

NAM urges US

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vote against the new resolution lodged by the United States, Britain and Spain on Monday that says Iraq had missed a "final opportunity" to disarm peacefully and avoid war.

"There is no justification for suggesting any draft. The inspectors are doing their work in implementation of resolution 1441," Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam told Reuters. "Therefore, we do not agree with this draft."

Syria holds one of the revolving seats on the 15-member Security Council and is the only Arab member.

NAM's views matter because six members are currently on the UN Security Council — Angola, Guinea, Chile, Pakistan, Cameroon and Syria. Seven votes against can defeat a resolution.

Delegates from Cameroon and Pakistan said they needed to take a close look at the resolution before they could comment, and Angola appeared to be leaning toward rejecting it.

"No war -- don't you worry about it. The NAM way which will be presented tonight will be the best way," M Izata, minister at Angola's mission to the United Nations, told Reuters.

Most developing nations want inspectors in Iraq to be given more time, fitting in with an alternative resolution proposed by France and Germany, supported by Russia and China, that would extend UN weapons inspections for at least four months.

NAM nations have seized on a March 1 deadline for Iraq to start destroying longer-range missiles and avert war and chief weapons inspector Hans Blix's report around a week later.

"We need to wait for their reports before jumping to decisions on what needs to be done further," Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf told a news conference.

Leaders stressed the need to respect UN processes as NAM struggles for relevance in a world left with just one superpower.

Speeches that increasingly pitched the Third World against the richer nations maintained the theme of opposition to war while urging Iraq to comply with UN resolutions and get rid of any weapons of mass destruction.

The United States, Britain and the West "have turned themselves into ferocious hunting bulldogs raring to go as they sniff for more blood, Third World blood," Mugabe said.

The summit was set to issue a statement that Baghdad comply

with UN demands and scrap weapons of mass destruction, but it would also take a swipe at the United States by stressing the need for multilateral, rather than unilateral, action.

The United States, backed by Britain, is massing troops on Iraq's border and threatening war unless Saddam Hussein surrenders the alleged weapons.

Many NAM members want to discuss ways to boost the living standards of countries whose 116 economies combined are equal only to 90 per cent of the US economy, but the issue of weapons of mass destruction dominated and North Korea's missile test may force yet another last-minute change to their final statement.

3 candidates demand army deployment in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The two defiant BNP leaders contesting the mayoral polls and the Awami League-backed candidate have demanded army deployment for holding of a free and fair election.

BNP-backed candidate Whip Mojibur Rahman Sarwar has "no opinion" on this. He however said he will "hail every step including army deployment" for holding of a free and fair election.

The government and the Election Commission will take the decision, he told this correspondent yesterday.

The defiant BNP leaders Eabdul Huq Chan and Ahsan Habib Kamal — said they apprehend "attacks" on their workers and supporters by those of Sarwar.

Chan, district BNP Secretary, who is seen as Sarwar's formidable rival in the race, alleged "heavy pressure" on him to withdraw his candidature and to support the party-backed candidate.

Kamal, city BNP president and mayor-in-charge, alleged that his workers were already getting "threats".

AL-backed candidate Enayet Pir Khan demanded army deployment, saying the law and order may deteriorate as the ruling party here is divided on the city corporation election.

24 more NGOs quit ADAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four more non-government organisations (NGOs) have quit the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB).

The NGOs in a press release yesterday jointly alleged that ADAB was disseminating inaccurate information and ignoring the majority opinion in organisational matters, which have resulted in isolation of the NGO sector.

They also said the ADAB president's comments on the second national convention of the NGOs held at Mirpur in the city on February 23 were unacceptable.

The NGOs which have quit ADAB are: Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Bandhon Society and Suryamukhi Shisu Sangha of Dhaka, NGO Forum, Disha and Association for Under Privileged People's Education and Welfare Programme, (AUPEWP) of Comilla, Bangladesh Prograti Sangstha (BPS) and Janakalyan Foundation of Sirajganj, Setu Banglaesh and Sathkira Unnayan Sangstha of Sathkira.

