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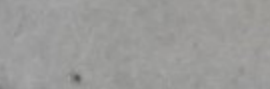

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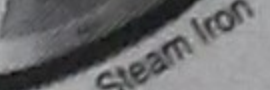
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## BB team to find why dollar price rose in kerb market

By Monjur Mahmud

Bangladesh Bank yesterday decided to send special teams to different commercial banks which deal in foreign currency following sudden rise in its prices in the kerb market, sources concerned said.

The teams will check reserve position of dollars in the banks and find out why the price of dollar rose sharply in the kerb market.

Over the past few days, supply of dollars in the legal market and the kerb market was not enough against its demand, the sources pointed out.

There was not adequate supply of dollar in the legal channel due to payment of Asian Clearing Union (ACU) and increase in import bills. Besides, there was also pressure from importers to open letters of credit (L/Cs) before the next budget session of parliament, a senior banker said.

L/Cs are being opened apprehending that duties on some items may go up and for this demand for dollar increased but supply was not adequate.

Dollar price rose to Tk 55 in the kerb market on Tuesday but it fell slightly the following

day. The price was between Tk 54.50 and Tk 54.80 on Wednesday.

The present rate of dollar is around Tk 51.26 (selling) and Tk 50.80 (buying).

## One gets life term for kidnapping girl in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 1: One person has been awarded life term imprisonment here for kidnapping girl.

The prosecution story in brief is: The accused Ahad Molla, with the help of two others kidnapped Hosne Ara, 15, on January 28, 1998 while she was returning home from school.

A case was lodged with Mohammodpur thana in this connection. Police after investigation chargesheeted Ahad, Babu and Monnu.

After examining all the witnesses and records, Additional District and Sessions Judge A K M Zahir Ahmed found Ahad Molla guilty and awarded him life term imprisonment.



Students of Eden University College brought out a procession yesterday demanding deferment of honours examinations (third part) under the national university. —Star photo

## Sharif to be charged in corruption case today

KARACHI, June 1: Pakistani authorities today moved former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from a prison in Karachi to the Attack Fort jail, where he will be formally charged in a corruption case, officials said, reports AFP.

He is to be indicted on Friday by an accountability court, the same day the Sindh High Court is due to announce its ruling on whether to admit a prosecution appeal seeking the death penalty for Sharif in relation to an earlier conviction.

The sitting will take place in the 16th century Mughal Attack Fort, located about 80 km north west of Islamabad, on the left bank of the River Indus, officials said.

The former prime minister

## Crime reporters to hold rally today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association will hold a rally in front of the National Press Club today to press home their two-point demand.

The demands are removal of DMP commissioner and withdrawal of false cases against journalist.

The programme was announced at a meeting of the executive committee of the association at Dhaka Reporters' Union office yesterday. The association will announce its next course of action in the meeting.

The association also condemned Home Minister's statements given to the media after a meeting with the leaders of the association.

It constituted a nine-member action committee to gear up the next course of action. Senior Reporter Sankar Kumar Dey will act as convener of the committee. Other members are: Parvez Khan, Fakrul Alam Kanchan, Samsus Salehin, Shah Manwar Jahan, Shaikh Nazrul Islam, Saleh Sibby, Mohsinul Karim Lebu and Mor-tuza Haider Liton.

was sentenced to a life term by an anti-terrorism court in April on charges of hijacking and terrorism. He has appealed against the conviction at the provincial high court.

Sharif, ousted in a military coup in October, was taken to Islamabad on a special flight, where he will be formally charged in the corruption case against him.

Chief public prosecutor Farooq Adam of the army-led National Accountability Bureau said charges would be laid in connection with the private purchase of a Russian helicopter by him in 1993.

"He has not shown the purchase of the helicopter in his Income Tax returns," Adam told AFP.

There are 22 prosecution witnesses in the case, he said.

## Capital city bears brunt of load shedding

By Staff Correspondent

The country suffered over 130 MW load shedding yesterday with 110 MW in the capital and its adjacent areas, sources said.

Out of 63 power generating units in the country, eleven including two 210 MW units remained shut on the day, PDB said.

PDB generated 2470 MW power against the country's requirement of 2600 MW, and gave 960 MW to DESA, which needed 1050 MW yesterday, PDB added.

