

Shakib fights

FROM PAGE 1
The win gives Pakistan a 4-0 lead in the five-match series, and hands Shoaib Malik's men their 10th consecutive win -- equalling the longest winning one-day streak by a Pakistan team since November 1990.

Left-handed opener Salman Butt put the home team on track, following up his 76 and 132 in the last two matches with another dominating 74, and adding a brisk 97 for the first wicket with Kamran Akmal who made 36.

Butt and Akmal, who shared a 151-run opening stand in Pakistan's 23-run win in the third match in Lahore on Sunday, battled in the same vein, before Akmal fell to Shakib in the 17th over and Butt was run out in the 24th.

Butt hit eight boundaries during his 84-ball knock while Akmal struck six boundaries and a six off 35 deliveries.

Bazid Khan (51) notched up his second one-day fifty but fell with just 12 needed to win. He added 82 for the third wicket with Mohammad Yousuf who remained not out on 37.

Earlier Shakib scored his second one-day hundred and shared a Bangladesh record ninth wicket stand of 97 with Mashrafe Mortaza (38) to revive the tourists, who were reeling at 109-8 after they won the toss and batted.

The young left-hander, who made 75 in the third match on Sunday, took a double in the 47th over to reach his hundred off 115 balls with eight fours.

In all, he faced 120 balls before holing out in the last over to pacesman Sohail Khan, who finished with 3-30.

The previous best ninth wicket stand for Bangladesh in one-day cricket was 62 between Khaled Mashud and Mohammad Rafique against the West Indies at St. Lucia four years ago.

Mortaza, who hit just one boundary during his 67-ball knock, was out at long-on in the 48th over.

Shakib, who came in when the scoreboard was at 10-3, also added 37 for the sixth wicket with Forhad Reza (14) after pacesman Umar Gul rocked the tourists.

Gul's incisive opening spell of 3-25 left Bangladesh struggling at 16-4 in the sixth over.

Bangladesh were off to a disastrous start, losing opener Zunaed Siddiqi (naught) to Gul off the fifth ball of the second over and then Aftab Ahmed fell to the same bowler for a duck.

From the other end, Mohammad Asif removed Tamim Iqbal (10) in the third. Asif, who returned after a five-month lay-off from an elbow injury, took 2-35.

Gul then had Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful (four) caught in the slips before Hasan and Mahmudullah Riad (14) added 29 for the fifth wicket.

The fifth and final match will be played in Karachi on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Multan Stadium on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH	
Tamim c Butt b Asif	10
Zunaed c Akmal b Gul	0
Aftab c Misbahul b Gul	0
Ashraful c Misbahul b Gul	4
Shakib c Fawad b Sohail	108
Mahmudullah b Sohail	9
Forhad c Akmal b Sohail	14
Dhiman lbw b Afridi	0
Razzak lbw b Malik	7
Mortaza c Fawad b Asif	38

Rice prices

FROM PAGE 1
coarse rice is likely to remain between Tk 28 and Tk 30 a kg.

He however said it is not possible to say exactly what the prices of rice will be in the coming days since that will also depend on the demand and supply of the food grain in the market.

Meanwhile, the Centre for Policy Dialogue's Head of Research Dr Uttam Kumar Deb said price of rice may range from Tk 27 to Tk 29 a kg following Boro harvest and the government's announcement of procurement price.

Uttam, who is leading a study team on Boro production cost and possible rice price, was in Madanpur of Netokona yesterday. Contacted over telephone, he said they interviewed farmers and found that they supported the government-fixed procurement price saying they would not face losses if they sell rice at this price.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) reported that rice price ranged from Tk 34 to Tk 36 yesterday, which is 67 percent higher than last year and 11 percent higher compared to that a month ago.

