

# The Daily Star

VOL. X NO. 134 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAISTHA 20, 1407 BS

SAFAR 29, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

## Rajuk not equipped to implement Master Plan

No change in Rajuk's setup since '56

By Morshed Ali Khan

Rajuk is unable to implement the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan or the Master Plan due to acute shortage of technical manpower and absence of a monitoring mechanism, Rajuk officials said.

Absence of monitoring is resulting in unplanned urbanisation of the 590 square mile area under the jurisdiction of Rajuk. This is also giving rise to serious social, environmental and economical problems. Town planners and environmentalists said that with the current trend of unplanned growth, Dhaka will become 'uninhabitable' in the near future and its inhabitants will face an 'environmental disaster'.

The officials said although it is mandatory to follow the Master Plan, Rajuk's existing structure 'makes it impossible to ensure it'. The Master Plan was devised over a period of four years at a cost of about Tk 16

crore. On August 4, 1997, provisions of the Master Plan was incorporated in the Town Improvement Act, 1953 through a gazette notification.

Rajuk's manpower from a peon to the Chairman is less than 450 now and its organogram has remained the same since its inception in 1956. How do you expect Rajuk to implement a modern Master Plan devised in 1998? asked a senior Rajuk official.

The area under Rajuk's jurisdiction was increased from 320 square miles to 590 square miles when the government converted Dhaka Improvement Trust into Rajdhanii Unnayan Katripaksha (Rajuk) on April 30, 1986.

Now, Rajuk's biggest problem is lack of technical manpower required to monitor implementation of the Master Plan. The total number of Rajuk engineers, town planners

and architects is only 35 whereas the number should have been many times that, the official said.

Then again, all these 35 people are constantly busy approving building construction plans in the city. Rajuk has no mechanism to see what is happening even in Motijheel area which is so near Rajuk Bhaban," said another top official. The only way Rajuk comes to know about a deviation from plan or irregularity is through public complaints or newspaper reports.

The reason behind so many planning irregularities and corruption in Rajuk is the indifference of successive governments to streamline it," the official said seeking anonymity.

"Successive governments have used Rajuk only to extract residential and commercial plots in the city. They have

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A combo picture shows boisterous Bangladesh fans (left) celebrating the dismissal of dashing opener Saeed Anwar (middle) during yesterday's Pepsi Asia Cup fixture between the hosts and Pakistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, and (right) Sri Lanka's skipper Sanath Jayasuriya do a bit of stretching at their hotel swimming pool. The defending champions take on Pakistan on Monday.

—Star photos

## Shipu murder Threat to abduct kids of victim's family

By Staff Correspondent

Anonymous callers are threatening family members that their kids will be kidnapped if they do not withdraw the murder case filed in connection with the killing of life guard Ahmed Shipu.

Shipu, 38, a mobile phone trader and a resident of Banani in the city, was gunned down by three gunmen at the UAE Market there on May 24.

Shipu's brother Ishtiaq Ahmed filed a murder case accusing Jewel, son of ruling party MP Kamal Majumder and two others.

Naimuzzaman Jubayer and Saiful Alam. "We are almost house arrest and fearing attack on our family members," Ishtiaq said. "Now they are threatening to abduct

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## Ban around EC sectt as Opposition set to lay siege

By Rezaul Karim

The opposition alliance is all set to lay siege to the Election Commission offices across the country tomorrow to protest the government's 'unilateral' appointment of the chief election commissioner.

The siege programme also aims to serve an ultimatum to the government and the EC that no election is to be held prior to the next parliamentary polls and to force CEC M. A. Syed to resign immediately.

The programme was originally planned on June 1, but was deferred due to other programmes to mark the 19th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the government has imposed a 12-hour ban from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow over a wide area (about two kilometres) around the EC Secretariat on holding of any gathering, procession and demonstration.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner has imposed the restriction, fearing disruption of peace and discipline as well as security of life and property.

