# Minister defends 5.2 growth rate as 'conservative estimate'

Rejecting BNP's demand for an independent committee to verify the growth rate, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday defended the 5.2 per cent growth rate as a "conservative estimate," reports UNB.

"I see no reason why an independent committee should be there as statistical procedures are all the same what former Finance Minister Saifur Rahman followed," he said.

Describing the growth rate estimated in the outgoing fiscal as "realistic and correct," he asserted that the real growth rate would rather be higher in the final estimate.

"It's (5.2 per cent) a conservative figure, there is no room for doubt about it," he said at a seminar on "National Accounts of Bangladesh" organised by American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) at a city ho-

He attributed 5.2 per cent growth rate to significant increase in boro rice and wheat production, estimated to be 100.05 lakh metric tons and 20 metric tons respectively.

"Agriculture contributes 31 per cent to the GDP, so any change in the agricultural output changes the whole economy." Dr Alamgir said. He said increase in crop pro-

duction was a result of government's timely and proper postflood agricultural policies. A total of 213.58 lakh MT of foodgrains is expected in the FY '99, which is 9,7 per cent higher

than the previous year's output,

he said quoting the preliminary

estimate of GDP '98-99 prepared

The state minister, however, referred to the declining trend in manufacturing sector, especially ready-made garments and small and cottage indus-

Overall manufacturing sector is likely to achieve 2.5 per cent growth in FY '99 compared to 9.5 per cent in FY '98. The construction sector is projected to grow by 6.5 per cent but mining and quarrying sector declined from 32 per cent in FY '98

to 21.5 per cent in FY '99. Shima Murder Case Judgement on appeal by 2

policemen today CHITTAGONG, June 15: The hearing of the case for framing charge against three police officials for destroying evidences of Shima Murder Case could not

be held today, reports UNB. Hearing of the case was scheduled at the court of the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge Ali Mansur.

But, two accused in the case - the then ASP of the CID Hafizuddin Dewan and Raozan thana OC Sirajul Islam — filed appeal to the court for dismissal of the case before framing charge against them.

The court took the appeal and heard both sides. The judge will give his verdict on the dismissal appeal tomorrow.

# Weather

# No change in temperature

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Rajshahi division till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, the Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.4 degree at Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6.48 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 Dhaka	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max 33.3	Min 27.6	Morning 78	Evening 75
Chittagong Rajshahi	33.3 35.4	26.4 26.6	72	71
Khulna	34.0	26.8	78	69 78
Barisal Sylhet	33.5 32.0	26.4 25.8	78 70	81 82
Cox's Bazar	32.6	26.0	72 73	85



yesterday. -Star photo

### 'Police camp to be set up at FDC soon'

State Minister for Informa tion Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said a police camp would be set up soon on the premises of Film Development Corporation (FDC) to ensure more security for the artistes and technicians of the film industry, reports

The State Minister said this at a meeting with the executives of Film Artistes' Association at the FDC in the city.

Information Secretary M Akmal Hossain, Additional Information Secretary DN Bepary, president of Film Producers-Distributors' Association Masud Parvez alias Sohel Rana, president of the Director's Association Azharul Islam, film heroine Suchanda and general secretary of the Association Mizo Artistes' Ahmed were present at the meeting.

President of the Film Artistes' Association Mahmud Koli presided over the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Sayeed said the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken up initiatives for flourishing the glorious film industry of the country.

He also assured the film artistes and technicians to solve their problems in phases. Earlier, two separate delegations from Bangladesh Film Producers-Distributors' Association and Package Forum called on Prof Sayeed at his Secretariat office. The delegations, led by Masud Parvez and

Mamunur Rashid respectively.

discussed various issues relat-

ing to their organisations. Obituary



Chowdhury Mohiuddin Ahmed (Tara Mia) died on Monday in the city. He was buried at his family graveyard at Datta

para, says a press release. His qulkhwani will be held at Dattapara today. He is survived by his wife, six daughters, three sons and innumerable relative and friends. yesterday.