Price of coarse rice last year was Tk 20 to Tk 22 a kg, and Tk 31-32 a kg just a month back, the TCB report says.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in its weekly report says price of coarse rice last week was Tk 36 per kg in Barisal and Chittagong, Tk 35 in Sylhet, Tk 34.75 in Dhaka and Tk 34 in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

According to government estimates, cost of Boro production went up to Tk 27,928 per acre this year from Tk 18,670 last year, which

Shahadat not out	1			
Extras: (lb-5, nb-5, w-9)	19			
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	210			
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-10, 4-16, 5-45, 6-82, 7-84, 8-109, 9-206, 10-210.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	10	0	35	2
Gul	10	1	48	3
Sohail	6.1	0	30	3
Afridi	10	0	34	1
Malik	9	2	32	1
Fawad	4	0	26	0

PAKISTAN
Butt run out 74
Akmal c Mortaza b Shakib 36
Bazid c Shahadat b Razzak 51
Yousuf not out 37
Fawad not out 5
Extras: (lb-2, w-7) 9
Total: (For 3 wickets in 44.3 overs) 212

Did not bat: Shoaib Malik, Misbahul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Sohail Khan, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul
Fall of wickets: 1-97, 2-117, 3-199

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	5	0	30	0
Shahadat	7	0	47	0
Razzak	8.3	0	37	1
Shakib	9	1	34	1
Mahmudullah	10	1	38	0
Forhad	5	0	24	0

Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh).
Toss: Bangladesh

Govt plans

FROM PAGE 1
UNB adds: The finance adviser said the national budget for next fiscal year would target 6.5 percent GDP growth.

"The revenue expenditure and the ADP (Annual Development Programme) would be fixed proportionately to the GDP target," he said.

BEA President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, who led the BEA delegation, expressed concern over the disproportionate distribution of the economic growth, widening disparity between the rich and the poor and deepening poverty.

Questioning the impact and quality of expenditures and development objectives, the BEA delegation stressed the need for developing the SME sector, creating employment opportunities, widening safety-net programmes and pursuing home-grown development programmes.

Upping his previous projection, the finance adviser said he expects the GDP growth to be between 6.1 and 6.2 percent during the current fiscal year as major economic indicators picked up recently and the country expects a bumper Boro harvest.

"It's not bad in the context of regional and global growth projections," he said adding, "It's not a drastic fall from last year's achievement (6.5 percent)".

Referring to Bangladesh's GDP estimates by international institutions, he said their estimates are based on previous indicators which picked up recently.

The adviser said ADP size would be determined considering revenue collection and likelihood of foreign aid, as he has no intention to raise the tax rates in the coming budget. "In few cases, the tax rate will be reduced despite the lowest tax-GDP ratio."

Aziz expected that revenue collection this fiscal year would exceed the target for the first time as the July-February collections grew by 23 percent from the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

is around 50 percent increase. The estimate says production cost of Boro rice this year is Tk 19.23 each kg.

In the first phase of last year, the government set the procurement price of rice at Tk 16 a kg, considering 15 percent profit for the farmers, but it failed to buy rice. It then increased the price to Tk 18, considering 35 percent profit for the producers.

Director General of Food Pius Costa, briefing newsmen, said the government prioritised five aspects before fixing the procuring price of rice. These include cost of production, farmers' incentives, consumers' interest, enhancement of government food stock and market price.

Dr Uttam said the CPD in its primary survey found that production cost of each kg Boro rice is Tk 20.80 on an average.

Farmers in Mymensingh told the CPD team that Boro production will be bumper if no natural calamities occur in the next two to three weeks, he said.

"But, as production cost is high and food shortage is global, rice price will not be as low as it was earlier," the agro-economist said.

Food Planning and Monitoring Unit Director General Pranab Chakravarty at the press briefing said total demand for food grains will be 2.60 crore tonnes next fiscal year while the production target is 2.59 crore tonnes given that the target of Boro production is met.

The government has fixed a target of procuring 15 lakh tonnes of rice from domestic market and 17 lakh tonnes from global market to build a safe food stock.

3 killed in Colorado wildfires

AP, Ordway

Firefighters resumed the battle yesterday against three wildfires that blazed across thousands of acres of grass, forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate and leading to the deaths of two firefighters and a pilot.

One of the fires was unchecked and still growing yesterday morning. Wind gusting up to 50 mph along the Rocky Mountain Front Range

and eastern plains on Tuesday, fanning flames that had spread across 9,900 acres or 14 square miles of grassland near Ordway. Authorities told all 1,200 residents of the town to leave, and they had not been allowed back on Wednesday.

