

## WB power loan

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and the 67 village cooperatives together

constitute a successful experiment in providing rural services based on public participation and autonomous management," said Mr. Frederick Temple, World Bank

country director for Bangladesh. "The successful implementation of this project hinges on the government's ability to protect the independence of the Board and of the rural cooperatives. Investment planning and project implementation must continue to be determined by economic criteria. By preserving the integrity of these institutions, the Government of Bangladesh demonstrates its commitment to a meaningful rural electrification program" added Mr. Temple.

Under the Project the Cooperatives will manage and revitalise a substantial portion of the rural network currently operated by the Bangladesh Power Development Board. The cooperatives have proven to be effective at quickly rehabilitating systems, reducing system losses, and substantially curbing power theft.

Expanding the energy distribution infrastructure and increasing financial discipline will further contribute to energy efficiency and improves power sector performance.

"The governance partnership

### Poisoned to death

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upazia of Natore district and resident of Uttarpara of Chhoto Bangram went to his father-in-law Jamiruddin's house Tuesday night.

He offered the inmates some sweets and pineapples he had brought along. Tuhin left after his in-laws ate the sweets. Tuhin's father-in-law was not home at the time.

Early next morning, six members of the family were found dead by neighbours. Four others found seriously ill and in an unconscious state were rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for treatment.

Boalia police sent the bodies to the RMCH morgue for autopsy.

Tuhin is absconding. His two wives, Hosne Ara and Shirin, were taken into police custody for interrogation.

between the cooperatives and the Rural Electrification Board operates with a degree of efficiency and customer orientation seldom seen in similar utilities in developing countries," said Mr. Vijay S. Iyer, senior financial analyst and task leader for the project.

The project will support stand-alone generation and distribution systems such as privately-operated small renewable energy projects. As one of its key goals, the project aims to support the development of a viable solar energy market in rural areas. Over its 15-year life, the project will reduce global output of greenhouse gases.

The Project will offset production of carbon dioxide by replacing kerosene use with carbon dioxide-free renewable energy sources. The total project cost is US\$298.30 million, of which US\$ 190.98 million will be financed by an interest-free credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and a US\$ 8.2 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The balance is being financed by US\$ 6.78 million from local micro-finance institutions, households, communities and NGOs, and US\$ 92.34 million is being financed by the Government of Bangladesh.

### 20 hurt, 50 houses damages as tornado hit, N'ganj town

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj**

At least 20 people were injured and 50 dwelling houses damaged as tornado lashed Narayanganj town yesterday morning.

According to local people, the tornado hit Talla, Khanpur and Kutubpur areas of the town at about 5.25 am and lasted only two minutes.

The worst hit area is Talla where 15 people were injured and many trees uprooted. TV sets and refrigerators in some collapsed tin-shed houses were damaged in the area.

The injured people were admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital. District officials and political leaders visited the affected areas.

### DU trees

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In the past, the students under the banner of Students Unity Against Unplanned Installation staged demonstrations in front of the vice chancellor's office and submitted memorandum to him to press their demand.

In the memorandum, they urged the university authorities not to allow felling of trees, considering environmental aspects of the campus.

When contacted, Treasurer of the university Prof Rashidul Hasan said some trees were cut for construction a building. "But we are going to plant 1000 saplings in the central mosque, Bangabandhu Hall and Surya Sen Hall areas in the next two days under the DU Arboriculture programme."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League staged a demonstration and held a rally on the DU central library premises yesterday protesting felling of trees.

### Plastic surgery

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Medical College of Mumbai, India, stated that plastic surgery and cosmetic surgery are two different things. "Cosmetic surgery only has an aesthetic aspect while plastic surgery heals physical disabilities."

"A person with a cleft lip or palate not only has a bad look but also it hampers his speech organs to function, makes him unable to have food leading to malnutrition," she explained.

The speakers stressed creating awareness among the common people to this end.

They also expressed their dissatisfaction that the number of plastic surgeons in the country, which is only 16 is, not enough for such a huge population.

Moreover, all of the surgeons are based in Dhaka while most of the patients who need plastic surgery reside in the rural areas.

To bring about a change, the Gonosasthaya Kendra plans to expand its service to the remote places of the country. It is inaugurating a hospital in Savar with a separate burn unit. Prof. Arora will voluntarily work with Gonosasthaya Kendra for next one year.

