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# Land in many city areas about to cave in?

Setting up of water pumps around BB banned, similar steps in 2 other areas soon

Morshed Ali Khan

Fearing a 'land subsidence and perched landscape', Dhaka WASA has declared half a kilometre area around Bangladesh Bank (BB) at Motijheel a 'red area' and banned setting up of new water pumps there, sources concerned said.

WASA also plans to impose similar ban on Khilagan and Bashabo areas of the city

shortly. Managing Director Dr Azharul Haq told The Daily Star.

Haq said maximum quantum of ground water is now being extracted from the area near BB and no new pumps would be allowed there. If the allowable quantum is surpassed, there are chances of land subsidence which means the sub-terrain

vacuum might cause the surface to cave in within weeks. Due to extensive extraction of ground water, land subsidence occurred in Bangkok and Mexico City a few years ago, he mentioned.

"Another big effect of excessive extraction of ground water is that land gets perched and barren and no tree could grow there," Haq said.

A ground water expert of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Chairman of Environmental Studies department at North South University Dr I M Faisal said the city areas having concentration of large buildings are most vulnerable to such land subsidence. Excessive and long term extraction of ground

water causes land subsidence and the city's total dependence on ground water makes it even more exposed to such disaster, warned Faisal.

Ground water level in the city cannot even get 'recharged' as canals, low-lying areas and open spaces are being replaced by concrete structures. In the

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## ICC to decide Bangladesh's Test fate today

By Sports Reporter

Bangladesh dates with destiny today when the executive committee members of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's governing body, meet in London to discuss the possible promotion of the South Asian nation as the 10th Test-playing country.

The entire nation is oozing with the expectation of a positive outcome of the all-important ICC meeting, which takes place at the historic Long Room of Lord's.

Although England, the only country among the nine Full Members, has remained tight-lipped about their stance, the unequivocal support of the other eight will definitely be a cause for comfort for Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, however, is not going to sit back and relax despite the fact that the English Cricket Board (ECB) recently disclosed that they would be 'sympathetic' to Bangladesh's case.

"It is understood that some member countries led by England are wary of a power block of four Asian nations in the offing," reported the Associated Press yesterday, indicating the role of a section of the British press, which launched vigorous campaign to oppose

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4 Opposition MPs enter JS for few minutes

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed rare scenes when four Opposition lawmakers entered the House separately and sat for few minutes in the empty Opposition Bench.

They looked uncomfortable as all in the Treasury Bench cast a curious look — some smiling and others passing comments.

The Chair and the Leader of the House also cracked jokes, triggering laughter.

In line with the decision of the Opposition, the four MPs — three belonging to BNP and one to Jatiya Party — entered the house quietly, but not at a time. They signed the attendance registers, stayed for few minutes and then left.

They are among those Opposition lawmakers who failed to turn up when most of their col-

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Death in Dover

Inhumane Approach to Asylum seekers?

By Harun or Rashid

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Doing away with drugs; and a visit to Phnom Penh's 'Genocide Museum'

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### Prayer Timings

June 26		
June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
26		6:50pm
27	5:13am	



Stark contrast : A traditional quack conjures a crowd of prospective customers at her roadside layout of so-called 'medicinal cures', right in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Faulty supply of question papers Police-mob clash at Tongibari: 100 hurt

MUNSHIGANJ, June 25: A fierce clash between police and a mob left some 100 people injured as protesters stormed Tongibari upazila headquarters today following failure of many local students in the SSC examination, reports UNB.

Bullet hit school teacher Ibne Salam, 40, and student Monir Hossain, 15, were sent to Dhaka in a "critical condition".

Seriously injured students Jewel, Sazal, Russel, Shamsul Islam, Imu, Anis and teacher Abdul Hys were admitted to local hospitals.

Police inspector Fazlur Rahman, SI Hafizur Rahman, Abdur Halim and Rafiqul Islam, ASI Zafar and Jamir Uddin, constables Saidur Rahman, Ashraf Ali and Moinul Haq

Over 1500 violent people b-

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