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Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana receiving the Pepsi man-of-the-match award from Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Beverages, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Hasina seeks vote for AL in next polls

**BALAGANJ, Sylhet, June 3:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the people to vote for Awami League in the next general elections, reports UNB. "People are now living in peace, and they will not allow the vote thief, autocrat and Rajakar to come to power and destroy democracy," she told a public meeting here. Earlier the Prime Minister flew in Sylhet to inaugurate two bridges — Sadpur Bridge and Shaistaganj Bridge — on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. Seeking vote for her party, the Prime Minister listed the people-oriented development programmes undertaken by her government during the last four years. She criticised the opposition alliance saying "this trio is united to foil democracy and to capture power in an undemocratic way." Hasina accused the opposition of disrupting parliamentary democracy by boycotting parliament. Referring to the "attack" by BNP MPs on the Speaker in the present parliament, she said: "They had created reign of terror inside the House." Analyzing the post-75 politics, the Prime Minister said: "It was Zia who grabbed power through guns and terrorism, creating a reign of state terrorism." She alleged that Zia had managed to capture two-thirds majority in parliament by resorting to vote dacoity and legitimised his illegal rule. "Following the foot print of Zia," she said, "General Ershad grabbed power at gunpoint and ruled the country in the same way." After coming to power, Hasina said: "Begum Zia had plundered public money and crippled the national economy, accumulating wealth for herself, and her family members." Expressing her confidence in See page 11 col 8



Houseful: Cricket fans jam-packed stadium in spite of scorching heat yesterday to watch the Pepsi Asia Cup match between traditional rivals India and Pakistan. — Star photo

## Textbooks should include water-related topics

South Asian school children feel

**By Staff Correspondent**  
School children from South Asian countries at a workshop in the city yesterday said their text books should contain courses on water and water-related issues. They felt that textbooks should have topics on water pollution, arsenic problems, cross-country water management programmes and other related issues. Children from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh were exchanging views on the first day of a two-day 'South Asian Children Workshop on Alternative Water Management'. The workshop is being jointly organised by the Centre for Alternatives, Dhaka; Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo; Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi; Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Kathmandu and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad under a common programme called 'Fellowships in South Asian Alternatives' (FISAA). Besides school children, teachers, guardians, scholars and FISAA members attended the workshop. The organisers hoped that the workshop would inspire both government and non-government schools to introduce courses on water and related issues in the curricula. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in his inaugural speech welcomed the initiative, first ever of its kind in the region. Both students and teachers from Bangladesh said text books published by boards are inadequate as regards contents and suggested selection of books by other writers. Participants from other countries were also critical of textbooks published under government initiatives. Prof Intiaz Ahmed, Executive Director of the Centre for Alternatives, said, "Other than names of some major rivers, there is nothing on water in books for students of class VIII, IX and X". Shaheen Murshid, a FISAA Fellow, said the current syllabi are hopelessly inadequate. "Our children are taught more on American and European rivers than on rivers in Bangladesh. Almost nothing is taught on rivers in the region," she noted. The participants also touched on a wide range of water-related issues. They discussed water pollution, peoples' behaviour as regards judicious use of very scarce water resources and dumping of chemical waste in waterbodies.

## 4 autorickshaws using CNG to be introduced tomorrow

By Special Correspondent

**Bangladesh Environment Management Programme (BEMP),** a project jointly aided by the governments of Bangladesh and Canada, will introduce in the city tomorrow four autorickshaws, using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in a venture aimed at keeping the existing fleet of three-wheelers plying without causing air pollution. "By 2003, we want to phase out autorickshaws. But in the meantime, we are looking for alternatives to reduce air pollution level in the urban centres," Environment and Forests Secretary Syed Marghub Murshed said at a press preview of the converted auto-rickshaws at a city hotel yesterday. The four Bajaj auto-rickshaws converted by BEMP will be put on the city streets tomorrow to mark the World Environment Day. "With an investment of Tk 20,000 to 25,000 and the return coming back in 7 to 8 months, it would be an attractive incentive to the auto-rickshaw drivers," President of Bangladesh auto-rickshaw drivers union Mohammad Fazlul Huq said. An autorickshaw could run 100 km using one cylinder of CNG costing Tk 37.50, which Fazlul Huq considered as a good incentive. Marghub Murshed hoped that banks would be interested in the project to provide finance for the conversion. On the problem of too limited availability of CNG now discouraging conversion of petrol and diesel driven vehicles, Murshed said the Energy Ministry would take up the issue and address it. However, he added that 10 new CNG stations would be operational in the city this year and 61 by 2001 to expedite CNG use and conversion. Asked about use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to fuel auto-rickshaws as an environment friendly alternative by Bangladesh Army, he said that LPG is imported whereas CNG is locally available. We are keeping both CNG and LPG options open, he added. Replying to a question on the Air Quality Management Project, the Secretary said a final agreement with the World Bank is going to be signed in next 6 to 10 weeks. The project has been delayed due to procedural problems in following World Bank guidelines for appointing a management consultant. But work has already been initiated under the project to clean the urban air. Monitoring of air quality is going on, he said. Roland Wong, an engineer from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which is providing 1.1 million dollars for CNG conversion of auto-rickshaws, said that the cost of conversion — Tk 22,000 — could be reduced further by assembling the kits locally for conversion.