Load shedding in DESA areas was 110 MW with 50 MW only in the city, DESA sources said.

The eleven units which remained shut yesterday were Rajshahi-2, Sylhet Gas, Shajibazar-3, Fenchuganj Gas Turbine-1 and 2, Fenchuganj Steam, Khulna 60 MW, Khulna 110 MW, Baghabari Gas, Ghorasal-3 and Ashuganj-2.

## Zila Parishad elections

From page 1

and members of Union Parishads.

A Zila Parishad will be elected for five years and MPs of the district concerned will be its advisers, says the bill.

Introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad on April 6, the Zila Parishad Bill, meant to have an elected body at the highest tier of local government administration, was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on local government ministry for scrutiny.

The committee has prepared a report for submission in the House during the forthcoming parliament session beginning on June 5.

"We have suggested only some minor changes in the bill. But the mode of election and other fundamentals of the bill have remained unchanged," chairman of the committee Abdul Mannan told the Daily Star earlier this week.

Opposition members in the parliamentary standing committee suggested as many as 10 changes in the bill, mainly on the mode of election and authority of the Zila Parishad.

They suggested that the chairman and members of the Parishad be elected directly by the voters in the district. Members should proportionately represent the thanas in a district -- three male members and one female member from each thana.

But the bill says a district will be split into 15 areas, each to be represented by a male member while a district will be divided into five areas and a female member from the reserved seats will represent each area.

The opposition parties also recommended that the Zila Parishad election be held simultaneously with parliamentary polls under the caretaker government. However, the bill has it that the government will decide the first election schedule.

Moreover, the opposition lawmakers wanted certain sections in the bill which empower the government to dictate and dissolve the Zila Parishad, excluded.

The bill also provides for the government to dissolve a Zila Parishad if it failed to carry out financial and administrative duties or acted against public interest or abused power.

They advocated that a Parishad chairman be given the status of a state minister although the bill does not define the status.

Abdul Mannan, chairman of the parliamentary committee, said the suggestions "go against the basic idea of restoring the local body" at the district level.

Justifying the indirect election, Mannan, a senior ruling party leader, said there will at least be a local body at the district level, which has not been there for long.

"We prefer to take one step at a time. Let's have an experiment. If there is any problem with this (election) arrangement, changes could be made in the law," he said, opposing the idea of direct election "since it would create many legal and administrative complications."

Elaborating, he said, the constituency of a Zila Parishad chairman would be very large -- eight to ten times that of an MP. There might be power struggle

between the two public representatives, he feared.

Mannan however did not subscribe to the notion that indirect election to the Zila Parishad will go against the spirit of democracy and the relevant provision in the Constitution. "Zila Parishad is quiet different from other local government bodies."

He blamed the opposition for trying to complicate the matter by raising all these issues, though acknowledging the opposition's right to differ.

But the opposition finds the proposed electoral system unconstitutional.

"The bill is contrary to Article 59 of the Constitution, that provides for election to all local government bodies directly by the people," said Barrister Nazmul Huda, a BNP member in the parliamentary standing committee on local government ministry.

He said the government move is aimed to win the next general election by capturing Zila Parishads by any means.

"Once elected to local bodies like Zila Parishad and Upazila Parishad as well, the ruling party men will definitely influence the caretaker administration to win the next parliamentary election," he explained.

The BNP leader feared that the government would use the newly-appointed chief election commissioner to implement its "blueprint to hold the two local polls unilaterally."

According to sources, the parliamentary body hastily examined the Zila Parishad Bill, although it had two months altogether. The committee had only two sittings to complete scrutiny of the crucial bill.

## Lankan juggernaut

From page 1

from two matches.

On the other hand, India, who were off to a predictably smooth start Wednesday, will now have to beat arch-rivals Pakistan in their last match tomorrow to keep their hopes alive to feature in the June 7 final.

Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva gave Sri Lanka a good start featuring in a 58-run opening stand. The partnership was broken in the 13th over when De Silva, following his match-winning undefeated 96 against Bangladesh on Tuesday, spooned a return catch to right-arm medium pacer Thiru Kumaran while on 23.

However, the dismissal hardly put brakes on the Lankan onslaught as they took the Indian bowling attack to the sword. Jayasuriya kept up the good work and dominated a 104-run stand for the second wicket with one-down Marvan Atapattu, helping the side cross the 150-mark in the 29th over.

