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DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2000

**Bangabandhu murder
Hearing of
death ref
began today**

By Staff Correspondent

The hearing of death reference in the Bangabandhu murder case begins in the High Court today.

This is the only case in today's cause list for hearing and disposal in the criminal bench of the High Court Division of Supreme Court, comprising Justice M Ruhul Amin and Justice Khairul Haq.

Hearing of the Bangabandhu murder case was the last in the list of cases to be transacted by this criminal bench when it was constituted on April 24. This was 13th item in the cause list, which was sent for disposal.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman constituted the bench after two benches felt embarrassed to hear the case.

Earlier, special public prosecutor

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**Our next target
is to win the
World Cup: PM**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, after achieving the Test status, our next target is to win the World Cup, report agencies.

Today is a day of celebration, a day of pride, she said referring to the International Cricket Council (ICC) decision at Lord's in London on Monday.

Amidst repeated thumping of desks, the Prime Minister said, Today, our feeling is like that of victory in the War of Liberation.

The Prime Minister said, with the recognition as a Test playing nation, our responsibility has increased to a great extent... We'll have to consolidate it and strive hard to improve the quality of games to international standard and fetch home the World Cup trophy one day.

She, however, said it may

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**Dhaka celebrates
Test status
today**

A mass gathering organised by the National Sports Council (NSC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to celebrate Bangladesh's becoming the 10th Test playing nation, will take place at 4 pm today at Paltan Maidan in the city, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the gathering as chief guest.

Hundreds of present and past cricketers, sports organisers, social and cultural activists

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Sanctions
Should Go**

Column Connecting
the Dots

By Dr A R Chowdhury

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Focus

Budget 2000-2001:
Why aren't the public
in the conversation?

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Prayer Timings

June 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:15	4:45
Zohr	1:00	1:20
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:50	6:55
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
28		6:50pm
29	5:14 am	

Rising Stars

Cook Your Instant Chicken

The Rising Stars Way

This Thursday

Toxic industrial waste

City's ground water at risk of contamination

By Morshed Ali Khan

Dhaka city runs the risk of having highly contaminated ground water due to massive industrial pollution on the surface, experts said.

An expert at BUET's Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research (IFCDR) warned that contamination of ground water due to tannery waste and other industrial pollutants would be one of the biggest problems the city would face in the near future.

The way low-lying areas and rivers around the city are being polluted, ground water could become toxic and unsuitable for human consumption, said Prof Mozammel Hoque of IFCDR. In some areas near Hazaribagh tanneries, the quality of ground water has deteriorated rapidly in last ten years.

Prof Hoque said their research showed that the level of ground water in some areas of the city was falling at a rate of up to 1.5 meters a year. In central Dhaka, even during 1998 floods, the ground water did not get charged at all, according to a survey carried out by BUET experts.

The rapid fall of ground water level due to over-extraction can cause land subsidence but the risk of contamination of ground water is much higher because of the soil condition, said the BUET expert.

"Our studies show that in Tejgaon and on the western side of Balu river, there were cases of minor land subsidence. But our concern is more about the pos-

sible contamination of the ground water," Hoque said.

According to an estimate by the Department of Environment, each day, more than 16,000 cubic meters of highly toxic waste from Hazaribagh tanneries first flow to low lying areas and then to Buriganga river. Another 3,500 cubic metres of toxic waste from Tejgaon industrial area pollute the land before falling in the rivers. As these toxic waste accumulate on vast stretches of lands, the ground water gets charged with contaminated water.

Prof Hoque said unless these sources of waste are capped and proper water retention ponds are set up, the ground water would get more and more

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A Rajuk bulldozer yesterday demolishes a house that encroached upon public land along Gulshan lake in the city.

— Star photo

Khaleda accuses AL leaders of siphoning money abroad

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said many Awami League ministers and leaders have misappropriated huge amount of money of the people in last four years, which they used to buy houses in the US.

Addressing a discussion meeting at Ahsan Manjil Super Market in Islampur in the Old Dhaka yesterday, Khaleda, also the Leader of the Opposition in parliament, said the government in last four years borrowed thousands of crores of taka from bank but did not use the money for the development of the country or the people.

The BNP Chairperson said even the ministers, ruling party MPs, and their sons and relatives are now directly involved in forcible occupation of lands, houses and other residential places since its assumption in power.

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