Besides, the Gonosasthaya Kendra plans to set up a SAARC Centre for Plastic Surgery and Rehabilitation with the help of Nowsheer Anita and Bharat Bhusan, who is considered as the father of modern plastic surgery in India.

### 4 chargesheeted

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were arrested and later granted bail while Kabir and Mohan are still at large.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on June 24 against the four. In the chargesheet, 35 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

DB police also arrested 10 other people in connection with the killing. But their names were dropped from the chargesheet as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

Mohammad Afzal Hamza, 52, Senior Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, was stabbed by unidentified miscreants in the city's Fakiripool area at about 7.00 pm on August 13, 2001.

Afzal Hamza came under attack while he was returning home after meeting with some of his relatives at Hotel Osmany.

He succumbed to his injuries at the Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali at about 2.30 am the following day.

Victim's brother, Dr M K Izharul Qaiyum Chowdhury filed a murder case with Motijheel thana on August 14, 2001.

### Neanderthals

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the floor," he said.

It is expected the site will provide a wealth of new information about the enigmatic race that died out some 30,000 years ago in mysterious circumstances.

Their demise coincided with the colonization of Europe by more sophisticated homo sapiens, probably spreading from Africa. But it is not known whether they were wiped out by the rival race or simply lost the battle for territory and resources.

What is known is that Neanderthals were capable of surviving in the harshest situations. The Thetford site would have been at the very edge of the habitable world at the time they lived there 40-60,000 years ago.

Summer temperatures peaked at about 13 degrees Celsius (55 Fahrenheit), with winters far colder than today. Further north was only ice.

This may explain why they left behind few traces of artistic activity or religious beliefs, although they did bury the dead and may have had a form of speech.

Until recently it was thought modern humans were descended from Neanderthals, but recent advances in DNA science show it is more likely both developed separately from a common ancestor.

## Sayedabad water treatment plant likely to begin operation next month: PM

**BSS, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday the Tk 584 crore Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant is expected to go into operation from the middle of next month.

In reply to Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal (BNP-Barisal), Khaleda Zia said the plant, being implemented jointly by the government of Bangladesh, the government of France and the World Bank, would supply 225 million litres of water daily.

Though scheduled to be completed in December, it is now expected to be completed earlier, she said.

Khaleda Zia said a project called "Development of Water Supply System and Rehabilitation" had been taken up at an estimated cost of Tk 152 crore mainly for sinking 30 deep tube-wells and replacing 65 old ones

for supply of another 225 million litres of water daily.

Implementation work of this project, she said, is scheduled to start next month and it would be completed by June, 2007.

She said the Tk 265 crore Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-2 being implemented with assistance from the Danish government was expected to be completed by 2005 and when completed it would also supply 225 million litres of water daily.

Another water supply project with Chinese assistance for supply of 450 million litres of water daily for people of Dhaka city by 2010 is under consideration. The proposed plant known as Pagla Water Treatment Plant, would treat water from the river Padma at Mawa point, she said.

The prime minister said the implementation of a Tk 147 crore project for

solving the city's water-logging problems with government's own resources is under way and is expected to be completed by June 2006. When implemented, water-logging problems of Thatori Bazar, Lumibazar, Uttara, Mirpur, Kazipara, Sheorapara, Khilgaon, Bashabo, Green Road, Dhanmandi, Rampura, Nayatola, Nakhapala, Azimpur, DND and Jatrabari areas of the city would be greatly solved, she said.

She said a Tk 125 crore project with Japanese assistance for development of rainwater drainage system (phase-2) is in progress and that under the project Kalyanpur Storm pumping station would be expanded. As a result, she said the water logging problems in the northwestern side of Dhaka city would be solved.

## Stare of ecocide

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earth-filling despite repeated protests and warnings from the local administration. But top officials at Savar said the Savar police recorded the case as a general diary and buried it without taking any action for mysterious reasons.

Officer-in-Charge of the Savar Police Station Giasuddin told The Daily Star that he had just been instructed by top officials to investigate the matter. A co-ordinated effort will be required to stop the illegal earth-filling, he said. His own efforts are not enough.

"Thousands of men, women and children from the capital pour in Ashuliya every day for recreation and this is the only breathing space available, to be easily reached from Dhaka. We have to protect it," said Giasuddin.

Top Rajuk officials said the developer used to do in earlier times. One top official said Nurul Islam Babul went to Rajuk in person recently and asked the officials to leave him in peace or face dire consequences.

Rajuk officials also said they had informed all the authorities concerned

about the 'menace', but so far the developer could not be stopped from taking up one of the most 'environmentally harmful' projects in the city.

