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A view from the Gully

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Jayasurya, who took the cricketing world by surprise with his exceptional batting in 1996 and thereafter, surprised everyone, once again, but not by his hitting prowess but by his timidity and indifference. He appeared a ghost of his former self. Time takes its toll but for Jayasurya a short span of time took a heavy toll. What a pity! Stewart and Hick steered their team to victory. Both were in superb form against the mediocre Lankan attack. Sri Lanka never recovered and looked the champions they were; lost two more matches against South Africa and India and out they went, rather unsung from the competition. A sorry sight indeed. It is time for them to take stock of their cricket and infuse new blood if they really want to move forward from here on.

West Indies were another shocker. True they were not in their best elements but the crowd loved them, so did the viewers. The expectations were raised because of their recent showing against Steve Waugh's Australians. Down two Tests and then coming back from behind to draw the series, particularly with Brian Lara coming to form with three centuries and then sharing the honours in the seven-match one-day series. But the sudden withdrawal of experienced all-rounder Carl Hooper definitely weakened the middle-order and the bowling which was so evident in their matches. With Walsh and Ambrose on the threshold of retirement, West Indies must find out young replacements and try to attract more youngsters towards the game of cricket.

The plight of England was once again evident in this tournament. As Geoff Boycott points out time and again England have very few world class players compared to other top teams and are always short on talent. Moneywise soccer is more affluent in Britain, and hence more and more young people are taking to this game discarding cricket.

This is not a happy trend and unless reversed in time cricket might take further dip in the near future. A lackluster

performance by England was finally sealed by India as the latter raced to the Super Six. It was a pity that none of the three — England, West Indies and Sri Lanka — made it to the Super Six, while New Zealand played the semis against Pakistan. That was not on the cards.

But in a game of cricket these uncertainties make the hearts throb and the eyes wet.

Akhteruzzaman pushed to last row in JS

Rearranging his Parliament seat, BNP's outspoken MP Akhteruzzaman has been pushed to the last row from the fourth, reports UNB.

Taking floor to speak on cut motion on the supplementary budget yesterday, the army major-turned lawmaker twice pointed to the sudden change and wanted to know from the Chair the reasons for the push-back, and thus insult to him.

"I have been pressed against the wall ... you can't push me any more. Time is running out," Akhter told Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid during his annoyance in a smile.

"Now you will have to break the wall. You know better who has done it," quipped the Deputy Speaker hinting that it was done at the directive of Akhter's party that has taken serious exception to his recent stance against its decision.

Sec 144

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mand, a pro-Kader group, called a protest meeting at the Udyan at 11 am as distinct BCL declared Kader Siddiqui persona non grata in the district.

But local Awami League and JCD called another meeting at the same venue and at the same time to protest "indecent" comments of Kader Siddiqui on the Prime Minister in parliament.

The two groups brought out processions outside the area and held meetings at Shamsul Haq Gate and Masjid Road crossing protesting imposition of Section 144.

Australia lift WC

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found the edge of a tentative forward push by Moin Khan to reduce Pakistan to 91 for five in the 28th over.

It soon became 113 for seven as Inzamam-ul Haq and Shahid Afridi went in quick succession.

Paul Reiffel had Inzamam caught behind for 15 in his last over.

Afridi, who made 13, became Warne's third victim when he fell leg-before trying to sweep. The leg spinner made it four when he took the wicket of Akram, caught by Australia's captain at mid-wicket.

In reply, Adam Gilchrist and Mark Waugh thrashed Pakistan's much-vaunted attack in an opening stand of 75 off 64 balls as Australia raced to their target.

Gilchrist, who had scored just 170 in the previous nine matches, smashed eight fours and a six in 54 off 37 balls.

He fell to Saqlain Mushtaq in the 11th over, and Ricky Ponting was caught behind for 24 before Mark Waugh (37 not

out) and Darren Lehmann (13 not out) saw Australia to victory.

Shoaib Akhtar, one of the stars of the tournament and the world's quickest bowler, was thrashed for 37 off his first four overs and failed to take a wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Australia's innings in the cricket World Cup final between against Pakistan at Lord's yesterday:

AUSTRIA: M Waugh not out 37	A Gilchrist c Inzamam b Saqlain 54
R Ponting c Moin b Wasim 24	D Lehmann not out 13
Extras: (1), w1, nb3 5	Total (2 wkt, 20.1 overs) 133
Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-112	
Did Not Bat: S. Waugh, M. Bevan, T. Moody, S. Warne, P. Reiffel, D. Fleming, G. McGrath	
Bowling: O M R W	
Akram 8 1 41 1	
Akhtar 4 0 37 0	
Razzaq 2 0 13 0	
Mahmood 2 0 20 0	
Saqlain 4.1 0 21 1	
Australia by eight wickets	

Australia by eight wickets

Rly compartment for Ajmeer goers assured

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has assured that a compartment of train from Calcutta will be kept reserved for the pilgrims to Ajmer Sharif, reports UNB.

The assurance came yesterday in response to the desire of his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

The pilgrims from Bangladesh who will travel to Calcutta by bus will get the advantage of reserved compartment to travel to Ajmer.

Booking for the train journey can be made from Dhaka.

Vajpayee pays tribute to martyrs, Bangabandhu

The visiting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday paid rich tribute to the martyrs of the country's Liberation War by placing wreath at the national memorial at Savar, reports BSS.

After placing wreath, the Indian Prime Minister stood in solemn silence when bugles of Bangladesh Army played the last post and the national flag of Bangladesh was lowered to half-mast.

Vajpayee signed the visitor's book and planted a sapling of "Gandharaj (Cape Jasmine)" in the adjoining garden of the memorial.