And the rest are: Prottasha Paribesh Unnayan Sangstha of Tangail, Samaj Unnayan Kamasuchi of Natore, Nari Kalayan Sangstha(NKS) of Rajbari, Palli Sheba Sangstha, Janosheba Sangstha and Kumamad Samata Samity of Kushtia, Unity for Social Advancement of Chuadanga, Samaj Gabeshona and Unnayan Sangstha and Mahila Kalayan Sangstha of Jessore, Bangladesh Sramajibi Mahila Samity of Bogra, Uddok and Save the Genesis of Gaibandha, Janosheba Sangstha and Rural Unemployment Removal Organisation(RURO).

Goswami murder case transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Schoolteacher Swapna Kumar Goswami murder case has been transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka Division, for disposal.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court transferred the case to the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for trial.

The tribunal yesterday fixed March 2 for hearing on charge-framing against the accused in the case. Tribunal Judge Shahed Noor Uddin issued the order after the case was placed before him.

On January 8, the Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted a charge sheet against nine people.

The accused are Jalal alias Zillu, Rifat Akhond, Moksudur Rahman Biplob, AKM Mosharraf Hossain Arman, Mahmodul Hasan Johny, SM Sabbir Rahman alias Shantanu, Tanvir Sharif Apun, Parosh and Shahidul Islam alias Shuvo.

Of them, Biplob, Arman and Shuvo have been absconding since the incident while the rest six are now in jail custody. Rifat has become an approver in the case.

Swapna Kumar Goswami, a teacher of the Government Laboratory High School in the city, was shot dead on October 26 near his residence at Bhutergoli.

One killed, 75 hurt in Shariatpur bus mishap

UNB, Shariatpur

A bus driver was killed and 75 passengers, including a number of UP election officials and employees were injured in a bus mishap in DM Khali area of Bhedorganj upazila Monday night.

Police said the accident took place when the Alu Bazar-bound bus from Bhedorganj upazila headquarters plunged into a roadside ditch, killing its driver Mujibur Rahman, 39, on the spot. The officials and employees were going to perform election duty at Alu Bazar.

Twenty-two of the injured, including policemen Shangkar, Selim and Jalil, were admitted to Sadar hospital. Four election officials were sent to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

Other injured were admitted to Dhaka health complex and different clinics.

UN official

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Development Programme (UNDP) publishes a report next year on how various countries have fared towards achieving the MDG.

At the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders agreed to halve poverty by 2015 and give people better access to all basic necessities.

They also pledged to reduce child and maternal mortality and environmental degradation.

Shazneen case

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Shazneen Tasmin Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