The government has already taken up a project to protect Ashuliya as a recreation spot, since the vast wetland draws thousands of visitors during floods.

The local people at Savar said that before taking up the 'mega-project' of land-filling, the developer hired scores of notorious hoodlums of the area.

Armed and equipped with communication devices like walkie-talkie and cell phones, the hoodlums are now roaming the Ashuliya Road day and night to repel any threat to the filling operation. The day the project was launched, more than 100 motorbikes carrying young men roamed the area, demonstrating muscle power of the developer, local people and officials at Savar said.

They said the developer forced many villagers at Boro Ashuliya, Ati Chaddaon, Rudrapur and Chak Bashaat to sell off their land. Some villagers were intimidated by hired hoodlums into handing over the land to the developer. Most of the land in the

area belonged to villagers, while the state owns a large chunk of land along the canals and the Turag River.

Rajuk Chairman Engineer Iqbaluddin Choudhury told The Daily Star that it was the responsibility of all departments, including WASA, to fight onslaughts on the environment. He said that having failed to stop the earth-filling, Rajuk is now planning to file a writ petition within a day or two, seeking an injunction under the wetland protection act.

"We are trying to defend the law but I feel everybody should come forward to help," Choudhury said.

But official sources said that filing the writ petition would make things easier for the offender to get through.

Rajuk has hardly ever won any case in the court of justice because it has never represented itself properly to defend public interest, because its legal team is not equipped enough to battle against the high-priced lawyers hired by opponents. There are also allegations of divided loyalty among Rajuk's officials.

## Axe-wary ministers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Sources also said the government would bring a regional balance regarding the appointment of ministers. Some ministers and state ministers from Chittagong, Barisal and Tangail districts may be dropped due to the large number already drawn from these districts. Representatives of other districts will take their place.

Six technocrat ministers (one cabinet and five state ministers) are in distress after hearing the decision to downsize the jumbo-jet cabinet. The government must drop technocrats to reduce the cabinet due to the existing one-tenth-quota system (of one technocrat for every nine non-technocrat ministers). Otherwise, it would have to amend the constitution to erase the quota. Sources said these technocrat ministers and their supporters are trying to convince policy makers to amend the existing quota system in order to retain cabinet seats.

However, many policy makers felt it would be unwise to remove the quota system by amending the Constitution.

Two posts in the cabinet would be made vacant as the possibility rises to make Jamiruddin Sircar the president, leaving his former position as speaker, vacant. Sadeque Hossain Khoka, presently the Dhaka city mayor, will leave the fisheries and livestock ministry he is in charge of, sources said.

There are chances of more than one senior leader, like KM Obaidur Rahman and Oli Ahmed, to be inducted in the cabinet.

BNP sources said it is very difficult to guess who would be dropped or inducted in the cabinet as there are serious 'moves and conspiracies' from all directions. They said a section of BNP leaders mostly belonging to the hardliners, are desperate to corner the mainstream BNP leaders.

They said the hardliners, after their massive success to remove the president, have become more active and felt encouraged to sideline the mainstream and moderate leaders both in the party and the cabinet.

A senior BNP leader, who requested anonymity, told The Daily

Star yesterday that the BNP is now in the grip of a "palace conspiracy" that may render many innocent, dedicated and mainstream leaders inactive in politics. This will certainly devastate the party.

He said although everything is now under control of the prime minister, some recent incidents apparently proved that the party extremists have succeeded in convincing her.

The ministers and state ministers, who are in the "drop-list" due to inefficiency and corruption allegations, may even be rewarded or strengthened in their position if the hardliners win over the current party tussle.

However, the leader said, the PM has received information regarding the moves of different sections within her party and hoped that she will finally take the right decision.

Moreover, the prime ministers son, Tareque Rahman, who has been brought in the spotlight of the party might take bold steps to stop inner-party conflicts and conspiracies soon, he added.

## Ronaldo takes Brazil to final

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"I got an important goal. But the final will be very difficult," said Ronaldo.

The goal lifted the Brazilian striker to the top of the tournament scoring chart with six goals, one more than team mate Rivaldo and Germany's Miroslav Klose.

It also set up the first ever clash at the World Cup between Brazil and Germany, the two most successful sides in the tournament's history with seven wins between them. Germany beat co-hosts South Korea 1-0 in the other semi-final on Tuesday.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said: "We are very, very happy. We expected to win by more goals but it didn't happen."

