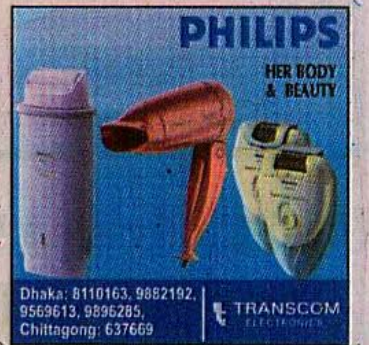


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DHAKA-10 SYMBOL DISPUTE

No by-polls on June 6

SC upholds HC stay order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday rejected the appeal petition the Election Commission filed against the High Court (HC) stay order on Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-poll, ending the prospect of June 6 election to the seat.

The SC full bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Modassir

Husain upheld the HC stay order on the high-profile election symbol dispute case after three days of hectic hearing.

The bench directed both parties to move to the High Court which will now hold a hearing on June 12 on its rule upon the Election Commission and the returning officer (RO).

The rule asked them to explain

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Bikalpa Dhara candidate M A Mannan, in white, for Dhaka-10 by-polls poses for photos with his lawyers yesterday after the Supreme Court upheld stay on the elections.

It's all rumour: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is still a mystery as to how the chief election commissioner's (CEC) sign found its way into the warrant of attorney approving the appeal

against the High Court stay order as he has been denying to have done so.

"Rumour, rumour, all rumour," CEC MA Syed told reporters yesterday responding to a question on his

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Security concerns to be addressed, says Morshed

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India have agreed to address each other's security concerns and sought to dispel the perception that a bilateral free trade agreement was off, said Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday.

"We have to change the mindset and address the issues and sensitivities of each other. Security issues of both sides need to be addressed," Morshed said, a day after his wide-ranging talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and other senior leaders.

Termining his talks with the Indian leaders friendly, he said: "The atmosphere was great and friendly. The attitude was not of confrontation but of cooperation."

Asked about the presence of any Indian insurgent training camps in Bangladesh, Morshed said the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Delhi offers to double diesel export to Dhaka

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday offered to double diesel exports to Bangladesh to help ease a 2.3 million tonnes shortfall of petroleum a year, but Dhaka did not make any commitment to selling natural gas to its biggest potential buyer.

At a meeting between Bangladesh's visiting Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Indian Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar in New Delhi, India offered 60,000 tonnes of diesel a month from next year.

"We are looking at the potential for larger cooperation (with India) as our requirement (of diesel) is going up. I will leave it to the officials

to discuss an import contract," Morshed told reporters after the meeting.

The state-run Indian Oil Corporation is supplying 230,000 tonnes of diesel to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) over April-December this year.

India has offered to supply 0.7 million tonne diesel a year on a five-year contract beginning in 2005.

Morshed, now on a goodwill visit to India, said: "If we have exportable surplus, if Bangladesh (ever) exports natural gas, India is the natural choice because of the proximity."

US energy firm Unocal, which proposed exporting gas from Bibiyana field in northern

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Stop yearend burst of project work

PM asks officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

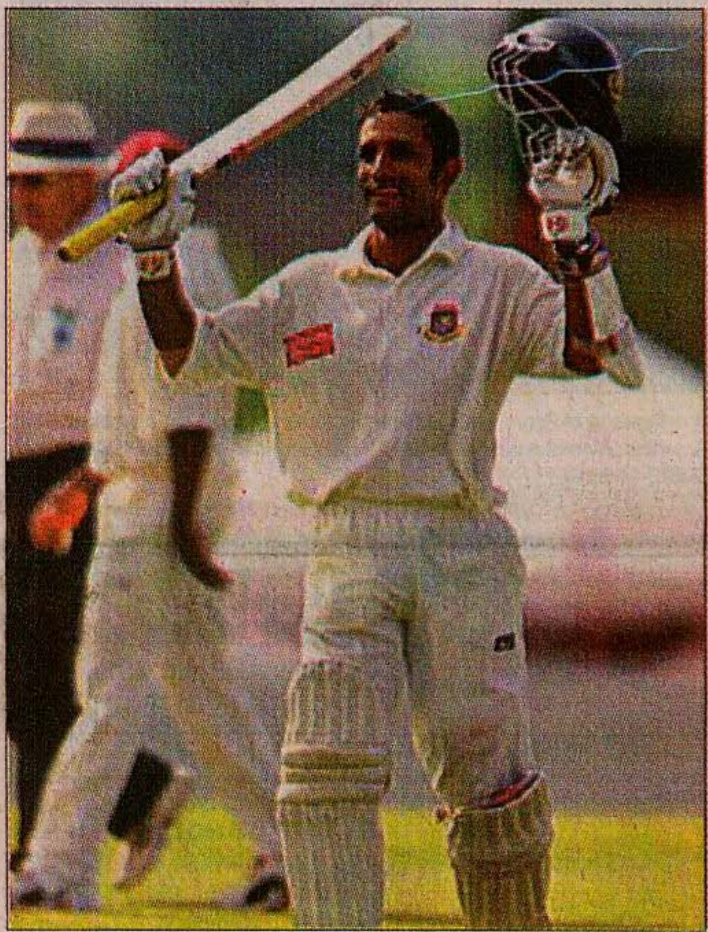
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday underscored intensifying administrative management and directed all concerned to implement government decisions and projects in time to stop waste of fund.

