

20 hurt in clashes in Patuakhali

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, June 19: At least 20 farmers were injured, 5 seriously, in a clash between the armed *lathials* and landless peasants at Char Rustam under Galachipa thana of Patuakhali district yesterday.

According to police and local people, a group of armed *lathials* backed by local influential *Jadars* swooped on the landless farmers to evict them from the Char Rustam. They injured at least 20 people, torched 7 houses and looted away household articles during the clashes that followed, said witnesses.

Farmers alleged that the armed *lathials* also abducted 3 people from the area and released them after threat.

Police did not pay any heed to the matter and took no steps to avert the clash earlier, the farmers alleged.



Festivity was in the air when the passengers from Calcutta got down from the bus that reached Osmani Udyan, the venue for the formal opening of Dhaka-Calcutta bus service, yesterday. — Star photo

9 card phone booths, PCO remain inoperative in Comilla

COMILLA, June 19: A total of nine card phone booths and one PCO remained inoperative in the town and in different thanas of the district since long, reports UNB.

These booths are located at New Market, Press Club, Comilla Cadet College, Borura Hospital and TNO office, Poyalgachha of Borura, Chandina thana, and Daudkandi Thana.

Sources said of PCO of Chiora in Chaudagram thana remained out of order for last six months.

The local leaders urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to restore functioning of the inoperative booths after necessary renovation works.

Token strike for expulsion of Akhteruzzaman MP

KISHOREGANJ, June 19: Local Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) today observed a two-hour token hunger strike here as part of their four-day programme to realise the demand of expulsion of Akhteruzzaman MP from BNP, reports UNB.

Local JCD unit launched the programme on Friday demanding the expulsion for his involvement in anti-party activities.

About a hundred JCD activists gathered in front of Rangamati Cinema Hall at 10 after parading the town and observed a two-hour hunger strike there.

They will also demonstrate at Gurodoyal Government University College and hold a protest rally on the third day tomorrow.

8 KU teachers submit resignation

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, June 19: Eight out of 20 teachers of Computer Engineering and Science department of Khulna University (KU) submitted their resignation to the Vice Chancellor on Wednesday.

Besides, Prof Dr Mozammel Huq Azad, head of the department, applied for leave for three months as per decision of the Academic Council of the university.

The department students have not been attending their classes since April 21 demanding removal of the head of the department.

When contacted, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nazrul Islam said that the resignation letters were not accepted as yet because he cannot do it without unanimous decision of the academic council.

Ctg Steel Mills workers threaten to go for fresh agitation

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 19: Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM) CBA and non-CBA joint Action Committee demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'Pay-off' decision and a clear announcement from the authority about the reopening of the mills by June 29.

If their demands are not met, the committee said, they will go for fresh agitation programmes including a dawn-to-dusk hartal and blockade programme in the greater Chittagong district on June 30.

The committee announced this at a press conference held at Darul Fazel Market today.

The leaders said that the mills authority has not taken any step so far to solve the crisis although we have called off 48-hour hartal following the signing of an agreement on payment of outstanding salaries.

Noor Mohammad read out a written statement in the press conference. SKOP leader AM Nazimuddin, ATM Nazim uddin, Committee leader MA Kader, and Md Ishaq also addressed the conference.

DU Economics Dept Alumni Assoc meet July 3

By DU Correspondent. The reunion, general meeting and election of the Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUEA), will be held at the Hotel Purbani International on July 3.

For further details, members of the DUEA have been asked to contact officer of the department Thakur (Phone: 9661900-59/4422, 4428), Prof Farid (Phone: 841537, 811272), Habibullah Bahar (Phone: 9564119, 9569345) and Fatema Yusuf (Phone: 503354).

Smuggled Indian onion seized

JOYPURHAT, June 19: A team of BDR jawans arrested a man and seized a luggage trolley with 821 kilogram Indian smuggled onion from the nearby Khanjampur Kuthibari Bridge on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR jawans raided the area and seized the onion worth about Tk 96,420. A case was filed.

RU Senate

From page 12. ing the VC panel, the Senate also elected three Syndicate members and a Finance Committee member.