It took the bowling exploits of Sachin Tendulkar to get a breakthrough. Sachin induced Atapattu into miscuing a leg-break and offering a simple catch to Rahul Dravid for 42.

The Sri Lankan skipper then took the charge as he raced to his 50 off 59 balls, hitting seven boundaries. The ball-bashing Sinhalese needed exactly 50 balls more to reach the eighth century of his career and second in the Asia Cup. He cracked 108 against Bangladesh in the Colombo edition in 1997.

Jayasuriya was eventually run out in the 40th over when he, pushing the ball towards backward square leg, went for a second run which was not there.

However, little Kaluwitharana refused to give the toiling Indians any respite. Dreaming up with big-hitting Chaminda Vaas, he helped his side reach 276 with a 39-ball 33, inclusive of two boundaries.

Vaas, who smote Agarkar over the mid-wicket rope twice in the 47th over, was not out on 34 off 25 balls.

When their turn came, the Indians buckled under the pressure of the scoring 5.5 runs an over and lost wickets at regular intervals.

After losing his opening partner and skipper Saurav Ganguly, and pinch-hitter Sunil Joshi early with the scoreboard reading 58, Sachin shared a 77-run third-wicket partnership with Rahul Dravid to rekindle some hopes for an Indian win.

But when Muttiah Muralitharan scalped Rahul for 24 India's hopes were all but dashed.

Sachin, nonetheless, continued with his magic before finally holding out to Sri Lankan vice-captain Mahela Jayawardena at deep square leg off Kaushalya Weeraratne. Sachin cracked ten hits across the fence.

His dismissal on 174 virtually clinched the match for the Lankans. The last four wickets fell for 31 runs.

Weeraratne, playing only his second one-day international, returned with three for 46 from his nine overs. Left-arm seamer Nuwan Zoysa took two for 47 runs from ten overs.

For his match-winning knock of 105, Jayasuriya was later named man-of-the-match. After the match, a happy Jayasuriya said that it was a very good match for them.

"We struggled in the middle. Otherwise it would have been a 300-plus innings," said Jayasuriya.

"Although, it was quite humid out there but thanks to god I could finally score a hundred here in Dhaka. I also want to thank Romesh (Kaluwitharana) and Chaminda (Vaas) who really batted well and helped us reach 276 in the end," he added.

## Gully

From page 1

But the spoil-sport turned out to be DESA yesterday. Power disruption was so frequent in many areas in the city that viewers in these areas missed out much of the action at the stadium. The purpose behind telecasting the matches are totally defeated by regular power failure. DESA must ensure uninterrupted supply not only to the stadium, but also in all areas of the city.

India's onslaught was launched, as usual, by Ganguly and Tendulkar. The captain left early sending Joshi to hit out, a play not easily understandable when the team had no pressure to accelerate scoring.

Joshi did not last long and Dravid filled in the void. He spent a large number of deliveries and as he was opening up, he gave in to Muralitharan. Even on this placid wicket young Weeraratne, playing only in his second match, had the master batsman Tendulkar brilliantly caught at 93. This was the turning point of the game and, with another two wickets falling on the same total, India were pushed on to backfoot. The former champions caved in within 45 overs, giving the defending champions the satisfaction of a hard-earned victory and full points.

June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
2		6:43 pm
3	5:11 am	

## Prayer Timings

June 2

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-45
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Oil tanker explosion blamed on monitoring failure

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 1: Absence of proper monitoring system in the private ship-breaking yards and inadequate precautionary measures by the buyers of abandoned ships have led to explosions and other accidents, killing about 300 workers in last 20 years at the yards in Sitakundu, sources said.

The explosion at an oil tanker at Shitalpur ship-breaking yard yesterday have so far claimed 18 lives. It was the worst accident in the 20-year history of ship-scrapping business thriving at Sitakundu coastal belt, about 40 kilometres north of the port city, sources said.

The casualty figure rose to 18 from 16 when two more workers succumbed to their burn injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital early this morning.

Police and other sources said lapses in precautionary measures, including making the

ship chamber gas-free before scrapping triggers blasts and other accidents at ship breaking yards.