On Wednesday morning, wind was blowing at less than 10 mph at Pueblo, about 50 miles west of Ordway, the National Weather Service said. Rain was possible in parts of the area during the afternoon and there was a chance of up to a foot of snow in Colorado's eastern mountains beginning Wednesday evening and lasting into Thursday morning, the weather service said.

Firefighters had contained 80 percent of the Ordway blaze, which damaged at least 24 buildings, eight within town limits, fire information officer Katherine Sanguinetti said.

Two volunteer firefighters were killed when a bridge damaged by flames collapsed under their fire truck, state Rep. Cory Gardner, whose district includes Ordway, told legislative leaders Wednesday.

ACC asks

FROM PAGE 1
Tk 15 lakh defence savings certificate has been at Pubali Bank principal branch.

Khoka in his health statement submitted to the ACC mentioned that his wife, daughter and he had 40 bank accounts while a total of Tk 40 lakh was being saved in two savings schemes under his son's name.

The accounts that are being seized are five accounts with National Credit and Commerce Bank principal branch, four accounts with Standard Chartered Bank Motijheel branch and a total of eleven accounts with the following banks: Agrani Bank Hatkhola Branch, Standard Chartered Bank principal branch, Rupali Bank foreign exchange corporate branch, HSBC Motijheel branch, Uttara Bank local office, Habib Bank Motijheel branch, Janata Bank corporate branch, Janata Bank Nagarbhawan branch, BRAC Bank Motijheel branch, Premiere Bank Uttara branch and Janata Bank WASA Bhaban branch, said the sources.

Sahmsul Alam, the IO of the case, told The Daily Star that he filed the graft case against Khoka earlier this month based on the findings that the Tk 17.5 crore worth of assets presently owned by Khoka do not match with his recognised source of income, whereas according to his first income tax return filed in 1990-91, his annual income was only Tk 30,000.

The CA hoped that courage, spirit and perseverance of the entrepreneurs would help Bangladesh in becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

Appreciating the progress of the

entrepreneurs would help Bangladesh in becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

Pledge must

FROM PAGE 1
Suggesting introduction of food rationing system for lower income group people and expansion of social safety net programmes, he said the government should make all out efforts to bring down the prices of essentials.

Bhuiyan urged leaders of both the factions to refrain from making remarks that might end up damaging the party's image.

Maj (ret'd) Hafiz once again emphasised on a 'code of conduct for political activities' so the country might get 'a good system of governance' after polls.

"We want effective and elected committees at every levels of the party," he said adding that there are many leaders at the top of the party who do not have any relation with the people.

SA Sultan Titu, also a former lawmaker, said the people are 'hyped' right now, so they are treating the 'reformist' leaders as renegades.

Fazul Azim said, "We want to help the government in holding a meaningful election. The government should also take measures so the party leaders may go to their areas."

Zahriuddin Swapan said political parties are now 'unitedly assisting the government in restoring democracy'.

SC rejects ACC

FROM PAGE 16
ruling on the ACC and stayed the case proceedings following a writ petition filed by Tarique in which he challenged the validity of the graft case.

ACC Deputy Director Jahurul Huda on September 26 last year filed the case with Kafil Police Station against Tarique, his wife Dr Zobaidda Rahman and mother-in-law Iqbalmand Banu on charges of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about his wealth in his statement to the ACC.

Dr Zobaidda and her mother were accused of abetting Tarique in protecting the ill-gotten wealth.

Tarique was arrested at his mother's cantonment house on March 7 last year following an extortion case filed against him by a businessman. He has at least dozen other criminal cases against him.

Meantime, the Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday set April 28 for a full-court hearing of an ACC petition seeking stay order on a HC order that had also stalled for two months the case proceedings against Tarique's wife Dr Zobaidda Rahman.

Textile mill

FROM PAGE 1
private sector has so far risen to 301, from 84 in 1995. Some 1340 million kilograms of yarn and 1700 million metres of fabrics are manufactured per year, the function was informed. The industry provides livelihood for around 45 lakh people.

Yarn produced by BTMA-member mills meets 85 to 90 percent demand of export-oriented knit-garment industries while 40 percent demand for fabrics of oven garment exporters.

The textile sector, including primary textiles, adds 13 percent to national income. The sector is making major contributions to employment generation and poverty alleviation, trailing only manpower export and agriculture sectors.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, Textiles and Jute Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal, Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and BTMA President Abdul Hai Sarkar also spoke at the inaugural function.

