



**GLOBAL  
ESCAPADE**

## Eng include injured Dyer

AFP, Seogwipo

England decided to risk injured midfielder Kieron Dyer instead of a fit Trevor Sinclair in the final 23 man squad for the World Cup.

A disappointed Sinclair who had travelled with England to the South Korean training camp was expected to return home Wednesday. But he will remain on stand-by.

Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson made the decision after England were held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea in their penultimate warm-up match here Tuesday night, FA spokesman Paul Newman said.

The squad lists had to be sent to FIFA by midnight Tuesday European time.

But Newman insisted that Sinclair's performance in the disappointing draw played no role in the decision.

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## INSIDE TODAY

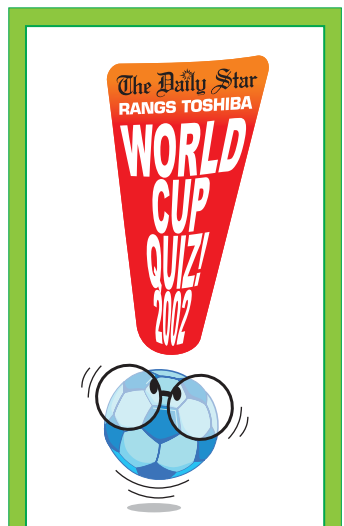
Article 4

The cassette scam case and the contempt of court: Who will protect freedom of expression?

AH Monjurul Kabir

## Announcement

Due to unavoidable reasons, our weekly Star Chittagong page will be published tomorrow. We regret the inconvenience caused, if any, to our readers.



See the rules and coupon of  
**The Daily Star**  
**RANGS TOSHIBA**  
**WORLD CUP QUIZ**  
Round 3 on Page 15

# Police 'torture' claims two more lives

STAR REPORT

Two on-trial prisoners died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) following alleged police torture.

The victims are Awami League leader and a Union Parishad (UP) member Fazlul Huq Bhuiyan, 40, of Rugganj and Mohammad Ata, a rickshaw-puller of Kamrangirchar.

Our Narayanganj correspondent said that Fazlul, 40, member of the Rugganj Sadar UP, died at the DMCH early hours of Tuesday. He was the president of Rugganj ward no. 6 of the Awami League.

The victim's family claimed that Fazlul died from police torture during his two-day remand by the Rugganj police.

He was arrested on May 12 from his Pitalganj village on charge of involvement in the murder of a housewife, Maria Khatun on December 3 last year, the deputy jailer of Narayanganj told The Daily Star. Fazlul was an FIR-listed accused in the murder case.

Fazlul was produced before the court on the same day and taken on a two-day police remand. But he was sent to the jail as his condition deteriorated. He was treated inside the Narayanganj jail by physician Jatindra Chandra Mandal. As his condition further worsened, the jail authorities transferred him to the Dhaka Central Jail Hospital on May 19. Later, he was admitted to the DMCH where he died at about 5:00am yesterday.

Mosharraf Hossain, assistant superintendent of

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# Phone connection charge slashed to Tk 10,000

SHAHRIAR KARIM

In a welcome move, the government yesterday decided to slash telephone installation charge to Tk 10,000 from the existing Tk 18,400.

The charge will be subsequently brought down to Tk 6,000.

A pre-budget meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs took the decision and a formal announcement would be made in a day or two, meeting sources said.

Saifur chaired the meeting attended by his cabinet colleagues to discuss different aspects of the budget for the next fiscal to be placed in the parliament on June 6.

Against the dwindling foreign aid and strains on internal resource mobilisation, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman asked his cabinet colleagues to cut down expenditures. But his plea ran into resis-

tance as other ministers reminded him that political consideration must be kept in mind while setting expenditure since the BNP is not only part of the government, but also a political party.

The decision to cut telephone connection fee came after Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman on Friday commented on the World Telecommunication Day that the charge was exorbitant.

Telephone installation charge in the country is the highest in the world and much above the rate followed in other South Asian countries. Bangladesh also ranks lowest in telephone penetration rate.

"All the ministers agreed upon the budget structure," Saifur told the waiting newsmen after the meeting at the conference room of the cabinet division at the secretariat.

The meeting also discussed the

current law and order. Replying to a question, he said it would take some time to put a cap on 'intentional efforts to destabilise the law and order'.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over 'some improvements' in the situation during the last few days. "The situation is much better now than it was during the Awami League regime," Saifur commented.

Saifur apprised his cabinet colleagues of the budget strategy to achieve self-sufficiency through increased internal resource mobilisation.

The finance ministry has almost finalised the annual development programme (ADP) for the next fiscal with a 21.36 per cent less project aid from this year's.

Next fiscal's ADP now set at Tk

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# Jail term for Manavzamin editor Editors term verdict unprecedented obstruction to press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing serious disappointment at jail terms and fines awarded to the editor and the publisher of the daily Manavzamin, the editors of 16 leading dailies in a joint statement yesterday termed the verdict an unprecedented interference in the freedom of press.