"Now you will have to break the wall. You know better who has done it," quipped the Deputy Speaker hinting that it was done at the directive of Akhter's party that has taken serious exception to his recent stance against its decision.

"I pay my homage to the extraordinary leader who led his country to liberation," Vajpayee said while visiting the Bangabandhu Museum in the city yesterday.

The Indian Prime Minister placed wreaths at the portrait of the Bangabandhu immediately after his arrival. He was then taken round different rooms and floors of the museum.

Toxic items

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across the world and about 30 countries have so far withdrawn Belgian dairy products from markets. Some Asian countries have also banned import of these items from those countries.

Earlier, messages were sent to Bangladesh embassies in Belgium, France and the Netherlands, seeking advice whether to ban import of dairy and poultry items from those countries. But no response was received till yesterday, officials said.

2 murdered

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Hospital sources quoting relatives said that Ripon left his house on Saturday night with Hannan and Biplob. But Ripon did not return home that night.

The youths who accompanied Ripon told Ripon's father yesterday morning that he met with an accident at Matuail, police said.

Later, Ripon's relatives recovered him in a critical condition from the spot. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was shot in his back.

He died at the DMCH at about 10 am yesterday. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report. A case was lodged with Demra thana.

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Bowling: O M R W

Akram 8 1 41 1

Akhtar 4 0 37 0

Razzaq 2 0 13 0

Mahmood 2 0 20 0

Saqlain 4.1 0 21 1

Australia by eight wickets

Australia by eight wickets

G8 summit in Cologne ends

\$70b Third World debt slashed

COLOGNE, Germany, June 20: Leaders of the world's richest countries agreed to cut billions of dollars off Third World debt at their annual summit which ended here today, but sent Russia home empty-handed until it does better on economic reform, reports AFP.

There was however a key common thread in the G8 summit's message on debt both to an ailing Russia and the world's poorest countries -- "follow our economic prescription to the letter or you will get nothing."

In the final communiqué from the three-day summit on Sunday, the G8 leaders welcomed Russia's promise of economic reforms in a deal agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

But they made it clear that no further debt relief would be forthcoming until the reforms had been implemented, releasing a new installment of international aid.

"We welcome the outline agreements recently reached by Russia with the IMF and the World Bank and look forward to their speedy implementation as a further important step in Russia's reform program," the G8 leaders said.

"Once and IMF agreement is in place, we encourage the Paris Club (of creditor governments) to act expeditiously to negotiate a debt rescheduling agreement with Russia," the statement said.

Russia is seeking to restructure some 100 billion dollars in debts of the former Soviet Union, which constitutes the bulk of Russia's 140 billion-dollar foreign debt.

Leaders of the Group of Seven -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States -- had already agreed Friday to slash 70 billion dollars off the more than 200 billion dollars in debt of the world's poorest nations.

The price was the same as for Russia, however -- relief would only be available to countries "pursuing sound policies, and that demonstrate a commitment to reform and poverty alleviation."

Countries wanting to qualify for debt relief under this initiative will first have to establish

a three-year track record of economic good conduct -- an improvement nonetheless over the current situation where the qualifying period is six years.

The G8 took up the economic good conduct theme again in their final communiqué on Sunday, stressing that while international assistance and debt relief was important for developing countries, "their positive effects depend on sound national efforts towards economic and structural reform and good governance."

The International Monetary Fund and other international institutions have placed an increasing emphasis on the need for sound social as well as economic and social frameworks in programs to help countries out of economic trouble in the wake of the Asian financial crisis, which saw millions fall back into poverty as unemployment spiraled.

And when it comes to relieving debt, donors are insisting that the money saved on debt payments will be used for improvements in basic social areas such as health, education and reducing poverty.

Suppl bill passed

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men has failed to realise the estimated 10 per cent growth in revenue, Kibria said that he had achieved 95 per cent of the target.

Speaking against the additional allocation for the home ministry, the opposition lawmakers argued that entire police, already politicised by the government, has failed to contain law and order.

In reply, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim claimed that the country's law and order was very much under control and pleaded for adequate logistical support.

5-hr barricade on Dhaka-Tangail highway

GAZIPUR, June 20: Trans-port workers put up a barricade on Dhaka-Tangail Highway for five hours today protesting the arrest of a worker, reports UNB.

Police said the leaders of Kaliakoir Transport Workers' Association came to the local police station and demanded release of Moyezuddin who was arrested Saturday night on charge of theft and terrorism.

When police refused to release him, the angry workers took to the street and put up a barricade on the highway at Kaliakoir and Chandra and damaged about 15 vehicles at about 10 am.

NATO ends air campaign

PRISTINA, June 20: The last of 40,000 Yugoslav troops rolled out of war-battered Kosovo today, watched by NATO which declared a formal end to the bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

Negotiations from the NATO-led peacekeeping force and the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army reached a demilitarisation agreement under which the rebels will stop carrying weapons in many parts of the province and place anything bigger than a sidearm or hunting rifle in storage within 30 days, US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said.

When asked about Kashmir issue, Nasim said Bangladesh wants India and Pakistan to resolve the Kargil between India and Pakistan.

When asked about the Kargil issue, Nasim said Bangladesh wants India and Pakistan to resolve the Kargil conflict through bilateral discussion and not through use of arms.

Earlier, she started the press conference with brief introductory remarks. It was held at the Winter Garden Hall of Sheraton Hotel.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh Notice

This is for information of the valued unit holders of ICB Unit Certificate that those who intend to invest their dividend income for the Financial Year 1998-99 under Cumulative Investment Plan (CIP) should apply in the prescribed application form in plain paper by 30th June, 1999 positively to Corporation's offices and authorised bank branches. Those who applied for CIP earlier need not apply again and the holders who intend to cancel CIP may apply in plain paper within the stipulated time.

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