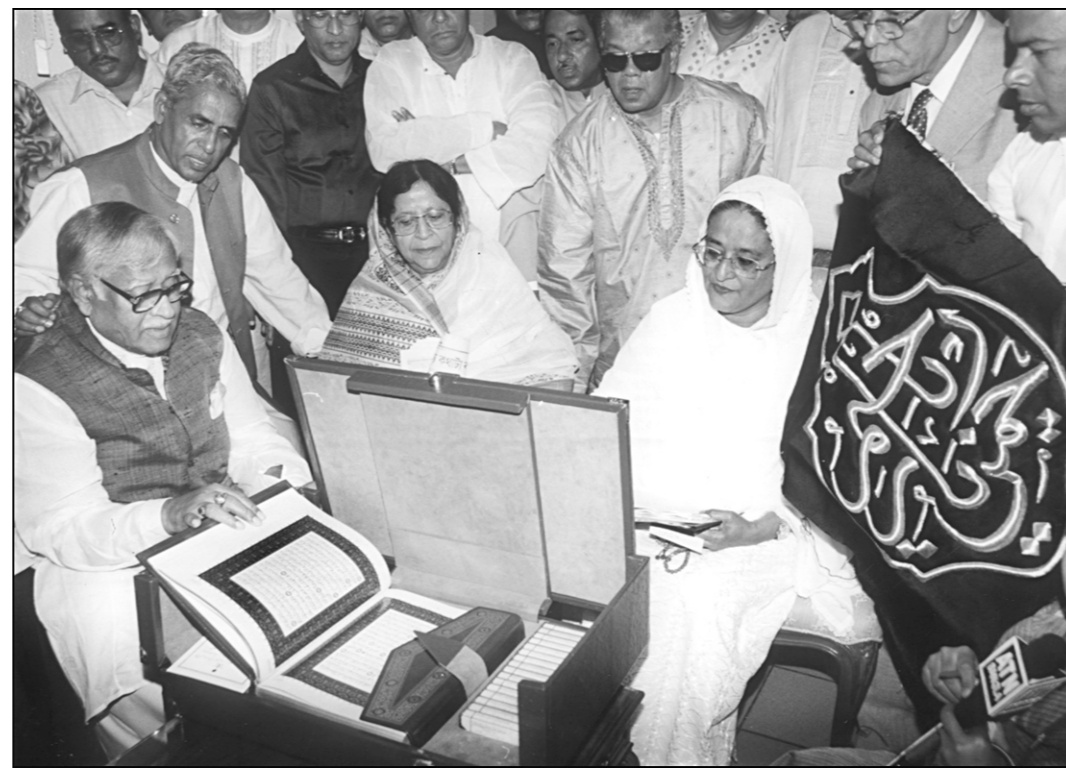


PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina shows her party men a copy of the Qur'an presented to her by Saudi King Fahd bin AbdulAziz.

Mission damage control

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because the middle-order batsman scored a hundred in a four-day match two years ago.

Bashar, who was not considered after the shock 60-run loss to Canada, also can boast of success here. During the third one-day international against South Africa last year, he made a brilliant 54.

Hannan, the first of Sri Lankan Chaminda Vaas' hattrick victims, will again open the innings with young Mohammad Ashraful.

Medium-pace Baishya got a chance to share the new ball with Manjural after Talha Jubair proved wayward in the last two games.

The Bangladesh captain said his team would be satisfied just to give them a close match before their final match against Kenya on February 1.

"Obviously New Zealand are under a bit of pressure because they have to win but we're not thinking about them, we're just thinking about ourselves," said Mashud.

However, the record against New Zealand is rather disappointing. They were bowled out for 113 against Kiwis in the 1999 World Cup. And when the teams last met in the ICC Champions Trophy

Bangladesh were bowled out for 77, their second lowest score in one-day cricket.

Although Mashud and coach Mohsin Kamal, who appeared in only his second press briefing, tried to focus on the match against New Zealand, they faced more questions about Kenya's upset win over Sri Lanka on Monday.

"Obviously New Zealand are the favourites but you saw that anything can happen," Kamal said.

"We know we have the ability to play good cricket but we just need to do it under pressure."

Kamal said Kenya's unexpected 53-run win over Sri Lanka proved the developing nations deserved their chance to play at the World Cup and would inspire the smaller teams to try and pull off their own upset in the final days of the competition.

"It's given us a boost because we know we can play good cricket as well," said Kamal, a former Pakistan Test bowler.

"It has actually inspired us a lot rather than confuse us. It has given us the courage to play well against New Zealand."

Asked whether Kenya deserved

Test status, Kamal said it was matter to be discussed by the governing body of cricket.

"If you ask me I'm not in a position to make an opening and we should focus only on the game."

If Bangladesh were going to win the March 1 battle against Kenya at the Wanderers Kamal replied: "Did the Kenyans say they would win the match against Sri Lanka?"

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Khaled Mashud (captain), Alok Kapali, Habibul Bashar, Hannan Sarker, Ehsanul Haque, Khaled Mahmud, Manjural Islam, Akram Khan, Mohammad Ashraful, Mohammad Rafique, Tapash Baishya.

NEW ZEALAND: (from) Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, Chris Cairns, Lou Vincent, Chris Harris, Brendon McCullum, Andre Adams, Daniel Vettori, Jacob Oram, Shane Bond, Craig McMillan, Kyle Mills, Daryl Tuffey, Mathew Sinclair.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England), Darrell Hair (Australia)

TV umpire: Brian Jerling (RSA)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

Wasim's 500th wicket

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Pakistan's struggling batsmen failed to take full advantage of batting first on an easy-paced pitch, with only Yousuf Youhana making a half-century in a total of 253 for nine after Pakistan were surprisingly asked to bat on a hot day.

The Netherlands total of 156 was boosted by whopping 40 extras conceded by the Pakistanis.

It was the highest number of extras conceded so far in the tournament, eclipsing the 31 squandered also by Pakistan against Australia.

The bowlers conceded six no-balls and 17 wides.