"We knew Turkey would be a tough opponent after the first round match because they play hard in defence and especially in midfield. I want to congratulate the Turkish players and coach."

"I felt from the start of the match a positive energy from the Brazilian supporters, the bench and the players. I felt this energy and I'm sure the Brazilian supporters are happy."

Ronaldo will relish the chance to erase the memories of the 1998 World Cup final in France when he was below-par in a dazed display reportedly a few hours after he suffered a convulsive fit as Brazil lost 3-0 to the hosts.

In yesterday's semi-final, the twice World Player of the Year was replaced by Luizao after 68 minutes, but Scolari said the substitution was made merely "in order to keep him (Ronaldo) fresh for the next match."

Turkey's coach Senol Gunes said his players felt the effects of the huge expectations back home but praised his team.

"We came to the World Cup to

take part in the festival and make an impact and I think we have achieved that goal," he said.

"I am proud of my players. They have done superbly. I'm sorry we couldn't give the Turkish people more happiness today."

"There was a little bit of inexperience but also the effects of the tension back home on the players. They were expecting a lot from us and that led to some mistakes."

But forward Ilhan Mansiz, scorer of the golden goal against Senegal that took them to the semi-final, was defiant in defeat.

"Our morale was never broken," he said. "We missed a few chances and we couldn't score but I wish Brazil all the best!"

Turkey, playing in their first World Cup semi-final, started brightly but were eventually overrun by Brazil's attacking play.

Rivaldo, who was seeking a record-equalling sixth goal in successive World Cup finals matches, carried the main attacking threat for Brazil in a first half that quickly came to the boil.

Turkey's short-passing game caused the South Americans problems initially and Alpay Ozalan stretched goalkeeper Marcos with a 20th-minute header.

Brazil were stung into a fierce response and Rustu did superbly to save a fierce Rivaldo drive and the follow-up from Ronaldo.

Rustu was suddenly under siege, denying Rivaldo, Roberto Carlos and, bravely, Edilson before the interval as tempers began to fray.

But if Rustu was Turkey's first-half hero, he was caught out for Ronaldo's goal four minutes after the interval.

The Brazilian turned his marker

well and bore down on goal with customary menace but his poked effort with the outside of his right foot from 15 metres lacked power and Rustu should have done better than help it into the corner of the net.

Brazil, making light of creative midfielder Ronaldinho's absence through suspension, continued to have the better of it after that and Kleberson and Luizao, on for Ronaldo, could have made their victory more comfortable.

Turkey got out with their heads held high, though, and there was no repeat of the ugly scenes in Brazil's 2-1 victory in the group game between the two sides on June 3 when two Turks were sent off, the second after Rivaldo feigned injury.

Brazil now face Germany in the World Cup final on Sunday in Japan's port city of Yokohama. Since World War Two, either the Brazilians or Germans have featured in every final except one.

Turkey play co-hosts South Korea in the third-place playoff in Taegu on Saturday.

### TEAMS

**Brazil:** Marcos, Cafu (captain), Lucio, Roque Junior, Edmilson, Roberto Carlos, Gilberto, Ronaldo (Luizao 67), Rivaldo, Kleberson (Belleli 85), Edilson (Denilson 75)

**Booked:** Gilberto

**Goal:** Ronaldo 49

**Turkey:** Reçber, Korkmaz, Akyel, Ozalan, Kerimoglu, Sukur (captain), Basturk (Erdem 88), Sas, Penbe, Belozoglu (Mansiz 61), Davala (Izzet 73)

**Booked:** Tugay, Sas

**Attendance:** 61,058

**Referee:** Kim Milton Nielsen (Denmark)

## Sony killing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
killing had at least six firearms, including cut rifles, shotguns, pistols and revolvers.

He also said they were involved in the shootout to oust each other with an intention to capture the tender for the housing project of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) teachers. The tender having a value of Tk 87 lakh was scheduled to be opened on June 11.

On Tuesday, police brought them under a three-day remand to unearth their motives behind the killing and the involvement of others in the shootout.

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Monday arrested one of the main suspects, Tagar, and Ramna police arrested Masum Billah the same day in the city.

Sources said the arrested Tagar and Masum led the Dhaka University-based gang, while Assistant General Secretary of the suspended central committee of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Mukammel Hayat Muki led the BUET-based gang in the shootout.

Contacted yesterday, Investigation Officer (IO) of the Sony murder case Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the DB SM Akteruzzaman told The Daily Star that he is

now trying to find the culprit whose bullet killed Sony.