# Jatiya Sangsad tidbits

AL lawmakers greeted Akhtar for opposing his party's hartal against the proposed budget while BNP MPs thanked Siddiqui for challenging the AL hierarchy.

bench and talking to many.

folded hands rejecting the AL accolade.

criticised BNP for calling hartals, frequently, but not taking

the BNP leaders stay at home and play 29 (a crude card game), letting loose snipers on the streets during their hartals,"

Hena advised the first-classlirst-in-economics finance minister not to gift any budget before knowing about economics. The bureaucrat-turned-MP charged the minister, also a former civil servant, with

# Sylhet hartal

het-Tamabil Road on April 25. posed restriction on plying of trucks on the road.

after plying on the road after a fruitful meeting among the local leaders, government officials and truck owners. Local MP Imran Ahmed and the Deputy Commissioner were present in the meeting. Earlier, the truck owners had assured the family members of the victims of paying Taka 20,000

But, the compensation has not yet been paid, the local leaders alleged.

A big rally was held at Jaintapur thana headquarters this afternoon demanding immedi-

ate payment of compensation. killed in another accident that took place on the same road

### PM inaugurates National Tree Plantation Drive

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the National Tree Plantation Drive with a call to every citizen to plant at least one fruitbearing and one timber tree, reports BSS.

"Trees have significant importance in alleviation of poverty, protection of the environment and ecology and socioeconomic development of the country", she said

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Tree Fair '99 and distributed the Prime Minister's National Award for tree plantation at an impressive and colourful ceremony on the Dhanmondi playground in the

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Forest Secretary Syed Margub Morshed and Chief Conservator of Forests Mohammad Golam Habib also spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said considering the prime importance of trees for maintaining sound and healthy atmosphere and many other necessities of human beings her government gave utmost priority to the implementation of tree plantation programmes.

The Prime Minister said for sound ecology and environment the country should have at least 25 per cent forest areas, which the country is lagging. '

### Senate polls

From Page 1

graduates' representatives to the DU senate started on June 9 at 35 centers throughout the country.

A total of 31,424 voters (registered graduates) have been casting their votes to elect their representatives.

Some 111 candidates from four separate panels are contesting for the 25 posts.

The panels are the ruling Awami League-backed Ganatantrik Oikya Parishad (GOP), opposition BNP-supported Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad (JOP), left-leaning Progati Parishad (PP) and an independent Parishad.

Meanwhile, at the TSC and gymnasium candidates were seen busy campaigning for themselves and their panels. They were seen lobbying voters before they entered the polling

Both the GOP and JOP built big separate pandals in front of the TSC for their campaigns.

Sources said a large number of former students (registered graduates) of the university cast their votes yesterday.



A Janyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) procession in support of its 12-point demand in the city

Yesterday was no different.

During his brief stay in the house yesterday, the 'Tiger' sat idle and hardly talked to anybody in the treasury bench. But Akhtar was very active -- moving through the opposition

The BNP MP apologised with

State minister for textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain bitterly to the streets.

"Afraid of people's wrath, the minister informed the

BNP parliamentarian Abu

From Page 1

The agitated villagers im-

However, the trucks started

Meanwhile, five people were

changing the definitions of income tax, VAT, custom duties, etc., in his budget speech.

"It should be Kibria, not Amartya Sen, who deserves Nobel prize in economics for his new economic theories," Hena recommended.

A BNP MP's comment about the premier's beyai (daughter's father-in-law) delayed Sheikh Hasina's departure from the

Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui asserted that the chief executive's in-law had grabbed the Gulshan lake when Hasina, flanked by Forest Minister Sajeda Choudhury and Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury, was on her way out.

She stopped halfway, looked back and heard the opposition MP. Before going out, Hasina said something to the two ministers and smiled.

### Share scam cases From Page 1

Sessions Judge. The cases were transferred to the Metropolitan Court which sent those to the Court of Third Additional Metropolitan Session Judge.

The three companies then sought transfer of the cases to the court of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge. But the Metropolitan Sessions Court rejected the

prayer. The three companies then went to the High Court and obtained a stay order.

The HC Bench, comprising of Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Latifur Rahman, after hearing the petitioners and the State allowed the transfer by making all rules "absolute".

### City's analogue phones to become digital by '99

Telecommunications and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said that all analogue telephones of the city would be converted into digital ones within this year, reports UNB.

While briefing the press, he said new 138,500 telephone lines are being added under the Greater Dhaka Telephone Project by June 2000 to be implemented by public and private



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair '99 at the Dhanmondi Playground yesterday by planting a tree -PID photo

Pakistan-NZ match today

From Page 1

semi-finalists, they were the team under minimum pressure. "Whatever happens, we have achieved; probably beaten the expectations of a lot of people. We would love to get through. We know it's going to be hard work," he said.