Prof Hasan Azizul Huq (Citizen category), Prof Bazul Rahman (Educationalist category) and Prof Tasnim Alam (Registered Graduate category) were elected as Syndicate members while Prof M Asim Uddin Mondal as Finance committee member.

Eighty-nine Senate members, out of 98, cast their votes in the election.

In the second half of the session, Treasurer Prof Abdul Fazal Huq presented Tk 53.13 crore revised budget for 1998-99 fiscal, and Tk 61.33 crore budget for 1999-2000 fiscal before the Senate for its approval.

Beyond the boundary

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profound theories and predictions about the outcome of this match. Will they, or won't they? From the starry depths of cricket's heavens, hurls this solitary spear of query, demanding to be caught on the shield of the cricket pundit's mind. Is it going to be the day Aussie grit wears down every challenge that stands in its way? Or, are we to see at first hand the unpredictable sultans of cricket brush aside the uncertainties of the game? Australian angst or Pakistani panache. The final is a value-centred end, the world has to watch and wait, as the different poles clash.

Australia are fresh (sic) from two of the greatest victories they have ever achieved. Wadud Chowdhury went as far as to insist that Australia, in the last two encounters, masterminded the defeat of victory. So they did. Just when the Australians were written off, they stormed the ramparts of the most organised defences in world cricket, to reach their fourth final at this level of the game. The team which had its backs to the wall for the major part of this competition, now remain hours away from reaching for the trophy. It speaks volumes for the character and the determination of this team, that they refused to acknowledge adversity as a word in the dictionary.

Pakistan, on the other hand, entered this tournament as firm favourites. Barring the sequence of unlikely defeats for reasons unknown, and other than their own established foibles which do not merit further mention, Pakistan have reached where they had wanted to from the start. The team which had been fractured into conflicting units within itself carried cricket's worst stigma on its shoulders and never looked like a cohesive outfit at all, only six months ago, are now a well-oiled machine. The transformation of this side has been amazing, and as far as the other teams are concerned, the moot question is, can they carry it off where it matters most?

Australia looked organised

in their batting, Mark Waugh has a soft spot for Lord's, and should he be in his elements, the Aussies should be on their way to a good total. The middle order is holding up well. Steve Waugh and his colleagues can graft as well as attack when necessary. More than once, they have managed to defy the odds and get to the target that was required. The bowling has the same kind of variety and depth as Pakistan's. Should the pacemen get the early breakthroughs, they would most certainly expose the suspect Pakistani middle order earlier than Wasim Akram would like. The fielding is extraordinary, quick to stop runs, electric reflexes when it comes to catches and strong throws from the deep to restrict the twos. The Aussies are 15 to 20 runs plus where their total is concerned.

Pakistan would have to expect that Shoaib Akhtar is in the zone today. More than anyone else, he holds the key to the start, that Pakistan needs, whether they bowl first or second. He is meant to take wickets and must be used by his captain for just that one purpose. Any batting side is under pressure in these kind of circumstances, the onus is therefore on the bowling captain to deny too much time initially to the batsmen to settle down. Shoaib Akhtar is an unsettling customer and he has to perform for Pakistan to make the initial inroad. The batsmen may be hedging their bets against the likes of McGrath and Warne. The Pakistanis have not been consistent upto now, barring Saeed Anwar's return to form. Wasti needs to hold up an end, particularly if Anwar departs early. Since the fielding is not up to scratch, it is vital that the batsmen get the extra runs as insurance.

The match promises to be hard fought, no question about it. It is fitting that these are the sides playing at Lord's today. They have the flair, they have all the aggressive moves, they even have the personalities to make this match the most exciting in this World Cup. However, only the team that has the most poise, will win. I am playing it with the middle of the bat.

2 arrested in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, June 19: Police arrested two people from Shatkahon village in Pakundia thana in connection with the local Awami League leader Khondaker Omar Farook Selim murder case on Friday night, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Ratan, 25, and Shamim, 28, of the same village and workers at the local rice mills.