Leaders of various business organisations, owners of textile mills and industries and entrepreneurs were, among others, present at the function.

The chief adviser later formally opened the exhibition and visited some stalls of the fair.

He suggested proper coordination between all sub-sectors of the sector in a bid to deal with multifarious challenges of market economy.

Mentioning the government's various incentives and cooperation in encouraging investment in primary textiles and increasing the productivity and quality of textile factories, he urged the entrepreneurs to pay more attention to work efficiency and productivity by fully utilising the facilities provided by the government.

"There is no alternative to it in order to survive on the tough competitive world market," he said, adding that if the textile industrialists prepare a coordinated work plan, then everyone in the textile sector would benefit from it.

Mentioning that various conditions of compliance will much influence the textile sector in the future, he said the entrepreneurs would have to do short, medium and long-term planning from now on to this end. Obtaining latest technology is also important in this regard, he said.

"The welfare of workers working in this sector is also relevant," he said.

The CA hoped that courage, spirit and perseverance of the entrepreneurs would help Bangladesh in becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

Appreciating the progress of the

entrepreneurs would help Bangladesh in becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

entrepreneurs would help Bangladesh in becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

17 killed

FROM PAGE 1
of accident.

The train did not stop after the accident, witnesses said.

Patrol police, locals and fire brigade immediately started a rescue operation recovering the injured and sent them to Tangail General Hospital where another bus passenger Mohammad Alauddin, 45, succumbed to his injuries.

The other deceased are cloth traders Dulal Miah, 40, Shafiqul Islam, 30, Saiful Islam, 20, Faruq Hossain, 30, Mohammad Solaiman, 40, Riazul Islam, 35, Monir Hossain, 26, Golam Hossain, 22, Fazlur Rahman Fazal, 35, Fazal Haque, 40, and Dudu Miah, 35, of Rampur village, and Altaf Hossain, 30, and Faruq Miah, 28, of Mominnagar village, driver Abdus Samad, 40, of Kamathi and his son and also helper of the bus Al Amin, 18, and another helper Korban Ali, 20, of Satoria village in Kalihati upazila.

Of the injured, 21 were admitted to Tangail General Hospital. Five critically injured of them were later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are cloth traders Liakat, Shamsul, Ioad Ali, Ibrahim and Kashem.

Hearing the news of the accident, a deep shock gripped the inhabitants of Rampur, Mominnagar and adjacent villages in Kalihati upazila. Relatives and family members of the dead cloth traders burst into tears at the loss of their dear ones.

Kalihati police said a process was initiated to hand over the dead bodies to family members and relatives without postmortem.

Shafiqul Islam, 30, a passenger who received mild injuries, told The Daily Star that there was no barrier at the level crossing and most of the passengers of the bus were asleep at the time of accident.

The on-duty gateman, Habibur Rahman, was also asleep when the accident took place and he fled the area after locals woke him up, said a witness.

Asim Talukdar, divisional signal and cable engineer of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star that following the accident they could not contact gateman Habib despite repeated attempts over telephone. "We are investigating the matter," he added.

Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway Rafiquzzaman visited the spot and suspended the gateman.

textile sector in last two and a half decades, he said the textile sector has made significant contribution to the country's economic growth.

He said the textile sector is also playing a significant role in generating employment and alleviating poverty.

Responding to some of the demands of BTMA, he said those would be considered after examination by the ministries and departments concerned.

Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 1
Moeen, also chairman of Sena Hotels Development Ltd, and Dr CS Karim, food and agriculture adviser, jointly inaugurated the feast.

Having potato with rice would help lower the demand for rice and restrain its prices while meeting nutritional needs of a person, said Moeen.

"To control rising prices and utilise the bumper potato harvest of 80 tonnes this year, we have to do it together."

"We have to consume 58 lakh tonnes of potato domestically this year, otherwise a huge quantity of it will be spoilt due to the lack of adequate storage facilities," he added.

A potato farmer might not be interested to grow the crop again next year if heavy losses are incurred this year, observed the army chief.

An army personnel's daily potato intake presently stands at 113 grams, he said adding that the daily potato allocation for each army member would be increased in the next couple of months.