"Nobody will be allowed to make willful delay or neglect implementation of government decisions. Proper action will be taken against people neglecting duty," she said.

Addressing to government secretaries at the Cabinet Division yesterday, she asked the top officials not to allow irregularities and corruption in the administration.

"The last quarter of the current fiscal year is passing away, so release funds for the remaining period of development projects," she said, asking the officials to be pro-active

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Khaled Mashud responds to crowd's applause after his century.

Tigers revel in real draw

Mashud hammers maiden Test ton

RABEED IMAM, from St Lucia

Khaled Mashud hammered his maiden Test hundred as Bangladesh revelled in a deserving draw against the West Indies on the fifth day of the first match yesterday.

After two rained-out draws

against Zimbabwe, this Test match will go down in record books as the Tigers' only real draw in 29 matches.

Mashud's 103 not out helped the tourists claw back into the match from a precarious 79 for six and gave Habibul Bashar the honour of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Dhaka included in pvt landline operations

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Telecoms regulator Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to clear the way for private operators to launch fixed phone service in capital Dhaka setting aside a dispute with WorldTel Bangladesh Limited.

The capital has been out of bounds to the licensing process for fresh fixed phones, technically known as Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), in the wake of a dispute with WorldTel that obtained licence to run fixed phones in the capital in July 2001.

"We hope to open Dhaka to private operators to run fixed phone service," a key BTRC official told The Daily Star. An announcement will be made in this month to enable private operators to apply for fixed phone licence, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

WorldTel Bangladesh served a

legal notice on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in early January asking it not to open up Dhaka city to the other companies. But the huge unmet demand for fixed phones in the capital has prompted BTRC to decide otherwise.

WorldTel, however, has also agreed to commence service in the capital to run 300,000 fixed phones on a build-operate-own basis.

Earlier, the BTRC awarded Bashundhara Communication & Network Limited (BCNL) first licence to run fixed-line phone services in four zones except central zone on May 13.

The BTRC has segmented the country into five zones namely Central, South-East, North-East, South-West and North-West zones. It awarded licences for four zones except the central zone comprising Dhaka city, Jijira, Savar, Narayanganj district headquarters, Gazipur district headquarters and Tongi.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Police hunt on for Ctg training camp mastermind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The police kicked off a hunt for a madrasa teacher for his suspected links to a clandestine arms training centre in the hilly Hathazari area yesterday, a day after uncovering the camp believed to be of an Islamist outfit.

Police said they were looking for Mir Anis, teacher of a local women's madrasa and the cousin of a state minister, for running the Alipur camp allegedly of Harkatul Jihad as its director.

Police believe the arrest of Anis and two trainers appointed by him to the camp of madrasa students would help them unpack the mystery.

Two suspects -- Mohammad

Iskander and Enamul Huq -- arrested after the sweep of the training centre, were placed on five-day remand by a local court yesterday.

Hathazari police said they found out some important leads, but declined to give details in the interest of investigation.

Sources said the local police were under pressure from higher quarters to suppress the issue.

Police uncovered the training facility on Tuesday and seized 24 dummy Ak-47 rifles, spears, a pair of binoculars, tents and other training equipment from there.

Sources said the arrestees might be taken to Dhaka for questioning by a joint interrogation cell.

8th anniversary

On the auspicious occasion of the
8th Anniversary

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
Extends its profound felicitations to its
Valued clients, patrons and well wishers

Our clarion call on this grand occasion

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■ Prevent Acid Violence

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If the beneficiaries of this program can effectively manage and operate their business enterprises, **Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited** will further extend Small Scale Loan Facilities to those successful operators at a very minimum interest rate **(5%)** to expand their enterprises.

Applications are invited from the genuine affected rural women willing to avail financial help from **Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation**. Specimen of the application form is given inside the newspaper. (See page no. 5). **Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation** will verify the information provided by the applicants.

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