Commenting on whether he would like to play a Steve Waugh type of innings, he said, That would be great!

He admitted it would be wonderful to come to form at the crunch time and win a match by one performance. We have players in the side who could do that. As skipper you would like to do it yourself," he said. In jest he continued, "But I would like an opportunity to do it in the final.

Pakistan lost to a weak Bangladesh team, whom New Zealand beat easily at Chelmsford. Does that mean anything? "Not really, they have qualified. They had a turn-off for a while. Probably they were tuned up a little too much and they can turn it up pretty well," was Fleming's response with respect for the opposition.

The defeat against Pakistan in the group match would not haunt New Zealand and Fleming considered it as 'irrelevant'. 'That's the good thing. They know they should win. That creates a situation where they will probably be a little more hervous. They play well on a set day, but what if they don't play well tomorrow? There will be a lot of people disappointed. It's a negative way of looking at it. But, sometimes in big games you have to look at the negatives and they can play a big game," said Fleming with a twinkle in his eyes.

The people in New Zealand. according to Fleming, would not be disappointed if they lose tomorrow. "Because we have exceeded their expectations," he said with a laugh.

"It's a no-lose situation. Obviously they would love for us to win. But as far as public pressure goes we have gone over what we needed to achieve, whereas Pakistan still needed two more wins."

The New Zealand skipper did not consider it as a failure that, despite featuring in the 1975. 1979 and the 1992 semi-finals, they were yet to play in a World Cup final. "We are proud of that record. It's an achievement for a small country. Now we have the opportunity to reach the fi-

nal," he said candidly. "Pakistan beat us in 1992. Inzamam beat us. It would be nice to turn the tables and reach the final," he said. Assessing the confident Pak-

istanis, Fleming said, "You can't give them the initiative when they have the advantage of playing a very natural game. They have got a great bowling attack. They have a confidence about them and belief, which you have to try and break down.

In refuting 'nerves in the ranks', Fleming was unequivocal in saying that New Zealand has 'everything to gain and nothing to lose' from this

"It was a nice way to go into the semi-final," said the stylish left-handed batsman.

Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association brought out a

ିଟ ନୟ ମାଳ କର୍ମାନ୍ତିୟା ଅବଲ୍ଞାନ ଅବଲ୍ଞାନ ଅ

manding withdrawal of proposed VAT on lawyers.

Without as much as elaborating his game plan against 'obviously a very good side', cashire lad for long. Fleming said, "We have a belief. Confidence comes from doing

challenge. Fleming must depend heavily on the reputation of Chris Harris, Nathan Astle and Chris Cairns, who were named Monday as the world's best allrounders by Pricewaterhouse-Coppers after four South Africans - Lance Klusener, Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock and Hansie Cronje in that or-

the small things right. We are

really looking forward to the

"None of the three New Zealanders have done really well and you have the gut feeling that tomorrow could be their day; they can't afford to wait any longer."

It did not matter to Wasim that Pakistan were being billed as favourites even by the New Zealanders.

"It does not matter who are the lavourites tomorrow: it depends on who plays better tomorrow. We are not going to take New Zealand easily. They have a good side. They have shown in this tournament that they can beat any side in the world. We will be ready to go tomorrow more cautiously,' said the Pakistan captain after their nets.

Speaking about the form of his bowlers, Wasim said, "Form is fine. They have been bowling well. They are getting wickets. am really satisfied with their performance in the World Cup." Wasim said it was the dream of every player to play the

World Cup and "It would be a great honour to be at Lord's for the World Cup final." The onus of success was neither on the batsmen, nor on the bowlers. Wasim attributed his team's success to 'team effort but did not forget to acknowl-

edge the effective contribution

of Saglain Mushtag and Shoaib Akhtar in the tourna-"It was team effort over the last six months. I think it will again be team effort tomorrow. Obviously one or two batsmen or bowlers will do better than the others, but again it has to be

team effort," said the lethal Pakistani bowler. He was also forthright in naming 'match-winners' in Chris Cairns, Robert Twose, Craig McMillan and Fleming as the players to watch. "New Zealand has a good fielding side," he said.

About the Old Trafford wicket, Wasim said, "Any wicket looks good for a one-day, Against India, it was one of the best one-day wickets we had here. It looks again dry and good. It will suit us more than the opposition."

