

DHAKA TODAY

Painting exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition titled 'Japan-Bangladesh cultural bond through painting', organised jointly by the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University and the Embassy of Japan, will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 11.00am. The exhibition will remain open till March 16 from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Education exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day Australian Education Exhibition will be held with Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am.

Meeting

Chinta, a fortnightly magazine, organises an opinion sharing meeting on 'Civil Defence, National Sovereignty and Regional Situation'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Orientation

The inaugural function of a three-day Feature Writing Orientation, organised by the Mass-line Media Centre, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Management, Sobhanbagh. Time: 9.00am.

IUBAT seminar

International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) organises a seminar on 'Developing professional managers: Emerging challenges'. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm.

LSSP seminar

Legislative Support Service Project (LSSP) organises a seminar on

'Perception of governance: The unheard voices'. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Prize giving ceremony

A prize giving ceremony, organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, for the winners of its book-reading programme will be held. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of the 3rd International Poultry show and seminar will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 3.00pm.

JSD discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organises a discussion marking the first hoisting of the flag of independence. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Sammitto Sangskritik Jole organises a meeting in memory of renowned artist Golam Mustafa. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5.00pm.



ICAB discussion

A discussion on 'Corporate Governance: The Role of Accountants', organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), will be held with Industries Minister MK Anwar as chief guest. Venue: ICAB auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Talks with Sinha helped reduce tensions with India: Morshed

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan yesterday said his recent talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha substantially reduced tensions along the border over India's attempts to push Bengali-speaking Muslims into Bangladesh. "The single-biggest achievement of my visit to India is that both the countries have recognised that any conflict could be solved at the table, not on frontiers. And I am glad that the real threat of a conflict has gone," he told reporters at the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon.

The foreign minister visited India and held talks with his Indian counterpart Sinha on February 14 in Delhi. Khan said a foreign secretary-level meeting would be held in Dhaka next month when all bilateral issues would be discussed to find out solutions. "We may not resolve all issues overnight, but what we want is constant interactions and engagements to that effect," he said.

About the recent exchange of fire between BSF and BDR, the foreign minister said the issue is nothing new and has been going on for the last 30 years.

On the European Parliamentary delegation's statement on certain crucial issues with Bangladesh, Morshed Khan declined to make any comment since "he was not in the country at that time", but said the team came here on a fact-finding mission.

He however said its resolution adopted on November 23 last year was "unilateral move".

5-year-old girl raped allegedly by neighbour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A five-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a young man in village Dhanaruya under Shaghata upazila on Friday.

Family sources said the girl was playing in the yard when her neighbour Ershad, 18, took her to his house and raped her.

The girl was taken to Shaghata Health Complex in a critical condition.

The alleged rapist was still at large till filing of this report. Police arrested five members of Ershad's family.

SC lawyers

FROM PAGE 1
Reza Chowdhury entered his chamber. Later, Bar President Ozaer Faruk and some senior lawyers held a meeting with him.

Some senior lawyers visited different benches of the court and urged the lawyers there to join the demonstration. Many working lawyers responded instantaneously and joined the agitation. As a result, most of the benches ran short of lawyers and trial was disrupted.

At noon, the bar association ended the boycott and organised a rally. Its leaders were hopeful that the chief justice would play an effective role in resolving the crisis by March 13.

The bar association also decided to exchange views with various organisations of professionals, intellectuals, teachers, engineers and others and if necessary, with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

The rally asked the Law Minister to withdraw his 'false' statement that the chief justice had not recommended in favour of confirmation of the services of the six judges.

Presided over by Ozaer Faruk, the rally, among others, was addressed by Shaikat Ali Khan, Abdul Basat Majumder, Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Rokonuddin Mahmud, Mahbube Alam, Yusuf Hossain Humaiyun, Abdul Matin Khasru.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the foundation laying ceremony of the nine-storey Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday.

Tendulkar dashes Pak hopes

FROM PAGE 1

time he was dismissed in the 28th over. Tendulkar had taken 12 boundaries and a six off the Pakistani attack.

Waqar sent a scare through the Indian camp by removing Sehwaq (21) and Saurav Ganguly off successive deliveries in the sixth over.

Mohammad Kaif, promoted to number four, denied Waqar a hat-trick and then settled down to make 35 in a third-wicket stand of 102 with Tendulkar.

India still needed 97 more when Tendulkar was removed. Rahul Dravid and Yuvraj Singh kept their cool to see their team home without any hiccups.