The restricted areas stretch from Bangla Motor crossing to Mohakhali rail crossing, western part of Bangla Motor link road to the SAARC fountain on Sonargaon Road, eastern point of Panthapath to Greed Road

connecting point to Farmgate, Shyamoli Cinema Hall to Dhanmondi Road no. 27, Agargaon Shishu Mela crossing to Rokeya Sarani connecting point, Rokeya Sarani-Agargaon connecting point to old Nine Division crossing (Aeroplane Crossing) to Parjatan crossing at Bijoy Sarani and western part of Indira Road to western part of Manik Mia Avenue.

The restricted areas of Sangsad Bhaban, Chandrima

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## Alleged terrorist shot dead by his rivals in city

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged terrorist was shot dead by his rivals at Garden Road in the city's Kazipara under Tejgaon police station in the city on Thursday night, police and hospital sources said.

The dead was identified as Jahangir Hossain, 28, son of Bishu Bepari, a resident of Testuribazar, Tejgaon in the city.

Police said the victim was engaged in criminal activities in and around Karwanbazar area.

Jahangir was shot dead in front of his uncle's residence at

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## Man of the Match



Imran Nazir of Pakistan



## Humiliating defeat for Bangladesh

Pakistan made hosts Bangladesh swallow a humiliating 233-run defeat, the biggest of margins in one-day internationals, in yesterday's Pepsi Asia Cup encounter at Bangabandhu National Stadium, report agencies.

Replying to Pakistan's towering 320 for three in 50 overs, the home team's innings stopped dead at 87 for nine in 34.2 overs.

The hosts were in trouble even before their innings began as opener Shahriar Hossain was unable to bat after pulling hamstring while he was fielding.

Bangladesh's previous low score was 92 against Zimbabwe. Incidentally, it was Pakistan who handed down the minnows their previous biggest margin defeat - by 173 runs.

The previous record margin of defeat in ODIs was Sri Lanka's 232-run drubbing by Australia in Adelaide in 1985.

Pakistan's promising right-handed opener Imran Nazir was adjudged man of the match for his aggressive 80 runs off 76 balls.

Habibul Bashar opened the innings with Javed Omar Belim and was the top scorer for home side making 23 runs while Mushfiqur Rahman added 12.

Skipper Anisul Islam made a duck while the rest of the batsmen could not reach the double figure.

Abdur Razzak was pick of

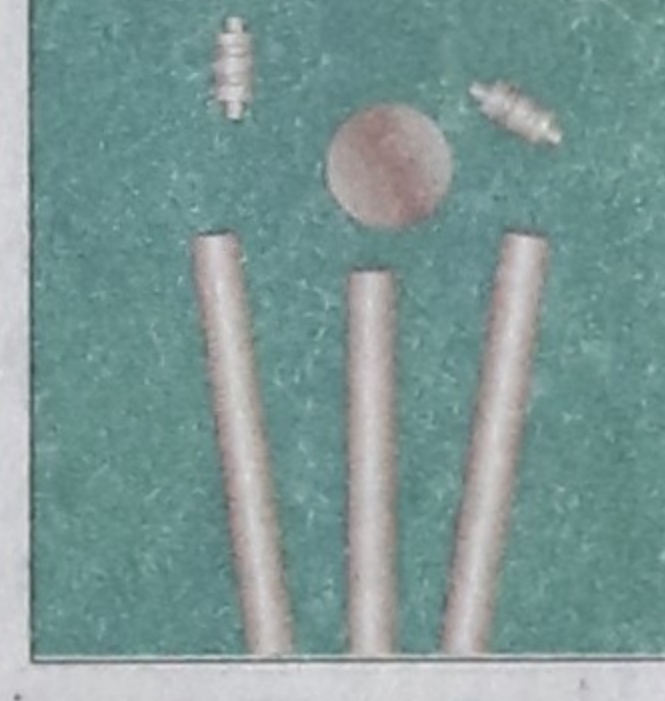


the hostile Pakistani bowlers, claiming three wickets for only five runs while Azhar Mahmood took two for 22 runs. Wasim Akram, Mohammed Akram and Shoaib Malik took one wicket each.

Earlier, Pakistan ploughed through the lacklustre bowling and fielding of the hosts to pile up a mammoth 320.