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar took three for 26 but ten wides counted against him, including four penalty runs when a wide went down the leg-side to the boundary.

Youhana hit 58 off 59 balls with four fours. Recalled opening batsman Taufeeq Umar made a solid 48 before he was run out, while Abdul Razzaq scored 47 after being pushed up the order to number three.

A conspicuous failure for Pakistan was star batsman Inzamamul Haq, who was leg-before to Tim de Leede off the second ball he faced, his second successive duck in the tournament. Inzamam was unlucky to be given out by Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan because he appeared to get an inside edge as he played around his pad.

Inzamam, Pakistan's main batting hope ahead of the India game, has made only 10 runs in four innings in the World Cup.

The Dutch medium-pace and slow bowlers proved difficult to score off on a slow pitch, with left-arm spinner Jacob-Jan Esmenjejer conceding just 35 runs in an unbroken 10-over spell.

Roland Lefebvre, Holland's 40-year-old captain, also bowled steadily, taking one for 39 in his ten overs.

The fragile Dutch batting was no match for Pakistan's bowlers and Wasim needed just seven balls to become the first man to take 500 wickets in one-day internationals.

Nick Statham failed to get fully behind the line as he prodded half-forward and the ball spun back off his bat to roll into the stumps.

Wasim, playing in his 354th match, added the wicket of Klaas van Noordwijk, who was caught behind as the Dutch crashed to 43 for four.

The left-arm seamer finished off the innings when he trapped last man Jeroen Smits leg before.

Wasim had figures of three for 24.

The World Cup outsiders made a

recovery with Tim de Leede and top-scorer Daan van Bunge putting on 35 for the fifth wicket but never looked likely to get close to the Pakistan total.

Van Bunge, who made 62 on the same ground against India in their opening match, scored 31 before he was caught behind off Razzaq.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Pool A match between Pakistan and the Netherlands at Boland Park on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Esmenjejer b De Leede	25
Razzaq c Smits b Van Bunge	47
Inzamam lbw b De Leede	0
Youhana b Lefebvre	58
Elahi c Zaidert b Van Bunge	5
Latif c Van Bunge b Schiferli	24
Wasim run out	1
Akhtar not out	26
Waqr c and b Mol	1
Saqain not out	3
Extras: (b-6, lb-8, w-6)	15
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	253
Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-106, 3-108, 4-143, 5-153, 6-192, 7-196, 8-238, 9-245	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Schiferli	10	1	48	1
Lefebvre	10	1	39	1
De Leede	10	0	53	2
Van Troost	2	0	18	0
Esmenjejer	10	0	35	0
Van Bunge	4	0	27	2
Mol	4	0	24	1

NETHERLANDS	O	M	R	W
Statham b Wasim	0			
Schiferli c Razzaq b Shoaib	9			
Zaidert lbw b Waqr	8			
Noordwijk c Latif b Wasim	7			
De Leede c Shoaib b Saqain	15			
Van Bunge c Latif b Razzaq	31			
Lvan Troost c Latif b Shoaib	22			
Mol b Shoaib	13			
Esmenjejer lbw b Anwar	4			
Lefebvre not out	0			
Smits lbw b Wasim	7			
Extras: (b-6, lb-11, w-17, nb-6)	40			
Total: (All out in 39.3 overs)	156			
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-31, 3-35, 4-43, 5-78, 6-108, 7-135, 8-136, 9-138				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Wasim	8.3	2	24	3
Shoaib	7	1	26	3
Waqr	6	1	19	1
Saqain	8	2	32	1
Razzaq	6	0	23	1
Anwar	4	0	15	1

Result: Pakistan won by 97 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Yousuf Youhana.

Toss: Netherlands.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIs) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (Ind).

TV umpire: Tyrone Wijewardene (Sri)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIs)

Buriganga

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"dead slow".

"All rivers and canals around the city are extremely contaminated due to the dead slow tides," said a BIWTA official requesting anonymity.

According to a hydrographic survey, the flow of water into the Buriganga is hampered at an upstream point in the Jamuna near the Bangabandhu Bridge.

The confluence has become blocked due to siltation, it said and recommended immediate dredging to ensure free flow of water into the Buriganga.

An expert in the BIWTA said the problem of "slow tide" in fact started about two years back, which prompted the authorities to launch the investigation.