Dravid returned unbeaten on 44, having hit the winning boundary off Waqar, and Yuvraj made 50 not out to seal one of India's best one-day performances in recent times.

Some 22,000 fans, many of whom had travelled all the way from India and Pakistan, were at hand to watch the first international between the warring South Asian neighbours since June, 2000.

The victory overshadowed a defiant 101 by Pakistani opener Saeeed Anwar who held the innings

together after Waqar won the toss and elected to bat on a hot day.

Anwar celebrated his 50th match against India by completing 2,000 runs against the old foe and joined Ganguly as the second highest century-maker with a joint tally of 20.

Pakistan slipped from 90-1 to 98-3 before Yousef Youhana joined Anwar to retrieve the situation with a 73-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Pakistan were again pegged back to 208-6 in the 42nd over, but Younis Khan (32) and Rashid Latif (29 not out) put on 48 off 41 balls to lift the total past the 250-run mark.

Wasim Akram ended the innings in style with boundaries off the last two balls from Nehra.

Pakistan reached the high score despite the unfortunate run out of premier batsman Inzamam ul Haq for six.

Inzamam had rushed to the middle after the fall of the second wicket determined to get over the lean trot which has seen him make just 10 runs in the tournament.

He smashed his first delivery from Anil Kumble straight back over the bowler's head for a bound-

ary, but failed to last the over when Anwar did not respond to his call for a single.

A distraught Inzamam trudged back slowly back to the pavilion as the giant scoreboard highlighted the 35th run out in his otherwise brilliant career.

(Scoreboard on page 15)

Dacoits kill jute trader in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

A jute trader was slaughtered by dacoits at Shumbhupur village in Bera upazila on Friday night.

Police said a gang of dacoits stormed into the house of Anwar Ali Gayen, 65, at the dead of night and slaughtered him as he tried to resist them.

The gang then took away cash and valuables, tying up his family members. A case was filed.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina tells US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca (M) that inclusion of Bangladesh in terror-list is unjust. US Ambassador Mary Ann Perers (R) was also there.

Missile destruction begins: Iraq

FROM PAGE 1

missile expert on Friday evening - the first such interviews since Feb. 7.

"This is positive news," Ueki said.

The two developments - both key demands of the weapons inspectors - were likely to affect next week's address to the UN Security Council by Blix.

Reuters from Washington adds: The United States dismissed Iraq's pledge to destroy missiles as "propaganda wrapped in a lie inside a falsehood" and said the move will still leave Baghdad short of U.N. demands and not stop the march toward a possible war.

Iraq's vow to destroy its al-Samoud 2 ballistic missiles, whose 90 mile range exceeds the U.N. limit set in 1991, set off a round of denunciations at the White House.

"That's the problem with Saddam Hussein. Every time he's under pressure, he tries to relieve the pressure by disarming just a touch, just a little, playing the game, playing the deception," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

The U.S. reaction was that the missiles represented only the tip of the iceberg and that Baghdad was trying to mask the fact that it has mass stores of weapons of mass destruction it is required to disarm under U.N. resolution 1441.

"The Iraqi actions are propaganda wrapped in a lie inside a falsehood," Fleischer said.

The Iraqi move complicated the U.S.-British push to gain Security Council support for a new U.N. resolution that would set the stage for war.

With France saying there was no Security Council majority for the resolution and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov threatening a veto, U.S. officials still believed it was possible to get the nine needed votes to gain passage from the 15-member Security Council.

U.S. statements that Bush wants regime change in Baghdad in addition to total disarmament drew the ire of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who said in Mexico City that U.N. resolution 1441 did not mention regime change.

"So if we decide he's (Saddam) no good, who's going to be the next one?...What about the others? That is a very dangerous concept," he said.

Fleischer said Bush's goal is still to end the crisis peacefully. "He hopes it can be done peacefully but the goal remains disarmament and regime change," he said.

He raised the idea of Saddam and his top lieutenants going into exile as a way to avert war.

"The president remains hopeful

that Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants will go into exile or that he will completely and totally disarm," he said.

Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and others are engaged in an intensive diplomatic effort for the resolution.

Bush needs the resolution as a show of international unity behind his drive for a war to disarm Iraq's alleged weapons and topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Bush spoke by phone on Thursday to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who like the leaders of France and China have said inspectors should be given more time.

U.S. officials refused to predict the ultimate outcome, but held out hope of getting to nine votes with no veto from permanent Security Council members Russia, China and France.