Opener Imran Nazir led the Pakistan batting assault by hitting a quickfire 80, followed by Yousuf Youhana, adding another 80 runs off 104 balls in a spirited partnership.

Call 111 from GP mobile for match update



The Pakistan score crossed the 100-mark in just 15 overs. The run spree continued with Inzamam-ul-Haq and Shahid Afridi both hitting 75 off 61 and 45 off 32 balls respectively.

Dashing opener Saeed Anwar was first to return to the pavilion at 31 off 32 balls, after being bowled by Naimur Rahman in the 12th over.

Imran Nazir was run out at 27.1 overs following a mix-up with Yousuf Youhana who, in turn, was stumped by Khaled Mashud off Enamul Hoque at 41.4 overs.

Yesterday Bangladesh-Pakistan encounter is their eighth one-day meeting. The previous match was the memorable game at the World Cup in England a year ago when Bangladesh secured an upset win.

## Today's match

India vs Pakistan (2-30pm) Tomorrow Tomorrow is a rest day



## Protest continues BCRA to submit memo to PM, meet Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association (BCRA) brought out a procession and held a rally in the city yesterday to press home its demands.

It also announced its next action programme at the rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The association's demands include removal of DMP Commissioner Matur Rahman and withdrawal of all 'false cases'.

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## Inside Today

### Article

## What Prompts Clinton to Visit Moscow?

by Harun ur Rashid Page 4

## Star Literature

Essay: Literature and the colonial encounter in the 18th century; and Modhusudan Dutt, the English poet.

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### Business

Int'l community may seek end to Bangladesh's LDC status

Pak traders extend strike against wider taxes by 2 days

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June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
3	4:15	6:43 pm
4	5:11 am	

## Prayer Timings

June 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:15	4:45
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:45	6:48
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Court accepts appeal seeking death penalty for Sharif

ATTOCK FORT (Pakistan). June 2: A Pakistani provincial court today accepted a government appeal seeking the death penalty for deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on charges of hijacking and terrorism, reports AP.

Sharif has already been convicted on those charges and sentenced to two concurrent life sentences. The hearing on whether the former prime minister should be given the death penalty will begin on June 12 in the anti-terrorist Sindh High Court in the port city of Karachi.

Deepening the former prime minister's predicament, another court charged Sharif today with tax evasion, corruption and fraudulently importing a helicopter. Sharif and co-defendant Saifur Rehman, a former senator and chief of the Accountability Bureau, pleaded innocent. A hearing on those charges will begin on June 9.

The new charges carry a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment. If convicted,

Sharif and Rehman can be disqualified from holding a public office for 21 years.

Sharif was charged with importing a Russian-made helicopter, worth 11.3 million dollars, in 1993, which was not shown in his declaration of property to the tax department. He also was charged with evading taxes and concealing his wealth.

The charges are "bogus" and "cooked-up," Sharif told the court in Attock Fort, where he is being held 104 kilometers east of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

"The army is staging a drama through the NAB (National Accountability Bureau). This is a shame in the name of accountability," Sharif told the court.

"I have already been given 25 years of imprisonment. You can give me another term of 50 years in jail. I am even ready to be hanged," he said.

"My fate has already been decided. The army is firing the gun by keeping it on your

shoulder," he told the judge.

Sharif's lawyer, Mujeibur Rehman, boycotted the court proceedings earlier, saying authorities are not allowing him to meet his client.

When the judge read out the charges against him, Sharif was without a lawyer.

Aside from Sharif, several other high-level politicians are being courted here to ensure their security.

The government submitted the appeal seeking the death penalty for Sharif last month, and the Sindh High Court's decision on Friday clears the way for a hearing to be held.

The government is appealing the earlier sentence handed down by the court, which gave Sharif two concurrent life sentences.

Army Chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf overthrew Sharif's civilian government in a bloodless military coup on Oct. 12.

## Many Opposition MPs about to lose JS membership

By Staff Correspondent

Though a number of Opposition lawmakers are now on the verge of losing their Jatiya Sangsad membership because of 90 days' absence, the BNP-led alliance is yet to take any decision on its return to the House to protect their membership.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia and a number of front ranking BNP MPs may lose their parliament membership if the upcoming 18th session continues for 32 to 40 days, sources said.