"This verdict has made us concerned about the independence of the press in future," said the statement of the editors.

The High Court on Monday sentenced Chief Editor of the Manavzamin Motiur Rahman Choudhury to a one-month jail term and fined him Tk 2,000. Mahbuba Choudhury, the publisher, has also been fined Tk 2,000 on charge of contempt of court.

"We, the editors, issued a statement in November 2000 suggesting that the Supreme Judicial Council take up the issue of alleged contempt of court since it was something very serious about possible impropriety involving the higher judiciary," the editors pointed out.

The suggestion that came after the implicating of four dailies --

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# Confirmation of judges: CJ's recommendation ignored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only one of the five additional judges of the High Court Bench, appointed in May 2000, has received the confirmation.

The other four -- AFM Mesbahuddin, AKM Shafiuddin, Munsurul Haque Chowdhury and NK Chakravarty -- will be relieved of their office from May 27. The president sent a letter confirming the appointment of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana following the process of regularisation.

As many as 39 additional judges were appointed during the rule of the Awami League government and of them, services of these five were supposed to be confirmed.

The file in which the Chief Justice recommended for the confirmation of the four additional judges was sent to the prime minister through the law ministry for further consid

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# Heat wave claims 7 more: 100 hospitalised in city

STAR REPORT

The ongoing heat wave claimed seven more lives across the country yesterday, raising the death toll to 18.

Of the casualties, two were in Khulna, two in Nilphamari, and one each in Gopalganj, Bagerhat and Barisal districts, according to the UNB news agency.

Earlier on Monday, 11 people died from heat-stroke across the country.

Meanwhile, some 100 people, including children, were admitted to

different hospitals in the city yesterday due to acute exhaustion and heat-stroke.

At the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, more than 20 people including children were got admitted due to heat stroke, dehydration and vomiting.

More than two dozens of children -- mostly suffering from diarrhoea, acute dehydration and vomiting -- were hospitalised at the Mitford General Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital and Nibedita Private Children's Hospital.

At Dhaka Shishu Hospital, about



PHOTO: AFP

A Kashmiri comes out of a trench during a lull in cross-border shelling between Pakistan and India in Chakoti sector, some 56km southeast of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir yesterday. People living at the line of control between the two arch nuclear rivals in disputed Kashmir usually take refuge in trenches near their houses during shelling along the border.

# India, Pakistan mass 1m troops along borders

UN chief, US, UK, China & EU call for restraint amid war fears

AP, Jammu

A fierce exchange of gunfire between Indian and Pakistani soldiers killed five civilians yesterday, hours before the Indian prime minister visited the disputed Kashmir amid fears of another war between the nuclear rivals.

Three villagers were killed and another seven wounded as the two armies traded mortar and small-arms fire in Rajouri, a Kashmir district on the international border, said an Indian army spokesman, Maj Animesh Trivedi.

Elsewhere yesterday, suspected Islamic militants blew up an army vehicle in Bhandarwah, wounding four soldiers, two of them critically, police said. The ambush occurred in the Doda district, 200 kilometres northeast of Jammu.

The two nations have sent about one million soldiers to their frontier as the dispute flared anew over the disputed Himalayan region.

Government officials say prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Kashmir is aimed at boosting morale of troops and to signal India's resolve to counter what it considers Pakistan's unwillingness to rein in religious militancy in Kashmir.

Some analysts say part of the prime minister's agenda is political and is being conducted with an eye

on state elections due in September/October.

But some well-informed analysts believe India is already taking steps towards war, while Home Affairs Minister L K Advani, according to press reports yesterday, has confirmed the army had been told to consult the War Book -- a classified document which gives guidelines to the armed forces before they go into battle.

In a sign of increasing preparedness for war, India's top military brass toured other parts of the tense frontier with Pakistan on Monday, while in Islamabad Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has called a joint session of his cabinet and the National Security Council

today to discuss the situation.

The international community has been trying to counter the war-mongering, with the United States and China urging India and Pakistan to keep diplomatic channels open.

Britain and the European Union also urged both sides to exercise restraint.

Washington will send Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to the region later this month to try to defuse the crisis.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan expressing concern also called on the rival powers to "exercise maximum restraint to avert a further escalation of tensions."

In London Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Kader Jaffar

told BBC that India and Pakistan were 'very close' to war over Kashmir.

He said the international community should be aware of the seriousness of the standoff between the two nuclear rivals and should exercise its influence to calm the situation.

Vajpayee is slated to spend three days in Kashmir with a visit to a military hospital where some of the 50 or so people injured in the attack on the Kaluchak army base are recovering. A total of 35 people died in the assault.

He is expected to hold meetings today in Srinagar with political parties.

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# Chambers want tax holiday to stay

STAR REPORT

Four leading business chambers and an association in a joint statement yesterday urged the government to continue the tax holiday facility and duty-free import of power generators.

They also asked the government to expedite the privatisation process.

Tapan Chowdhury, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Matiur Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Farid Ahmed Chowdhury,

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