2 murdered

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killers fled the scene running. Manirul was rushed to a nearby clinic. Later he was shifted to Subarnwardy Hospital where the on duty doctors declared him dead. Mirpur police quoting doctors said Manirul died from excessive bleeding.

Body of Salahuddin was recovered from a /heel at Shialbari in the city's Pallabi area at noon yesterday. The body bore several marks of stab injury, police said.

Two persons, identified as Solaiman and Latif, were arrested soon after recovery of the body.

Quoting family sources police said that Solaiman and Latif called Salahuddin, son of Kashi Ali, out of his shanty at about 8 pm Friday and since then he had been missing.

Both the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Two murder cases were filed with the concerned thanas.

Bumper boro

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tonnes of urea used in 1998-99, the lion's share of 52 per cent was used during the boro season, said sources. There was no report of exorbitant price or shortfall of urea except occasional flaws in some pockets during hartal because of disruption in transportation.

Use of dio-amonium phosphate (DAP) rose to 39,000 tonnes in 1998-99 from only 7,000 tonnes in the previous year.

Urea Super Granular (USG), which was introduced in the country in fiscal 1997-98, became popular among farmers and its use rose to 14,846 tonnes in second year.

The government allowed import of hybrid paddy seed which were used in 40,000 hectares of land in the first year. However, BR-29, an indigenous high yielding variety of rice played the magic. BR-29 covered about two lakh hectares of rice land.

Less pest attack and less-than-normal seasonal hailstorms came as nature's favour contributing to a good harvest.

WC final today

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scored six wins to three losses. "Pakistan are the sort of side that can be brilliant one moment and not so good the next. They're a tough side to play against because you never know what you're going to get," Waugh said.

He said the team's confidence is high after stringing together five wins and a tie in six games. Waugh said he hopes to be inspired by South Africa's 13-0 record against Pakistan in their last 13 meetings.

"It figures that the way South Africa play Pakistan must be a good way, and, if we can put some of those plans into practice, we'll have a good chance of winning."

"We're playing an excellent side, and it's probably the biggest game of cricket we will ever play," said Waugh, 34, probably playing his last World Cup.

Waugh said Shane Warne will trouble the Pakistan batsmen as the ace leg-spinner rediscovered his lost form against South Africa in two matches.

Warne, partially written off for his early tournament bowling form, took 2-33 and 4-29 in his last two outings.

Australia is expected to make one change to the side that tied the semifinal against South Africa: batsman Damien Martyn to replace the out-of-form Darren Lehmann, who returned to the side from a finger injury.

Wasim felt his side might have a slight edge because Australia lacks a quality fifth bowler while Pakistan has the advantage of a youthful side.

While Imran Khan won the '92 cup with luminaries like Javed Miandad and Abdul Qadir, Wasim will turn to the likes of rookies Abdur Razaq, Wajahatullah Wasti, Azhar Mahmood and Shoaib Akhtar to supplement the experienced hands of Inzamam-ul-Haq, Moin Khan and Ijaz Ahmed.

"Look who's brought us to the final," Wasim said.

"I don't think the seniors

Showcuse

From Page 1

Senior leaders, MPs and front organisations strongly demanded punitive measure against the army officer-turned-politician, who also made a number of controversial statements on several occasions, earlier.

Bhuiyan in the notice reminded him that he (Akhter) was served with show-cause notices, in the past and on two occasions, he had apologised. The fresh notice wanted to know, why he had violated, once again, the discipline of the party despite repeated warnings.

BNP sources said the party chief was under pressure for immediate disciplinary action against Akhteruzzaman.

In January 1998, the BNP had banned Akhter from all organisational activities, accusing him of violating party discipline. He had appeared before the standing committee of BNP on January 12 '98 and apologised for his mistake and promised not to repeat it in future.

BNP is maintaining secrecy in taking disciplinary action against Akhter for the sake of continuing the current anti-government agitation, smoothly.

Khaleda

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"It is understandable that all these preparations are aimed to create a ground for exporting gas through producing surplus gas," she said, adding "We came to know from reliable sources and through newspapers that foreign companies have proposed to export gas showing the same reason."