Adviser CS Karim said people need to be motivated to consume more potatoes and its increased consumption would ensure sustainable food security in the country, while enabling the farmers to get fair price for their produce.

Every inch of the cultivable land in the country should be utilised for food production to cope with any future food shortage, he suggested.

In order to tackle any possible food shortage, there is no alternative to increasing food production and improved management of our produce including potato, said Karim.

Andre Alex Gomez, general manager of Radisson Water Garden Hotel, said the initiative is aimed at popularising potato as an alternative source of staple, which could help fight threats of hunger and poverty globally.

The weeklong feast showcases various local and international potato-based delicious cuisines ranging from soup, pie, pasta, samosas, ice cream and salads that are very easy to prepare and the ingredients are available locally, Gomez said.

UAE group

FROM PAGE 16
Although Rakia will carry out a final feasibility study for the proposed projects, Massad said a preliminary study has already been done.

Massaad is very happy with the reception the Bangladesh government accorded him.

Replying to a question on whether the group will have any reservation in working with the present interim government, Massaad said they do not have 'any problem in working with any government at any time'.

He said, "I see no problem before us in implementing the proposal."

Earlier, Massaad visited sites at Cox's Bazar, Saint Martin's Island, Chittagong and Sonargaon on a helicopter accompanied by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil, and executives of the Board of Investment and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.

Rakia's sister concern RAK Ceramic Industries started its journey in Bangladesh in 2000, and RAK Airlines has been operating flights between Dhaka and Chittagong.

The group already invested around \$300 million in industries like ceramics, pharmaceuticals, power generation, agriculture, fisheries and airways in the country.

As part of its offshore investment, Rakia recently invested around \$6 billion in India, while it also has investments in Indonesia, Tanzania, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Congo.

Credible polls

FROM PAGE 1
Hasina from jail is the only way to ensure free and credible polls.

Zillur was talking to reporters at his Gulshan residence when Jubo Mohila League leaders handed him over a memorandum with two lakh signatures from the women community demanding the unconditional release of Hasina.

The veteran AL leader said leaders and workers of his party are agitating for the release of their party president and it has now become impossible for the Awami League leadership to control the protestors.

"We don't want to create any awful circumstances and the government has got to understand this," he said.

Zillur said the government has pledged several times to hold the election on time and hoped that the government would keep its word and hold the parliamentary elections by the end of 2008.

President

FROM PAGE 1
Comilla, Matiar, 28, of Faridpur and Sumon of Kishoreganj are among those condemned to death. The names of the other two could not be known.

A total of 14 Bangladeshi expatriates were accused in the case.

The relatives of the convicts said the Bangladeshi workers held the Egyptian on April 28, 2007, when he tried to escape after stealing electric wires from the hostel where they lived.

While they were quizzing the Egyptian youth, other Egyptian workers of a factory near the hostel swooped on the Bangladeshis resulting in a clash, during which the Egyptian got killed.

Stinky flows

FROM PAGE 1
local people know it as an 'industry of Tarique Zia and his friend Giasuddin Al Mamun' which is also contributing to the pollution.

"We all know that it is an industry belonging to Tarique Zia," comments a villager.

Initially all those industries used to discharge the waste directly into the marshland. Now all the owners have jointly laid a concrete pipe underneath the ground to discharge the liquid.

"Now all the kala pani [dark water] from those industries go into the canal through the pipe," said a villager requesting anonymity.

The villagers allege the waste has increased mosquito menace in the locality and most of the time the air is thick with chemical stink.

The untreated waste flows through the Labandaha around six kilometres in the cultivable land and ultimately falls into the Turag river near Tongi, the villagers say.

The military-backed caretaker government had earlier instructed the industrialists to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), but most of them did not do that, say sources in the Department of Environment (DoE).

Though many of the industrialists have set up ETP they do not use those to save the cost, said an official from the DoE.

Asked about proper monitoring, the official said they don't have enough manpower to monitor the polluters.

"The inspectors don't have vehicles to go to the site. Most of the time they are taken to the inspection spot on vehicles provided by the industrialists," he said, asking, "How can you expect they will submit report against those polluters?"

The DoE Dhaka Division has only two inspectors to monitor hundreds of industries in the 17 districts.

Bush welcomes Pope, says US open to his message

AP, Washington