## Goalpara power station Adulterated furnace oil used despite objection

From Staff Correspondent

**KHULNA, June 3:** Two units of Goalpara power station have gone out of order 17 days ago due to use of adulterated furnace oil and corrupt practices by a section of officials, said sources in the power station. As a result, load-shedding in Khulna Zone rose to 100 MW a day. This has virtually paralysed normal life and income-generating activities in the city. According to a reliable source, despite serious objection by a Chinese power-related engineering firm, a section of officials recently procured adulterated furnace oil. The Chinese firm, engaged to look into the problems of GPS, complained to the Chief Engineer against such corrupt practice. But the Chief Engineer of KPS is yet to reply to the letter, the source said. On May 14, the 60 MW unit went out of order as fire broke out in its burner. About one crore taka will be required to put the unit in order, the source said. The Chinese experts rejected the use of adulterated furnace oil in which at least 15 per cent water was mixed. The unit went out of order several times since 1984 only due to use of adulterated furnace oil, said a source in the Chinese firm. This time it will take at least one month to complete necessary repair work, the source said. The 110 MW unit, on the other hand, has also been out of order since last two weeks as its air heater tube was damaged due to a fire incident. Sources in the GPS said there is no 'chain of command' in the administration of the power station where there are 12 engineers and 400 officials and employees of different rank and status. **Sultry weather to continue for 3 more days** **By Staff Correspondent** The sultry weather which made life of the city dwellers unbearable for the last couple of days is likely to continue for next few days, meteorological officials said. Meteorological office sources said yesterday's highest temperature in Dhaka was 35.2 degree Celsius while the country's maximum temperature was recorded 36.8 degree Celsius in Bogra. The heat was unbearable due to high humidity. Met office said, adding percentage of humidity yesterday was 76 in the morning and 56 in the evening. The day temperature will remain unchanged in most parts of the country today while it may increase in the Northern region of the country, the sources added. The hot and humid weather will continue for the next two to three days and there is no possibility of rain in Dhaka and its adjacent areas. Only areas under Chittagong have the possibility of rain today and tomorrow. There was a brief shower in Chittagong, Rangamati, Sitakunda, Majdee and Khulna yesterday. **Explosion at firework factory in city: 8 injured** **By Staff Correspondent** At least eight people were injured in an explosion at a firework factory in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday. Six of the injured, identified as Basher, Zohra Begum, Kashem, Selim, Jamal and Shamsul Huq were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with burn injuries. The explosion occurred at Jamal Chemical Industry at about 11 am.

## Shimul to be remanded again

From Staff Correspondent

**KHULNA, June 3:** Arrested leader of outlawed PBCP Mahmud Hasan Shimul will be taken on remand again for five days tomorrow. Sonadanga thana police will interrogate him about murders, arms trade and toll collection. Shimul is the principal accused in Ganesh Murder Case recorded with Sonadanga police in 1998. Ganesh was one of his front-line armed cadres. A reliable source in the KMP said Shimul would be lodged in Khulna District Jail with strict security restricting his movement. Police quoting Shimul's confessional statement said many of his armed cadres are still hiding in the metropolitan city.

## BNP won't return to JS

**BOGRA, June 3:** BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan today said they wouldn't return to the parliament, reports UNB. His statement on the party stance came two days ahead of budget session. The government has made parliament its party office. Opposition is not allowed to discuss any national issue in the House. So, we won't go back where from we have walked out," he told biennial conference of Bogra district BNP. Addressing the function as chief guest, the BNP secretary general said Awami League has completely failed to run the country. "All will have to join the united movement for dislodging the corrupt and inept government," said Bhuiyan.