The opposition leader said any step regarding the export of gas would be suicidal and contrary to national interest without being informed about the possibility of gas reserve and its use.

She said though there is no reliable survey about the reserve of gas, but a certain quarter is trying to give an unbelievable and exaggerated idea about its reserve.

Begum Zia concluded, it is not understandable how the government can think of exporting natural gas, which is the only source for power generation, when 84 per cent of people in the country do not have electricity.

Death anniversary

The 15th death anniversary of Ahmad Sobhan, a prominent lawyer and past president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, will be observed today. On the occasion, a *mitad mahfil* will be held at his Dhannoidi Road 7A residence. Says a press release.

Protest

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Bangladesh. Jamaat general secretary Maulana Matur Rahman Nazami told a rally that it was normal rule and courtesy to welcome a foreign dignitary. "But we cannot welcome Vajpayee as his party led the destruction of Babri mosque.

Police intercepted processions of Khehlat Andolan in Lalbagh and Kamrangchhar area and picked up about 15 protesters.

Activists of Islami Shasantantra Andolan held a rally in front of Paltan mosque. They also brought out a procession carrying black flag.

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal rally at Muktagong was held in the afternoon as the police dispersed the crowd. But a small procession paraded through Naya Paltan chanting anti-Indian slogans.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is likely at places over Chittagong divisions during the period, according to Met office.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected across the country.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Khulna and Sathkha.

The sun sets today at 6.49 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 percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	25.9	76	76
Chittagong	31.2	25.5	92	85
Rajshahi	35.5	25.8	79	77
Khulna	34.0	25.0	74	89
Barisal	30.8	25.7	68	78
Sylhet	32.0	27.0	73	88
Cox's Bazar	29.2	25.2	92	97