"We don't take at this point anybody's vote for granted and we'll see how they vote. We haven't seen anybody definitively take a position on the resolution that is irrevocable," said one senior administration official.

Another official, noting the Nov. 8 passage of resolution 1441 was 15-0, said, "Nobody is counting on 15-0 this time, but we think we can get to

nine."

The United States is building a large military force in the Gulf region for a possible war with Iraq, including about 200,000 ground troops, Bush has said the United States will act against Iraq with a coalition of like-minded nations with or without U.N. backing.

JCD factions

FROM PAGE 12

Sources said, the incident took place when Mohammad Selim assaulted Khorsheed, a member of Wahid Mir Nasir group, in front of the administrative building at noon.

Later, Khorsheed along with some other leaders and activists of Wahid Mir Nasir group manhandled Selim at the same place. Five activists of Noman group were also attacked when they came to rescue Selim.

Later, police rescued Selim and forced the leaders and activists of both the factions to leave the campus. Protesting the attack on Selim, Milton Chowdhury, general secretary of JCD CU unit, demanded expulsion of the cadres belonging to Wahid Mir Nasir group from the organisation.

He also demanded punishment of those responsible for the incident.

Finest moment

FROM PAGE 1

was the one Bangladeshi who threatened to take the match away from them.

Obuya had substitute Joseph Angara take a brilliant catch with one hand at point when Tushar had cut him uppishly. Bangladesh were then reeling on 111-5 in the 29th over.

Veteran Akram Khan and Sanwar Hossain were going well until Sanwar was caught by Martin Suji at long-off in the 39th over with his side on 151.

Odumbe and skipper Steve Tikolo then gradually strangled the Bangladesh late order with some accurate spin bowling. And when Akram was the ninth man out - caught by Hitesh Modi in the deep for a laborious 44 with Bangladesh on 180 - Kenya knew history was just a wicket away. Odumbe took four for 38 and Tikolo three for 14 including the last wicket of Monjurul Islam.

Suji had struck two early blows, removing openers Al-Shahriar and Mohammad Ashraf in consecutive balls. Al-Shahriar, after impressively lofting the seamer over deep square for six, launched himself at one which was too wide and snicked to keeper Kennedy Obuya for 14.

Ashraf then edged the first ball of Suji's following over on to his legs, but umpire Asoka De Silva believed the ball directly hit him on the pads and ruled Ashraf out lbw.

Bangladesh skipper Khaled Mashud steadied the innings, but after seeing his side past 50, edged Collins Obuya to Ravendus Shah at first slip in the spinner's first over.

Alok Kapali batted sensibly for sometime and even hooked Peter Ongondo into the bleachers. But the young all-rounder played a gentle Odumbe off-spinner poorly to give an edge behind the wicket with the score on 99-4.

Earlier, Odumbe came good with a quick 50 as Kenya eventually reached a respectable total.

The experienced Odumbe was charged with the responsibility of taking his side past the psychologically important 200-mark after seeing fellow stroke-makers Steve Tikolo and Shah fail to assert themselves on a tidy, but limited Bangladesh attack.

The Bangladeshis helped the Kenyan cause with some appalling fielding. Tikolo was dropped twice in as many balls in the 24th over. Crab-like left-hander Hitesh Modi benefited from a shocker by wicket-keeper Mashud four overs later and Odumbe was spilled near the end.

The unfortunate bowler on the first three occasions was medium pacer Khaled Mahmud, as he saw Al-Shahriar spill a dolly at mid-wicket and then his skipper fail to

grasp a Tikolo tinkle to his right-hand side.

If that was horrible, then Mashud's blunder when Modi obliged with an edge was criminal. The ball went straight into his gloves at a perfect height and bounced out. Mashud grasped it again but somehow managed to let it slip as he needlessly tumbled onto the turf.

Tikolo was eventually dismissed, bowled round his legs while trying to sweep spinner Sanwar for an uncharacteristically scratchy 27 to leave his side on 116-4.

Modi perished with his umpteenth mis-timed shot, lobbing a pull back to Sanwar in the 35th over with the score on 124. He made just 12 off 38 balls.

Odumbe, with support from Thomas Odoyo and Obuya, then took up the cudgels and reached his 50 in just 45 balls with a square cut in the final over.

Left-arm seamer Monjurul had troubled the Kenyans with his slanting line across the right-handers from the off and induced an edge from Kennedy Otieno in the first over, which was gleefully claimed by Mashud.

