

## Bangabazar extortion Captain, two soldiers face court-martial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A captain and two soldiers will be court-martialled on extortion charges.

A three-member field general court-martial, headed by Lt. Col. Rabiul Mahub Chowdhury, will 'immediately start trial', said Lt. Col. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, director of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Initially, five were accused of extorting money from an Indian hundi (illegal money transferer) trader on January 29 but two were later found innocent, army sources said.

Captain SM Atiqur Rahman and sepoy Mizanur Rahman and Afzalur Rahma were taken off

duty for alleged involvement in extortion.

The incident came to light as eight policemen and a police informant were caught when they went to Bangabazar Hawkers' Market in the city on February 6 to kidnap the hundi trader, Suresh Kumar Dhanuka, to extort money. They were handed over to Ramna police.

The informant, Nuruzzaman, later told court that the captain and the two soldiers extorted Taka three lakh from Suresh and that he also got share of the money.

Two arrested businessmen -- Dinesh and Nitai -- in their state

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Dhaka committed to war on terror



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the opening of the NAM Summit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

### PM tells NAM Summit

BSS, Kuala Lumpur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to global war on terrorism and stressed the need for a consensus-based international approach to combat it.

Speaking in the plenary session of the 13th summit of the 114-nation Non-Aligned Movement on its first day at Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday, the Bangladesh prime minister reminded the world leaders that the fight against terrorism will suffer without a holistic approach.

She said it would be utterly wrong to attribute the growth of terrorism to a clash between reli

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP

Jubilant Kenyan cricketers take a lap of honour at the Nairobi Gymkhana ground after upending Sri Lanka in a World Cup pool B match yesterday.

## China quake kills 258

### Death toll may rise

AFP, Beijing

At least 258 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured yesterday when an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale ripped through a remote area in northwest China, flattening hundreds of buildings, including schools.

"The death toll has risen to 258 with more than 1,000 people injured," said a Bachu County

Communist Party spokesman dealing with enquiries about the earthquake that rocked an area around Jiashi city in the western part of Xinjiang region at 10:03am (0203 GMT).

"We expect the death toll to rise when we get more information tomorrow."

An official at the Xinjiang Seismological Bureau said that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



## Tender 'tampering' puts dredger aid on the line

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh risks losing a \$15 million Spanish grant to buy dredgers for tender irregularities.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is alleged to have bent the tender guidelines so that a particular company wins the contract to buy three dredgers and accessories.

The company has links with BIWTA high-ups, sources say.

The Spanish embassy in New Delhi has already cautioned the BIWTA once against any favouritism.

The sources fear tender manipulation by some high officials in the regulatory body could prompt the Spanish government to roll back the grant.

Last year, the Danish government cancelled a grant for ferry procurement, citing "intention of corruption" in the shipping ministry. Should there be a repeat of the Danish debacle, the BIWTA would have to do with its existing fleet of seven time-worn dredgers to maintain navigability of the waterways. The BIWTA has seven dredgers, two bought in 1972 and the rest in 1975.

The grant is conditional upon exclusive participation of Spanish companies and procurement of at least 70 per cent equipment from Spain.

Another condition was that the bidders would have to be in busi-

ness for at least five years.

The BIWTA floated the tender last September and three companies -- Astilleros de Huelva SA, Metalships and Docks SA and Astilleros de Murueta -- dropped their technical and financial offers in October.

Huelva and Murueta offered Spanish dredgers and Metalships and Docks American in their technical bids. However, the BIWTA chose Metalships and Docks, which was established only in 2000.

The decision prompted the disqualified companies to lodge complaints with the Spanish government.

Later, the economic and commercial counsellor of the Spanish embassy in New Delhi asked the BIWTA planning director not to open the financial offers until it explains why Huelva and Murueta had been disqualified.

"We have been instructed by our authorities of the ministry of economy in Madrid to request you cancellation of the opening of financial bids for the project of three dredgers on January 12, 2003," Jose Miguel Andreu had written.

However, BIWTA officials are now in a hurry to fix a date to open the financial offers, sources say.

They have already requested the Spanish embassy to send its representative so that the financial offers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Kenya shock Sri Lanka

AFP, Nairobi

A little-known spinner Collins Obuya took five wickets as Kenya pulled off one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history yesterday when they beat 1996 champions Sri Lanka by 53 runs.

The dramatic triumph at the Nairobi Gymkhana was set up by Obuya who ripped the heart out of the Sri Lankan batting line-up, finishing with 5-24 off 10 overs, the ninth best bowling performance in the history of the event as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 157 off 45 overs.

Obuya's figures even managed to overshadow the better known spinning talents of Muttiah Muralitharan who earlier grabbed 4-28 as the Kenyans were limited to 210-9 off their 50 overs.

"We will think about the rest of the tournament after the celebrations," said Kenyan skipper Steve Tikolo.

"It was a fantastic win. I felt we were 30-40 runs short but the bowlers brought us back in the game

backed by some excellent fielding.

"Now we have two games to go, against Bangladesh and West Indies, and we won't be taking them lightly. We want to qualify for the Super Sixes."

The win also brought back memories of Kenya's famous 73-run win over the West Indies at the 1996 World Cup in Pune and propelled

them to the top of Group B with 12 points.

Six survivors from that game -- Tikolo, Maurice Odumbe, Kennedy Otiemo, Thomas Odoyo, Martin Suiji and Hitesh Modi -- were in the Kenyan side again on Monday.

Chasing a modest target of 211

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4