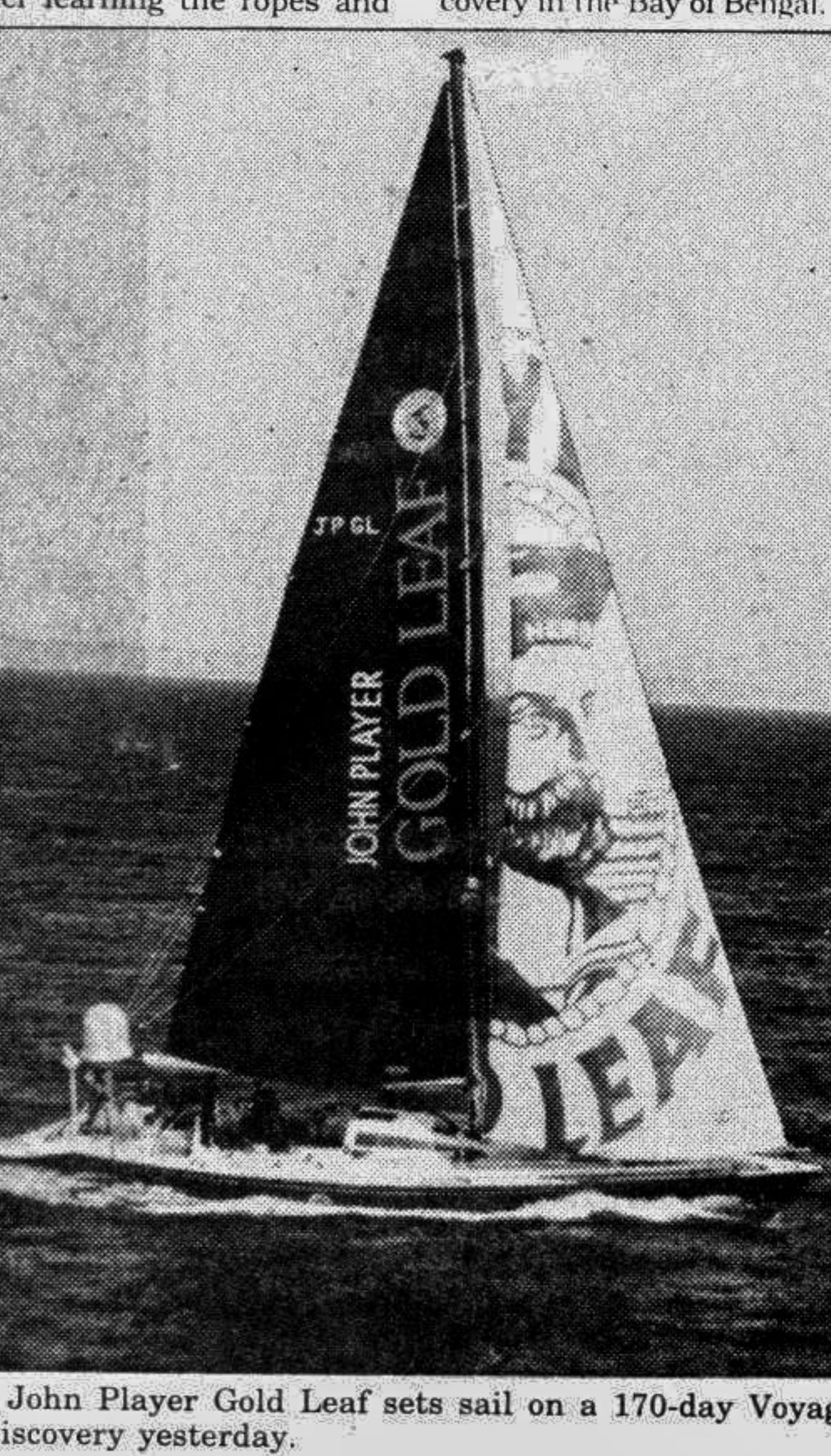
Voyage of Discovery sets out

Bound for the Voyage of Discovery, the John Player Gold Leaf, an 80ft Maxi racing yacht, left Tower Bridge yesterday with a 7-man all British crew. The challenging and exciting 170-day trip will span 17 countries and 3 continents with the ultimate destination of reaching the Bay of Bengal in November 1999, says a press release.

Manufactured for the local market by British American Tobacco Bangladesh, John Player Gold Leaf is the leading cigarette brand in the country. Since the 1995 relaunch with the new international pack, the company has been continually investing in the brand to ensure delivery of the best in smoking satisfaction to the consumers.

"I am sure the Voyage of Discovery will generate a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in Bangladesh," said British American Tobacco's Nehal Ahmed, Group Brand Manager. "The consumers will be able to follow this magnificent passage of the journey for the next 5 months. The yacht is destined to reach the Bay of Bengal in November and will be providing everyone with an opportunity to see the yacht for themselves and be a part of the John Player Gold Leaf Voyage of Discovery."

The John Player Gold Leaf will be heading to the North Sea, around the North Foreland Point en route for an overnight berth in Cherbourg. The vessel will skirt the coastlines of three continents on its 170 days Voyage of Discovery through some of the world's most testing waters, including Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, the UAE, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. With the final leg of the route taking the journey south and the finish of the Voyage of Discovery in the Bay of Bengal.



The John Player Gold Leaf sets sail on a 170-day Voyage of Discovery yesterday.



Sharmin first in Science group under Ctg Board

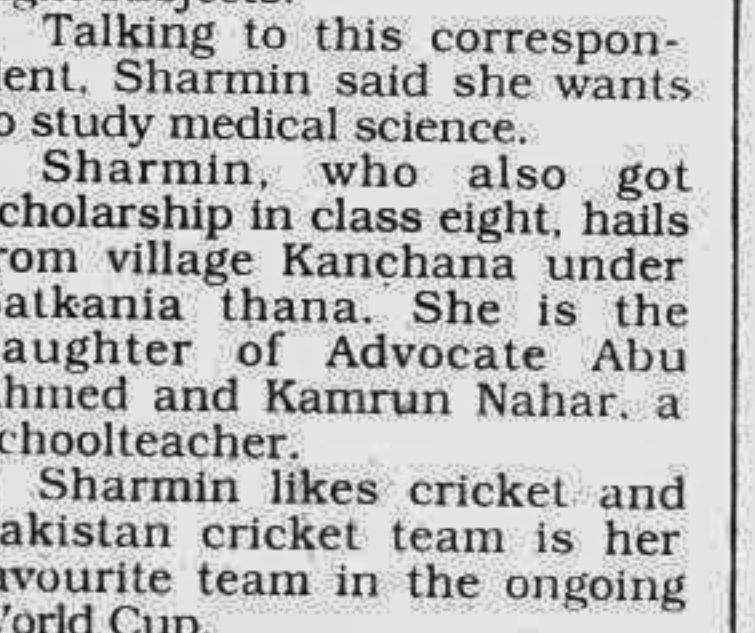
From CU Correspondent Sharmin Kamrun secured first position on the combined merit list of the Science group in this year's SSC examinations under the Chittagong Education Board.

