



INDIA WIN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Dhoni's men beat England by five runs in a thrilling rain-hit final

PAGE 14

GDP GROWTH

MCCI says there has to be stable political setting to reach target

PAGE B1

KERRY IN NEW DELHI

The US secretary of state will address concern over climate, Afghan issues

PAGE 8

Gas shock halts life

Temporary shutdown of Bibiyana plant triggers nationwide crisis for hours

SHARIEF KHAN

The country yesterday had a glimpse of how life would be when there would be no gas to burn stoves, generate power or run industries.

Every home and factories that rely on gas supply experienced a steep fall in gas supplies from early morning as a major gas field, Bibiyana, had to be suddenly shut down in the previous evening for emergency repair.

City residents were seen struggling with their stoves from early morning. The situation gradually improved by 3:30pm across the city.

"There was not even a hissing sound of gas in our stove this [yesterday] morning," said Rabbi of Mohammadpur in the capital.

Islam of Mirpur managed to make his breakfast toasts and omelettes on dimly-lit burners.

□ The plant had been shut down for emergency repairs on Saturday evening

□ Fertiliser factory, power plants, industrial units affected

□ Kitchens out of gas for hours

□ Bibiyana resumed production at 6:15am yesterday

"None in my family had breakfast today [yesterday] because there was no gas," said Ali of Dhanmondi. He went out to look for breakfast at restaurants in the area.

Finding one restaurant jam packed, he went to another. There he had his breakfast and sent his driver home with breakfast for his family members.

Food shops and restaurants at the heart of the city had to use gas cylinders for cooking.

Industries that use gas-fired generators and boilers for production remained inoperative and lost a day's production.

This was a common scene in Tejgaon, Ashulia and Tongi, said officials of Titas gas transmission and distribution company, which handles half of the country's gas distribution.

The Power Development Board (PDB) that largely relies on gas for power generation was forced to effect heavy load-shedding in the morning.

"We are experiencing 700 to 800 megawatt [one-eighth of daily demand] load shedding today," said a PDB official.

It all began when the Bibiyana gas field was shut down around 6:45pm

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Aijaz Ullah Khan, the Awami League-backed mayor candidate for the Gazipur City Corporation, embraces Jahangir Alam during a press conference at Gazipur Awami League office yesterday after Jahangir announced that he was quitting the mayoral race and would work for Aijaz.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

Muslims across the country will observe the holy Shab-e-Barat tonight with due religious fervour and devotion.

The devotees will pass the night through prayer, recitation from the Holy Quran, and seeking blessings from Allah, the almighty, for peace and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

An unusual request

NHRC chief asks Limon to withdraw case against Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday asked Limon Hossain, maimed by Rab personnel in Jhalakathi two years ago, to withdraw the case his mother had filed against six Rab officials, considering his future economic



security.

Mizanur, who was reappointed NHRC chairman for a second term yesterday, told The Daily Star, "We are considering what strategy should be pursued so that Limon's interests are protected."

"We have asked him to withdraw the case if that ensures

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

Bad-mouthing in JS again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet again, the Jatiya Sangsad had to hear extremely vulgar and abusive words, thanks to two lawmakers from both the treasury and opposition benches.

There was pandemonium in the House for quite some time yesterday as ruling Awami League MP

Fazilatunnesa Bappy and opposition BNP lawmaker Rehana Akhtar Ranu launched blistering attacks on the topmost leaders of their rivals.

Apart from repeatedly warning the lawmakers, both from reserved seats for women, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury switched off Ranu's microphone six times and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

9 directors reject GB splitting plan

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Nine elected borrower-directors of Grameen Bank yesterday outright rejected suggestions of a government-sponsored commission about the future structure of the country's lone Nobel-winning organisation.

At a meeting of the 12-member board of Grameen Bank, they also protested in writing the recommendations to split the microcredit organisation into 19 entities, said Tahsina Akter, one of the directors. The board passed the protest proposal.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

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HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

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