Brijesh Patel and Shah put on 68 for the second wicket until Patel picked up Monjurul at backward square-leg off Mahmud for 32. Shah then misjudged an off-drive against slow left-armed Mohammad Rafique's and Akram Khan took a smart catch at extra cover.

Odumbe and Odoyo put on 40 for the sixth wicket until the latter was caught plumb in front by Sanwar. Obuya went on to hit a run-a-ball 22 before being comprehensively bowled by Tapash Baisya. (Scoreboard on page 15)

US-British raids on Iraqi sites

REUTERS, Baghdad

The Iraqi military said air raids on northern and southern Iraq by US-British planes injured three civilians and destroyed an airport radar station on Friday.

"The enemy attacked our civilian and infrastructure facilities in Ninawa province, injuring three citizens and damaging three cars," an army spokesman was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying.

Inter-city trains

FROM PAGE 12

Joyantika have also been advanced to adjust their delay in reaching Sylhet.

When introduced in late '80, these inter-city trains used to reach Sylhet from Dhaka within six and a half hours but now they take about nine hours.

The Sylhet Division Development Council appealed to the authorities several times to improve the service and make the journey safe. The situation will improve to some extent only if the unscheduled stoppages can be avoided, the Council's president Ragib Ali and general secretary Wesur Rahman Chowdhury said.

Safety has now become a concern, some passengers alleged. When the trains run slowly in Akhaura-Brahmanbaria section, often brickbats are thrown.

Last month, a Bangladeshi who lives in UK while going home in Sylhet was injured when a flying stone hit him soon after the train left Akhaura junction.

Other passengers pulled the 'chain' to halt the train, but it was not functioning. Attendants and guards in the train were also of no help.

Acknowledging such incidents, a railway official said they requested the district and police administrations concerned many a times to check the menace, but to no effect.

PSC refutes

FROM PAGE 12

Bangla of the Degree (Pass) examinations held under the National University were allegedly leaked out.

Meanwhile, opposition Awami League's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday called a student strike at all educational institutions across the country on March 4 in protest at the leakage.

The BCL also demanded cancellation of the test and resignation of the PSC chairman.

Addressing a rally on Dhaka University campus yesterday, BCL President Liaquat Sikdar asked the PSC chairman to resign. "We want proper investigation into the allegation and exemplary punishment to those involved in the scam," he said.

The BCL also will demonstrate in all educational institutions today and tomorrow protesting the leakage.

"What are the intelligence agencies of the government doing when the BCS preliminary test questions were sold almost in the open," he asked.

The Democratic Students Unity, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, at a press conference also demanded resignation of the PSC chairman and cancellation of the test.

Cong pushes BJP off

FROM PAGE 1

Lok Sabha - the assembly election outcome here was important for both BJP and Congress. The reason is that it was the first test of ballots after the assembly elections in the western state of Gujarat in December last year when the saffron party romped back to power riding a wave of its core ideology of "Hindutva."

But clearly, Hindutva did not click in Himachal, a state with a 98 per cent Hindu population, where the Congress attacked the BJP for corruption and lack of development.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi described her party's victory in Himachal Pradesh "satisfactory".

In the 1998 assembly polls, the BJP did not win a majority but had emerged as the single largest party and forged alliance with expelled Congress leader and former federal minister Sukh Ram to form government.

This time, both BJP and Congress had fielded their top leaders for campaigning in Himachal Pradesh, including Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Deputy Prime Minister L. K. Advani and Sonia Gandhi.

Several federal ministers belonging to the BJP and Congress

chief ministers of states had also joined the electioneering in the state.

The Left Front win in Tripura's 60-member legislature once again demonstrates its unquestioned sway over the state.

The Front's main election plank in the state was security. It accused Congress of joining hands with pro-insurgency Indigenous People's Party of Tripura (INPT) headed by former guerrilla leader Bijoy Hranhawli.

The Left fronts had alleged that the INPT was a political wing of outlawed militants' outfit, National Liberation Front of Tripura, a charge that both Congress and the INPT denied.

Polls violence

FROM PAGE 12

Nine of the injured were identified as Harasit Chakraborty, 30, Sree Ram Gharani, 28, Chowkidar Mistry, 33, Maniuruzaman, 32, Mostofa, 28, Dafadar Moral, 36, Golam Mostofa, 28, Dukheram 55, and Nripen, 50. Identity of others could not be known.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested three supporters of Asim Mridha.

The arrestees are Kader, Rashid and Khokon Mallik.