A student of Dr Khastogir Govt High School, the first girl got 926 marks with letters in eight subjects.

Talking to this correspondent, Sharmin said she wants to study medical science.

Sharmin, who also got scholarship in class eight, hails from village Kanchana under Satkania thana. She is the daughter of Advocate Abu Ahmed and Kamrun Nahar, a schoolteacher.

Sharmin likes cricket and Pakistan cricket team is her favourite team in the ongoing World Cup.



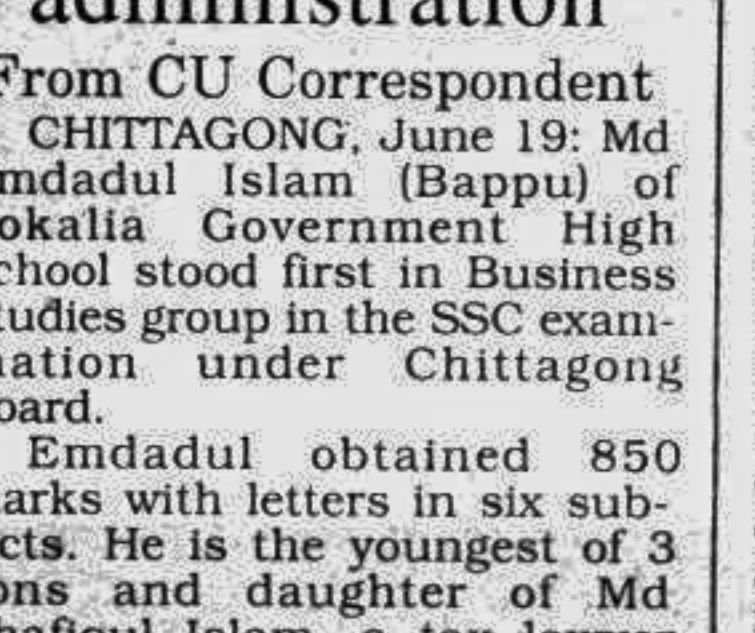
Emdadul wants to study business administration

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 19: Md Emdadul Islam (Bappu) of Bokalia Government High School stood first in Business Studies group in the SSC examination under Chittagong Board.

Emdadul obtained 850 marks with letters in six subjects. He is the youngest of 3 sons and daughter of Md Shafiqul Islam, a tax lawyer Rawshanara Begum.

Emdadul is not interested in the present politics of the country. He supports South-Africa team in cricket.

He wants to obtain higher degree in Business Administration.



Kashif stands 17th in DB Science Group

Kashif Mahmood, a student of Ideal School & College, obtained 17th position in the combined merit list of Science Group in the SSC Examination under Dhaka Board, says a press release.

Kashif obtained 924 marks with distinction in all subjects. He is the grand son of late Justice MN Huda and son of Mohammad Feroze, Vice President, National Bank Ltd.

Unsuccessful SSC examinee dies

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, June 19: An SSC examinee died of heart failure after learning that she had failed her SSC exam.

Nipa Halder, 15, daughter of Bhuban Chandra Halder of Kaparkati village in Nalchity thana appeared for the exam from Ichhakti Secondary School this year.



Dhaka Sheraton management warmly welcomed Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu to the hotel on Friday. K S Alam, Executive Assistant Manager, welcomed the distinguished guest while Director PR Rashida Muhiuddin presented a bouquet to the guest.