The channels in the upstream must be cleared so that the Buriganga gets back its original flow, another hydrographer said.

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a survey in 1997 found that oxygen in the river was at zero level, for which its marine life depleted.

Although the survey report was published in newspapers, the authorities are yet to take any step to check dumping of wastes. Even formal announcement by the government for relocating the tanneries gathered no momentum so far.

Moreover, the DoE is learnt to be giving environmental clearance to new industries along the Buriganga. These new industries have no retention points or treatment plants for their wastes.

Hasina

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NAM Summit in Dhaka and said, "They (the government) did it to misappropriate the money allotted for the conference."

Hasina said the home minister recently banned activities of a fundamentalist party in Rajshahi although the government has been denying the existence of such groups.

She criticised the Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia for not meeting her. "I deserve it as the leader of the opposition and former prime minister," she said.

N'ganj crime

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and don't want to file cases against the extortionists," said a garment factory owner.

Shamim Osman, a former AL lawmaker, and his supporters allegedly extorted crores of taka from business establishments in Narayanganj during the AL rule.

Terror-risk list

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support allegations in the article that Bangladesh "a heaven for hundreds of Jihadis on the lam".

They said Ambassador Mary Ann Peters continued by stating that the embassy is not aware of any basis for the story that a ship called the M.V. Mecca dropped off a large al-Qaeda group in Chittagong last year.

"The article appeared to contain numerous unsubstantiated allegations," they said quoting Ambassador Peters.

The Congressmen said according to Peters the Bangladesh government has been a staunch member of the international coalition against terrorism. While international terrorists can be found anywhere — as they have been in the US itself and in dozens of countries from Spain to Singapore — Bangladesh is certainly not "a hothbed of radical Islam."

The Congressmen supported the views of the US ambassador in Dhaka and expressed their willingness to produce a detailed explanation behind the decision of the DoI.

BSS adds: US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) authorities have started registering male non-immigrant Bangladeshis above 16 years now placed under special category.

The registration will continue until April 25 and be carried out under the US Homeland Security Act to identify people living in the US without valid papers.

Male non-immigrant Bangladeshis born on or before February 14, 1987 who entered the US before September 30, 2002 with I-94 cards and will continue to stay there after March 28, 2003 must register with the INS.

Female Bangladeshis, Bangladeshis who obtained green cards or political asylum, whose application for political asylum before January 16, 2003 are still being processed, who were granted refugee status in the US and who entered the US without a visa have been exempted

Moudud

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although it was not written in the constitution, the chief justice's recommendation should be considered part of law.

"It is the chief justice who knows the performance of the additional judges much better than the government," Ozaer Faruk told The Daily Star last night. "We will go as far as necessary to make the government accept the chief justice's recommendations."

The meeting was attended by former Bar Association president Shawkat Ali Khan, Sudhangsu Shekhar Haldar, Rabiya Bhuiyan and Rokonuddin Mahmud among others.

The Bar Association will stage a hunger strike and boycott the Supreme Court on March 1 if the government does not confirm the services of the judges by tomorrow.

2 bills passed

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Tk 10,000 on any one travelling to any country from Bangladesh by land, air or waterways. And the government would determine the rate by making rules in line with the Act.

Till the rate is fixed, foreigners travelling by air to North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Australia and to any Far East countries and New Zealand will have to pay Tk 2,500 in travel tax.

Those travelling by air to other countries in the region, excepting the SAARC countries, will have to pay levy at a rate of Tk 1,800. For air travel to the SAARC countries, one will have to pay a tax of Tk 600. The rates for travel by land routes and waterways are Tk 500 and 800 respectively.

The act also provides for exemption of any person or a section of the people from paying the levy subject to government notification.

It also exempted children, cancer patients, blind people, the disabled, airline crew, foreign diplomats and their family members, pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia, transit passengers staying not more than 72 hours and any Bangladesh national having any other job, who goes abroad without any fare or at a reduced fare.

Khaleda, Musharraf

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Shahraziz binti Abdul Jalil also called on her.

The meeting between Khaleda and Castro was unscheduled.

During her meetings with leaders of SAARC countries — Pakistan and Nepal — Khaleda requested them to try to hold the summit of the regional organisation as early as possible.

At the meeting between the Pakistan president and the