While Pakistan will be hoping that Inzamamul Haq will repeat his 1992 semi-final exploits (60 off 35 balls) and his unbeaten 73 in the group match against New Zealand, his captain was happy that he was not involved in any run-outs in recent matches.

Admitting that indeed 'this was like playing on home ground' and 'there was no difference between playing at Lahore and Old Trafford," the Pak

skipper's wide smile gave away his pleasure at being a Lan-

Kashmir war

KP Singh, president of the

From Page 1

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

trade forum, warned the fight-

ing could add to India's widen-

spending shooting up, India was

unlikely to contain its fiscal

deficit to the government target

of 5.1 per cent of gross domestic

product (GDP) for the current

per cent to 21.4 billion dollars

year-on-year in the last fiscal

tion in Kashmir could also lead

to ... high inflationary pressures

on the economy, raise interest

rates and crowd out private in-

had come at a time when the

"Indian economy had actually

started showing signs of recov-

Women in bunker

overran a strategic peak in Kashmir found bodies of armed

women and almost a year's sup-

plies for Islamic militiamen, a

newspaper reported in New

dian army which is fighting a

costly battle against the gueril-

las and what it says are Pak-

istan army regulars in the

mountainous peaks of Indian-

The Indian Express report

said the recapture of the 14,850

feet (4,500 meters) Tololing

mountain on Sunday led to the

discovery of four dead women

administered Kashmir.

among a litter of bodies.

The report startled the In-

Delhi today.

Indian combat troops who

vestment," added Singh.

The deficit had shot up 5.4

"The unfortunate confronta-

He said the Kashmir flare-up

fiscal year to March 2000.

year to March 1999.

Singh said with defence

ing fiscal deficit.

Fleming agreed the crowd could be noisy tomorrow but said he would rely on the neutral supporters of the game.

Today is the warmest day of this World Cup. The sun has been beating brightly on the wicket since morning. The captains agreed that the wicket has dried for cricket to be different. Forecast is also good for tomorrow. But, like the game, the sky in England is equally unpredictable. Only New Zealand can benefit from an upset in either.

### Doctors

From Page 1

The BMA President suggested improvement in the existing system of revenue collection by the department concerned. "Improving the system will increase the revenue collection from doctors to a large extent," he said

The biggest problem with the proposed tax will be implementation of the law, How will they investigate whether the accounts are maintained properly in hospitals and clinics?" he posed the question.

Prof. Mirza Mazharul Islam President of BPMPA and BGPA also expressed similar views. "If we have to pay VAT, the ultimate burden will go onto the

patients. If the government realises VAT from us, we will charge the patients extra amount to pay the government. Ultimately, patients will suf-

The DAB termed the proposed VAT illogical and demanded its withdrawing. "We already pay tax. We shall not accept imposition of VAT which means paying tax again." Convenor of DAB Dr Md Abdul Had DAB's said.

"The proposed tax on consultants' fees means patients will have to pay higher fees because we will charge the amount from them to pay the tax. It is not

### Clinton

From Page 1

the troop movements were precautionary. "There is a certain amount of movement being carried on by the enemy all along the LOC and we have undertaken some precautionary measures.

sands of villagers living close to the border with India in Punjab province as fighting in disputed Kashmir kept up today. Authorities have evacuated

Pakistan evacuated thou-

between 2,500 and 4,000 villagers living close to the border with India, according to security sources in the border city of Lahore, capital of Punjab province. AFP says, the Indian army is

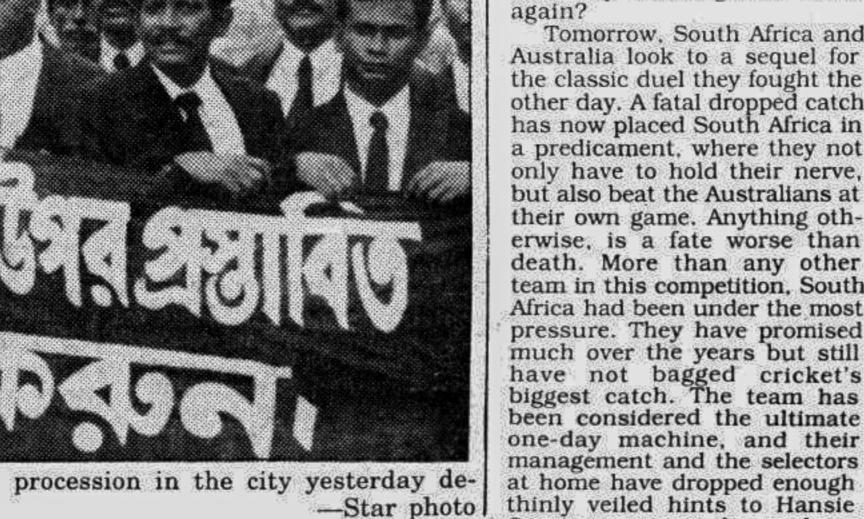
bracing for a long campaign in the rugged peaks of the disputed Experts today said the fighting, involving 30,000 troops, batteries of artillery, and fighter jets, could drag for

