, and the interminable squabbling accompanying it, even this task might have to be put on hold.

On the other hand, the West Indies always had the knack of proving the pundits wrong. In fact, they had cultivated this quality into a fine art over the years. Granted, the West Indies have been on a decline, the past couple of seasons. But whenever they were written off, they had bounced back with a vengeance.

In spite of being a side that was a pale shadow of their more illustrious predecessors the West Indies could always be counted to stand their ground and hold their own, against all comers. In Brian Lara they had for a while the most destructive batsman of the modern era. But Lara, in recent times had been fighting his own personal battle with himself. He had become temperamental and tantrum prone. It affected his batting and by extension the team, which had come to rely so heavily on him. It seemed during Australia's tour of the West Indies recently, Lara may have rediscovered his sublime touch and form. By the time he arrived in England with a hand injury, Lara had reverted to his old ways again. He played shots uncharacteristic of him, selected the wrong balls to hit, inflicted deep wounds on the rest of the side, by not being able to lead by example.

The two fast bowlers Ambrose and Walsh tolled Hero-

ically, knowing fully well the futility of it all. West Indies, the is, but notwithstanding, were not meant to set England on fire this summer. Agonisingly, the future does not promise well for them either. More and more youngsters in the Caribbean are taking to games other than cricket simply because of the enhanced monetary benefits to be derived. Cricket is a dying sport in the West Indies. After the departure of the Wahabes, the Ambroses and the Laras, West Indies may go into suspended animation. In our own lifetime we have been privileged to watch the heroics of this great cricketing nation. Unfortunately, we now witness at close quarters the end of a great era.

Except for India and Indian fans, it is doubtful whether the rest of the cricket world takes the Indian team seriously. If the stars and the moon are in harmony, and the rest of the planets in the prescribed positions and orbit, the Indian side performs wonders. Left on their own, they have problems chewing gum and crossing the street at the same time. And this, despite having possibly the best batting line up on view.

India manage to self-destruct for no apparent rhyme or reason. Now, any team worth its salt fancies its chances against this team, which is fast acquiring a reputation for being the favourite whipping boys of international cricket. After every debacle, the management decides to go on a head hunting mission, passing the proverbial buck and avoiding the crux of the problem, altogether. No doubt a similar scenario will be enacted this time around. Trophies they may not be able to win, the players however continue to remain the most pampered and lavishly paid in the world. At least they get some things right. While the world decides to take a break from their winning habits, they can take a few pointers from the India players, on the art of being successful without actually trying.

Enough said. All jhamela gone, let us concentrate on the rest of the cricket.

## BSD submits memo to PM today

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister today demanding solution to power-water crisis, control over soaring house rent and transport fare, and recovery of default loans, reports UNB.

They will march towards the Prime Minister's office at 12 noon to submit the memorandum.

BSD Convenor Comrade Khalequzaman announced the programme at a press conference at the party office yesterday.

He said the problems like power shortage, water crisis, soaring house rents, transport problems, problems of admission to educational institutions, default culture, deteriorating law and order situation and environment pollution should be taken into account in the greater interest of the people.

## DU teacher dies

By DU Correspondent

Prof Mojafjalul Haq, a teacher and former chairman of the Public Administration Department of the Dhaka University, died of cardiac arrest yesterday morning at his house at Fuller Road. He was 57.

He left behind his wife, Neelufar Begum, Director General of Women's Affairs Directorate, three sons and a daughter.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at the university central mosque after Zohr prayers and he will be buried at Banani Graveyard today.

Late Haq was also the director of Centre for policy Studies and chairman of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) named "Mirochet" at Bandarban.

He did his MA from the Dhaka University in 1963 and joined the department in 1975 as an assistant professor.

## Dr Shahadatullah dies

Dr AH Shahadatullah, a renowned economist and former member of Planning Commission, died of old age complications at Bangladesh Medical Hospital on Sunday night. He was 72, reports UNB.

Shahadatullah joined the Economics Department of Dhaka University in 1951 as a lecturer. He was among the two lecturers who were expelled from the university by the then government for taking part in the historic Language Movement.

Late Shahadatullah completed his graduation from London School of Economics in 1963 and MS and PhD from Harvard University in 1968 and 1974 respectively.

He was buried at Banani graveyard after the namaj-e-janaza at Gulshan Mosque.

His Gulshan will be held at his Uttara residence at House-5A, Road-13 and Sector-3, says a press release.

## Feni AL leader dead

Advocate Abul Kashem, president of Awami League Feni district unit, an organiser of Liberation War, activist of six-point movement and Public Prosecutor (PP) of Feni, died yesterday morning at a private clinic in Chittagong due to incurable disease. He was 65.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

His namaj-e-janaza was first held at the Feni Shaheed Minar, later another janaza was held at his village home at Chagalnaia.

## PM condoles

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Feni district Awami League president M A Kashem, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister recalled the political wisdom and far-sightedness of MA Kashem saying he had devoted his entire life for the welfare of the people being imbued with the ideology of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

## Obituary

Mohijun Nesa, mother of noted drama artist of Bangladesh Television and Aranyak Theatre Group Azizul Hakim, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday afternoon. She was 54, says a press release.

Her gulshan will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at her residence.