According to the autopsy report, Sony was killed as the bullet of a cut rifle pierced the right side of her lower abdomen.

"We are trying to identify the main culprit by verifying all available information including the autopsy report, Sony's position at the time, newspaper reports and information from the arrested" the IO said.

He added that the lack of eyewitnesses is creating some problems in the proceedings of the investigation as BUET has been closed until July 3, following the shootout.

Asked about the other main suspect, Muki, the IO said, they are trying to trace him and his accomplices, promising a positive result very soon.

Even after 18 days, police have failed to arrest any suspects from the BUET-based group.

Earlier reports have stated that Muki had taken shelter under his political godfather who is an influential ruling party leader at Raozan in Chittagong.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested Muki's brother - Moinul Hayat Khan on Friday night at their residence in Panclahish Upazia in Chittagong to inquire about the absconding Muki.

## PM: War on drug

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about drug abuse, which is becoming a big challenge for the whole world. "Personal as well as collective effort is necessary for prevention of drug abuse," she said.

Temptation for intoxicants is natural and the youths are more prone to it, the prime minister said emphasising that the youths should be encouraged to be involved in sports and practice of healthy culture.

She said religious leaders and social workers have a big role to play in this regard but the major responsibility lies with the parents, guardians and teachers to involve them in constructive and creative works.

Khaleda Zia urged the parents, guardians and teachers to remain alert against drug addiction, terming it a "contagious disease".

"We should be sympathetic towards the unemployed educated youths until we can create job opportunities for them," she said referring to the huge unemployment, which is a major cause for frustration.

The prime minister also noted that addition of phensidyl and heroine in the urban areas was also a reason for the deterioration of law and order. "Therefore, members of the law enforcing agencies and the society have to be cautious against this major source of crime," she added.

Home Minister Atif Hossain Chowdhury mentioned the two largest drugs producing regions, the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent, on two sides of Bangladesh which make this country vulnerable to drug trafficking.

"It is easily imaginable how difficult it is to keep Bangladesh free from drug abuse," he said.

At the function, the prime minister presented crests to three organisations — Bangladesh Anti-Drug Federation, CARE Bangladesh and Noton Jibon Gori --- for their role in the campaign against drug abuse.

## Opposition demands

**FROM PAGE 1**  
House his decision about the notices.

After his deliberation, the acting speaker admitted that House should have been informed of the matter. He referred to the time constraint till the passage of the budget and assured the member that his notices would be considered after the budget is passed.

In his notices, AKM Jahangir proposed to move a resolution saying, "By requesting and compelling the president to resign the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPP) has violated the Constitution and similarly, the president violated the Constitution by resigning on request from the BNPP. Furthermore, he has demeaned the importance, dignity and neutrality of the presidency."

Jahangir also quoted in his notices the constitutional provision concerning removal of the president.

AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said there has been a constitutional debate across the country over the 'unusual resignation' of the presi-

dent and the parliament should discuss it. "People across the country want the parliament to have such a discussion so that members from both the ruling party and the opposition can deliberate on the constitutional matter," he said.

Suranjit, who had earlier told newsmen he still believed Badruddoza was the president, has been trying to raise the issue in the House since the AL's first appearance in the eighth parliament on June 24. But the chair did not allow it.

### TV assemblers

**FROM PAGE 12**  
plants have urged the government to rationalise the duty gap between the CBU and the CKD sets to enable the local industry to reach its growth potential.

According to them, the potential expansion of electronics market will enable the local TV assembling plants to go for backward linkage into component manufacturing both for television and other electronic products.

## SAARC members

**FROM PAGE 12**  
to be done, but critics need to bear in mind that six years, by any standard, is a short period to carry out critical assessment."

To a question, Rahim said despite the tension between India and Pakistan, SAARC has been able to move ahead with its agenda. There had been two ministerial-level meetings since the last summit — one of the information ministers and the other of the finance and planning ministers. A meeting of the environment ministers is slated for August in Bhutan.

However, he expects much to be achieved in the meeting of the council of ministers comprising the foreign ministers of the SAARC countries in Kathmandu, the dates of which is still under negotiation. This meeting is crucial for executing some pending policy plans as well as for charting the roadmap of the organisation.

Speaking on the ongoing activities of SAARC, he said the organisation has now started preparing a calendar of events. During the current year, some 60 meetings of different technical and other committees will take place. These meetings, he explained, are part of an ongoing process held in different capitals throughout the year,