another three months, draining

India's military resources and

manpower in the desolate icy

heights.



# Scope of dissent

From Page 1

rying favour of the big chief is the full time pursuit of all ambitious party members which includes keeping watchful eye on anyone who may think differently and refuse to blindly follow whatever is handed

The issue of inner party democracy has once again come to the forefront because of the way two dissident voices are being treated by the two big parties at the moment, both are prominent members of their parties and both are elected members of the parliament -Maj. (retd) Akhtaruzzaman of BNP and Kader Siddiqui (Banga Bir) of AL.

According to reports disciplinary actions are in the offing against Akhtaruzzaman in face of some suggestions that he should be expelled. Now the question is what has he done? He has publicly opposed a har-tal called in the name of his party, without the party's decision making body having decided on it. The Liaison Committee, which does not have the mandate for independent action but only to co-ordinate activities between its members, did not and does not have the power to call hartals.

Take the case of Kader Siddiqui. He is unhappy about the way things are being run by his party government. So what can he do? Is there any scope for him or people like him to speak critically about the performance of their own party - a party for which their sacrifice and devotion is no less than that of others - without being termed as anti- party or antileader. Usually there are more dissident voices within a ruling party than the opposition, the latter being united by a sense of grievance. There are many MPs. leaders and workers who are extremely critical about the way-AL is ruling the country. How are these people to vent their views and inform the leadership of what they are thinking. There exists no official channel to express dissident views.

It is not our intention to defend either Akhtaruzzaman or Kader Siddiqui but to point out that today there is no scope for a dissident voice with our political parties. Almost like the communist parties of the old days, members will have to submit to the party 'will' even if that 'will' be of only one person, and exercised most arbitrarily.

The truth of the matter is

that there exists a fascist environment within each of our leading parties and the basic culture is one of meek compliance, blind obedience and habitual genuflecting. Showering praise upon the leader is the norm and taking a critical view of her decisions is a sacrilege, punishable by expulsion from the party if not downsight. manhandling or public humiliation. (Remember the plight of Dr. Kamal Hossain when he demanded a post-election assessment of why AL lost in '91 elections, and that of Barrister Nazmul Huda for suggesting the acceptance of a caretaker government formula which BNP eventually did). From what passes of as inner party discussions - in bodies such as the

presidium, central committee, standing committee, executive committee, parliamentary party or what have you - one gets the impression that both Sheikh Hasina or Khaleda Zia are super beings and that they have never, and can never, make mistakes. Their decisions are not to be questioned but

only obeyed One obvious reason for such a turn of events is the family nature of the leadership. For both Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia the leadership positions are their inheritance rather than rewards for their achievements. And because it is inheritance there is never any scope (or even a thought) that AL or the BNP will be led by anybody other then the incumbents. Here South Asia can be sighted as the region of dynastic parties. The biggest culprit is the Congress Party of India. Whatever good that the Nehru Dynasty did to India, it totally destroyed the possibility of gen-erating new Congress leadership by the continuous rule by a single family. Then we have the Bhuttos in Pakistan and the Bandarnayeks in Sri Lanka.

The negative aspects of such a dynastic rule and permanent party chief may have been somewhat mitigated if the elections to the rest of the party high positions were held regularly. Throughout the decade of the nineties the ruling Awami League held elections of its top leaders only twice, once in 1992, and then after five years in 1997. BNP's record is far worse. In its twenty year history it has held only four elections since its founding in 1978 - in '80, '81, '89 and '93. Without regular elections and infusion of fresh and young blood into the party leadership -coming not as a favour from the top but as achievements for service to the people - our political parties will fail to face the challenges of the 21 century.