Prof Rawshan Ara Rashid, Principal of Eden University College (left) and other teachers were sitting on the collage campus yesterday as the agitating students locked the office rooms demanding rescheduling of their examinations. — Star photo

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Published by the Editor from Transcort Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A. Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

## View from the gully

**From page 1**  
ways draws the kind of attention that the game of cricket could not even expect of asking more. That this noble game (made 'un noble' by the machination and greed of some unscrupulous organisers and players) has such a huge following around the world is the work of the cricketaholics of the subcontinent. It must be said in all fairness that the Pakistanis flying in directly from a different time zone, adapted themselves to a different situation nicely after such a strenuous tour of the Caribbean. This goes to show the fitness of the players and their intention to do well in the tourney. However talented a player might be his primary objective has to be fit as a fiddle, otherwise no amount of jugglery or superficiality can take him far. It was almost a remake of the Friday's Pakistani innings at the BENS against Bangladesh. The Pakistani run-flow was suddenly disturbed by the introduction of Anil Kumble, who in an inspired spell sent back dangerous Saed Anwar and his in-form opening partner Imran Nazir in the 12th over. And as Agarkar surprised Inzamam in the next over shaking the brilliant batsman out of his jet lag the spanner in the works was put effectively. Then started the repair act led by Yousuf Youhana, another in-form batsman who looked to be in stupor as he battled his way into the match. The classy stroke-maker held the innings together despite temptations and occasional enticement by the depleted Indian attack. Nobody knew why Robin Singh and Saurav did not bowl. Young Amit Bhandari, a medium pacer, had his baptism by fire. He marked his debut with a no-ball and then found himself thrashed around by the merciless Pakistanis. Although he finished with two last minute wickets but the cost was too much to count. The performance of Thiru Kumaran however was worse than that of his newer colleague. I must give full credit to Ganguly for his intelligent bowling changes and field placements. Youhana's last-ball hundred would long be remembered by spectators here just because of its sheer class and the way it had been achieved. Needing six runs to reach the magical three-figure mark, he pulled Kumaran over the long-on fence to bring a fitting finish to his innings. To make the matter worse for India, match referee of John Reid deducted two overs from their innings because of poor over rate. But that did not deter Tendulkar and Ganguly from making strokes and maintaining a healthy run-rate until the India skipper topedged Wasim Akram to deep third man. Together Dravid and Tendulkar were going great guns, blasting the Pakistan attack at ease. An innocuous Razaq then stepped in to steal the spotlight. In a brilliant burst, the all-rounder removed Dravid, Azhar and Tendulkar to shut the Indians out of the race. Once the vital cogs had been taken out of the India wheel, the victory for Pakistan was a matter of time. The ever-smiling Ajay Jadeja was fighting a losing battle until Imran Nazir had him stumped in the 47.4th over for 93.

## India

From page 1

but once he reached his fifty off 89 balls, he got out of his sedate self. He needed just another 23 balls to reach his third and undoubtedly the best one-day century. His 100 off 112 balls came in a most dramatic fashion when he smote the last ball of the innings for a straight six against Kumaran. The dark and lanky seamer, who had been thrashed around throughout the match, conceded another six in that fateful last over that yielded 18 runs. Kumaran became the worst victim of his captain Saurav Ganguly's adamant approach as he persisted with the policy of a five-man attack. In the end, he finished with horrible figures of 10-86-0. The Indian bowling, hampered by injuries to left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi and Nikhil Chopra, took a terrible beating despite tidy spells by Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar. Youhana shared a match-winning 93-run partnership with his captain Moin Khan, who scored a run-a-ball 46 with the help of six fours. Youhana, adjudged man-of-the-match later, hammered nine fours apart from that glorious sixer in his chance less knock. India, in their chase, were never up to the stiff target once Ganguly fell early in the innings. The 'Prince of Calcutta' became an ideal birthday gift for the 34-year-old Wasim Akram by top-edging an attempted square drive straight down the throat of Mohammad Akram at the third man boundary. The departure of a silky Saurav for eight put the onus totally on his opening partner Tendulkar. The Indian batting maestro looked focused against the Pakistan attack until Razaq stepped in to wreak havoc coming on second change. Razaq used his uncanny ability to mix up deliveries with telling effect by removing a well-set Rahul Dravid with a quicker delivery that trapped the right-hander in front of his wicket. Rahul hammered three fours in his 32-ball 26. The talented medium-pacer then had Azharuddin spectacularly caught by Imran Nazir at short mid-wicket in the very first ball of his next over. The former Indian captain made only one when he went for his trademark flick off the pads, only to see Nazir plucking the ball inches off the ground. Indian hopes of making a match effectively evaporated when Tendulkar departed in the same over. He was undone by yet another fast delivery from Razaq that hit the pads and Sri Lankan umpire Ashoka de Silva did have no hesitation to raise his dreaded finger. Tendulkar's dismissal left Indian tottering at 75 for four in 13.6 overs from where they could never recover.

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