Sources said standard procedure requires a ship to be free of gas before beaching, but it is hardly followed at Sitakundu ship-breaking grounds. Scrapping of oil tankers is a high-risk business since ships may have secret gas pockets inside.

Sources said ship-breakers sometimes obtain "gas-free certificates" from the government's explosive department in collusion with a section of customs officials, an allegation denied by the explosive department.

Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, an assistant inspector at the department, rather alleged that the buyer of T.T. Dena, the ship that went up in flames yesterday, started scrapping the tanker ignoring warning by the explosive department that there was a danger of explosion.

"We warned that the oil

tanker was not fit for 'hot work' since it carried huge sludge, which continuously produces hydrocarbon gas. We even suggested that the customs and the port authorities bar the ship from beaching," he said.

Chowdhury, however, admitted that the "gas-free certificate" was issued to the tanker after its beaching. "Now the buyer of T.T. Dena will be served with a show-cause notice for ignoring the warning and action will be taken as per law" Chowdhury said.

Lutfur Rahman, assistant commissioner at Chittagong Customs House said the oil tanker was allowed to beach on receipt of "gas-free certificate" and after the customs duties were cleared. An official of Chittagong Port Authority preferring anonymity said, "We don't have control on these private ship-breaking yards. We only give clearance (for beaching) after receiving port dues."

## Complaint case against ADC police

By Court Correspondent

A complaint case was filed against Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DMP, South) yesterday with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka.

Advocate Alina Khan, Director (Investigation) of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights filed the case against Iqbal Bahar on charge of misuse of power, intimidation and misbehaviour.

Metropolitan Magistrate Dilip Kumar Sharma, after hearing, directed the DMP commissioner to submit a report after a detailed investigation.

Advocate Alina filed another petition for judicial inquiry against the order passed by the court. The court fixed June 5 for order regarding the petition.

In her plaint, she said that on May 29 she went to Ramna thana after hearing the arrest of Aminur Rahman Taj, a senior reporter of the daily Aker Kagoj and wanted to know from police why they arrested Taj.

But Iqbal Bahar told her that they could arrest anyone any time.

When she protested it he became furious and said "Keep your mouth shut".

Advocate Alina again protested it and said that she was an advocate.

"If you are an advocate, go to court, but not here," Iqbal Bahar

told her, the complaint said.

When she refused to leave the police station without knowing the reason for the arrest of Taj, Iqbal Bahar ordered a sentry to drive her out of the room, the complaint said.

## Safe custody for whom?

A Division Bench of the High Court yesterday issued rule nisi upon the Ministry of Home Affairs and other authorities concerned asking them to produce Shahana Akhter, a dumb girl before the court on June 15, reports BSS.

The poor girl is now interned in the Chittagong Jail without trial, court sources said.

The Division Bench comprising Justice Md. Golam Rabbani and Justice Naimun Ara Sultana issued the Rule after hearing a writ filed by Advocate Tania Amir, Executive Director of the Law and Society Trust and Advocate Abdus Salam, Chairman of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee run by Bangladesh Bar Council. Advocate Tania Amir submitted argument on behalf of their writ.

The girl, who hailed from Borguna, was taken to Chittagong by a close relation. She was sent to jail about two years ago after being arrested on immoral charge from Agrabad area of the port city.

## No arrest yet in Shipu Murder Case

By Staff Correspondent

Police could not arrest any of the accused yet in the businessman Iftekher Ahmed Shipu Murder Case.

Shipu was murdered at Banani in the city on May 24.

"We are feeling so insecure to move out of our residence as anonymous callers frequently threatening us to withdraw the case," brother of the victim said.

Shipu, 38, a businessman of Cello phone sets and a resident of Banani was gunned down by three gunmen.

Gulshan police said they could not arrest any one in connection with Shipu murder. A case was filed with Gulshan police accusing Naimuz-zaman Jubayer, Jewel and Saiful Alam.

Police earlier raided the house of Kamal Majumder, MP, to arrest his son Jewel in this connection but failed.

Jewel was seen moving at the Minto Road in the city on Wednesday and yesterday, sources said.

A local Awami League leader went to the house of the victim yesterday morning to tell the family members that Home Minister desired to visit their residence. When contacted at about 8 pm last night the family members said that they were expecting the minister.

OC of Gulshan police assured Shipu's family of all cooperation to arrest the culprits immediately.

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