We conclude by saying the obvious that a party that does not follow democratic norms within its own fold cannot give the country a truly democratic culture. The proof of it we see everyday in the way AL and BNP treat each other. As we have pointed out repeatedly that both of these parties enjoy enormous public support (AL got 30-plus% votes and 37 % votes in '91 and '06 respectively and BNP got 30% and 34% votes in the same elections), and yet they behave as if only one has the people's mandate. The lack of mutual tolerance comes from an inner party culture that does not tolerate differing views. A dissident is not a disloyal person. He or she is a different voice desperately trying to speak out within the party structure, but having found no space speaks out publicly.
Democratic parties must provide space for differing and critical views. Otherwise what is the difference between them

and the communist parties. To provide leadership to the country in an ever changing world our political parties must become modern both in its outlook and inner party culture. For this to come about we must start by handling our dissidents

### differently. Beyond the boundary

and resilience to be where they are at the moment. A lesser team would have met an early death. At times with their backs to the wall, they had found immense reserves of will to extricate themselves from the most compromising of situations. The last team that tried to stand in their way, have come to learn that playing this particular Pakistani side, has its peculiar downside.

New Zealand, which had surprised every cricket pundit, by convincingly outplaying India and thereby putting paid to Zimbabwean pretensions, are not a team to be taken lightly. They are probably nowhere near the class of their opponents today, but can perhaps expect their batsmen to win them the match. The bowling does not augur well for them with military medium being their only forte and spin totally non-existent. A case could perhaps be made of Daniel Vettori's inclusion. Typically, Pakistan just might pull a fast one and play Mushtaq. That would surely put the cat amongst the

Pakistan would certainly be relying on their tried and tested quartet of fast bowlers, who have served them admirably so far. Early breakthroughs are the order of the day for both sides. Pakistan, more than New Zealand, look like making the early inroads. This might acquire significant implications should Pakistan be required to defend their total. The batting of both sides have still left a bit more to be desired, but here again the greater store of experience, not to speak of class, might tilt the scales in Pakistan's favour. Unless the dramatic transpires, Pakistan seem to have the match in their bag. Or, am I going to be caught with my Kierkegaard down

pigeons.

Tomorrow, South Africa and Australia look to a sequel for the classic duel they fought the other day. A fatal dropped catch has now placed South Africa in a predicament, where they not only have to hold their nerve, but also beat the Australians at their own game. Anything otherwise, is a fate worse than death. More than any other team in this competition, South Africa had been under the most pressure. They have promised much over the years but still have not bagged cricket's biggest catch. The team has been considered the ultimate one-day machine, and their thinly veiled hints to Hansie Cronje to suggest that perhaps

now is as good a time to deliver

the goods, considered long overdue. This is the time when performance must be made to count, to justify all the efforts. innovations and typical South African novelties that have been introduced into the game, to be justified. But South Africa are handicapped by a very predictable bowling attack. Unless Allan Donald and company pull something extraordinary out of the blue, they might fall short of being able to dampen Steve Waugh's aspirations. In every sense of the term, the

pressure on South Africa is an

implosion from within. Australia, like Pakistan, are no strangers to this scenario. They had won a World Cup before, and have been considered for long as being the best in the one-day business. The skipper himself epitomised the Australian spirit when South Africa played them last and everything seemed over for the Aussies, bar the shouting. Australia have made their move. and seem to have peaked at just about the right time. They are a no-nonsense side, singleminded in their approach and aggressive to the core. South Africa certainly does not have any misconceptions about this side. When the Aussies take the field, the message is obvious. Beneath the surface layer of an-

tagonism, lies another layer of genuine hostility. The Australians want this Cup. Could I be wrong? Perhaps. But whoever gets past Steve Waugh and his men, deserves the title. The Aussies are the ultimate acid

At the moment, cricket in its highest form is likely to be on display. We can take comfort from the fact that, even being in the backwaters of the sport, we too had played a part in the greatest cricket fiesta of them all. And why not. if Pakistan were perchance to win this competition, we may even permit ourselves the luxury of wearing an indulgent smile! Part smug, part cryptic.

### Train service

From Page 1 She said that later it was discussed at the official level and the two countries decided to form a committee to study the technical feasibility of importing electricity. The matter still

In reply to another question, the Prime Minister informed the House that steps have so far been taken to produce 2594 MW of electricity since 1996.

remains at this stage.