They said, majority of the BNP and Jatiya Party MPs are now worried and pressing their respective party leaderships to take a decision immediately on the issue.

BNP MP from Narsingdhi, Shamsuddin Eshak, has already lost his membership for absence for 90 consecutive sitting days. He lost his membership as per Article 67(1) (b) of the Constitution that deals with vacation of seats.

The sources said Opposition

MPs do not want to lose their membership merely for absence from the House. The growing pressure has already put policy makers of the two parties in a serious dilemma, they said.

BNP policy makers said they did not boycott the Jatiya Sangsad but refrained from attending sittings since the last budget session on "a number of specific reasons".

They said the Opposition will return to parliament if their five preconditions are

met and a congenial atmosphere is created.

"The crisis has been created solely by the government and it is the responsibility of the ruling party to take initiative to resolve the problems", one of them said.

Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain said, "Still there is enough time to take a decision, but we yet to call a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party".

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## View from the Gully

## A pathetic sight indeed

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The scorecard tells the tale. There could not be a more pathetic sight before than the one that was enacted at Dhaka on Friday.

Bangladesh were barely into the 35th over when the match ended, or shall we say, the spectators were put out of their misery.

The going was so good for the visitors, still looking for their first Asia Cup, that the instant success of Naimur Rahman having Saeed Anwar clean bowled could not even slow down the Pakistan tempo despite the arrival of usually sedate Yousuf Youhana.

It was another hot and humid day, and the Pakistanis flying in straight from the Caribbean made the right decision to acclimatise with the local weather and the wicket. Soon the mediocrity of the attack was exposed by Saeed Anwar, who had been out of action for quite some time, and the impetuous young man Imran Nazir. Together they started plundering the opening attack, and Nazir was severe on any-

thing and everything. Neither the wicket nor any bowler could contain the devastating duo, who went on to put on a quickfire 75 before Nazir ran himself out. He really caught the bowling by the scruff of the neck. But the hosts had lost all initiative and imagination by then, and no amount of field changing or bowling change had any effect whatsoever on the batsmen. Afridi joined Inzamam and these two blasted the last few overs at will scoring 60 runs in the last five overs without being separated. The hosts had some taste of test class batting once again.

The target was well nigh impossible for Bangladesh to achieve but no one thought also about the way they played in front of an expectant huge holiday crowd, who braved the sultry weather only to see some fireworks from their local heroes.

The Pakistanis, with their World Cup defeat against Bangladesh at the back of their

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## Beyond the Boundary

## Our other car is the Rolls-Royce

By Shakil Kasem

To start with, if you didn't think much of our one-day team over the last few days, wait till you see our Test side. Since Test status comes cheap these days, we shall be wearing the hallowed mantle within the next one month; judging from the dispatches from the front. We are absolutely certain that our Test team is of a higher standard, playing the game on a more ethereal level. Surely, the administrators of cricket in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand can't be all wrong in their assessments. Only England has not said so in so many words. But then, England is an ailing, almost Third World country these days, long past its prime, cricket and otherwise. One only hopes that while getting the cherished status, we actually read the fine print as well. Men of different lands and climes do tend to speak with forked tongues.

Back to the usual unusual yesterday, Bangladesh met Pak-

istan for the first time since the fateful encounter in England. We had all wept with joy when the same team that played yesterday had swept the Pakistanis off their high horse in that epic encounter. We wept again when our victory was accused of being tainted with the allegation that the match had been decided beforehand. Oh, the sheer ignominy of it all!

What made the whole episode so painful was that the allegation stemmed from one of our staunchest advocates for our promotion to the rarefied atmosphere of Test cricket. After the initial shock, dismay, disbelief and the resultant hue and cry had subsided, an apology was tendered to Pakistan for having uttered such an unspeakable thought aloud. We on the other hand, as the other aggrieved party, were too polite to seek an apology. But, that is another sad story, better left untouched for the moment. What

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