

### Kenya history-makers

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Heath Streak won the toss.
Martin Suji, with three for 19, made the early breakthroughs before leg-spinner Collins Obuya ripped through the middle-order with three for 32.

Odoyo also captured the prize wicket of Flower who confirmed on Tuesday that he will bring down the curtain on his international career as soon as the World Cup ends.

The left-hander was bowled round his legs having faced 101 balls.
Former captain Alistair Campbell, drafted into the squad following Mark Vermeulen's skull fracture, managed just seven before he was lured to Suji on a slow pitch where runs were hard to come by.

Zimbabwe's innings was summed up by the comical run out of Andy Blygnaut for four.

After Flower called him through and then sent him back, both batsmen ended up diving into the striker's end as Maurice Odumbe's throw arrived into keeper Kennedy Otieno, who sprinted down the pitch to complete the run out.

Zimbabwe recalled Henry Olonga for his first World Cup appearance since he and Flower staged their controversial black armband protest against President Robert Mugabe's regime during the team's tournament opener against Namibia in Harare on February 10.

Kenya opener Ravindu Shah was dropped twice and survived a confident appeal for caught behind before he was run out for 14, backing up ironically off another dropped catch by bowler Blygnaut.

And Blygnaut missed another opportunity of his own bowling when he put down a drive by Otieno on the night.

But Streak made no mistake when he safely held out-of-form Steve Tikolo at mid-off after the Kenya captain mistook Blygnaut to leave his side 33 for two in the 10th over.

Olonga did not help Zimbabwe's cause with eight no-balls.

It was symbolic of a poor display by a Zimbabwe side rocked by the pre-match resignation of selector Andy Pycroft.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six match between Kenya and Zimbabwe at Goodyear Park in Bloemfontein on Wednesday.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like Wishart, Otienu, Suji, Campbell, Obuya, Odoyo, Flower, Otienu, Suji, Taibu.

### Standing body

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tials, series of bomb explosions, law and order. The Speaker rejected such notices on what he claimed 'valid' reasons.

Main opposition AL lawmakers submitted notices on 10 specific issues. They even proposed that the House adopt a joint resolution on the issues of US terror-risk list and push-in after a discussion and send them to the relevant governments to convey the sentiment of the Jatuya Sangsad.

Throughout the session, lawmakers often were not in the House in time. Even, the 16th sitting started without quorum half an hour behind schedule, a violation of the parliamentary rules of procedure.

The front-row treasury benches stood up on almost every occasion to retort to whatever point of order the opposition deputies raised.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Health Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury would usually clarify on the opposition's point almost every time. AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta was religious to stand on a point of order.

The Speaker gave a ruling on a demand to remove Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed for his reported comments about two ruling party lawmakers. The Speaker ruled that the House

### Militant arrest

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The home ministry gave the order for interrogation of the five at the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka, police said.

"The arrestees admitted that they are members of the militant group and the camp was used as one of their training centres," said Superintendent of Police Nawshar Ali.

"We are investigating who guided the militants from behind the scene," he said.
"But I cannot tell anything about their plans right now, as investigation is on."

However, police sources told The Daily Star that investigators found three clues to the group's activities.

The sources believe the militants had a plan to bomb a month-long ceremony of the Chapinawabganj Pourashabha golden jubilee, scheduled to begin on March 16, the sources said.

They also suspect links with the Islamic militants of India and Pakistan, as police found some toll receipts on a letterhead of the Allama Abdullah Ibn Fazal Trust of Kashimnagar in Birbhun, West Bengal.

They also traded in explosives

### Muggers kill employee of SP's office

UNB, Joypurhat

Muggers killed an employee of the office of the Superintendent of Police and took away his motorcycle in the outskirts of the town on Tuesday night.

Police said Modabbir Hossain Arju, 41, was attacked and killed by muggers at Goriakantha Bottola crossing while he was returning home in Joypurhat Limestone and Cement Project area at 10:00pm.

Meanwhile, police arrested two youths named Lalu, 28, and Atiql, 28, in this connection.

A case filed in this regard was handed over to the Detective Branch of Police.

### Bagerhat murder: Two more held

UNB, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested two more people in connection with the sensational murder and gang-rape of three women at Komorpur village in Sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Mithu and Johra of Jatrapur.

Four persons, who were arrested on Monday, were taken on remand on Tuesday. They are A Rahman, Harun Sheikh, Delwar Sheikh and Karim Sheikh.

Miscrants chopped to death Tapan Bhattacharya and raped three women of his family on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury arrives at Komorpur today

### Female BCL leader assaulted by Shibir at DU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A female leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was physically assaulted by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres at the Chittagong University railway station yesterday, sources said.

Laila Akhter Akhi, vice-president of BCL CU unit, was manhandled by ICS cadres as she tried to salvage a banner that BCL cadres forcibly took away from ICS activists.

The BCL was preparing to bring out a procession to welcome prospective students on the first day of CU admission tests yesterday.

ICS cadres slapped Akhi and pulled her scarf. They warned other BCL activists not to bring out any procession.

Later, the BCL held a protest rally at the railway station protesting the attack on the female leader and demanded exemplary punishment to the ICS cadres responsible for the attack.

### Shatgambuj

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and also a madrassah teacher in the locality.
Regional Chief of Department of Archeology Mohammad Mosharrar Hossain revealed that Fazlur Rahman was not an employee of the department. He added that previously there were allegations against Helal Uddin of selling the department's books illegally.

Sources at the Department of Archeology also alleged that the recent facelift was in gross violation of the archaeological norms and it "totally changed the interior of the mosque" due to modern plastering.

They said the project did not consider the original aspect of the site and went on modernising the boundary walls and some mural at the entrance.

Archaeologists believe the Shaitgambuj was built before 1459 by Khan-e-Zahan Uluk Khan.

### BB reforms

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It suggested the proposal should be applicable only for banks that are to come if the authorities are hell-bent on implementing it.

But the central bank thinks restricting the number of directors and also ensuring their quality to run a bank is important. It also says some neighbouring countries have adopted similar measures.

The competence of the board and its ability to run the business has to be a concern of the regulator, particularly in the absence of a legal framework that exists in many countries for greater liability of the directors, both executive and non-executive, a BB high official observed.

Regarding the move to raise the mandatory paid-up capital requirement for the PCBs to Tk 100 crore, the BB says there are PCBs which have capital bases between Tk 10 and more than Tk 80 crore, but most of these have deposits ranging from Tk 500 to Tk 3,000 crore.

If the deposit to capital ratio is taken into consideration the figure would be in excess of 3,000 per cent, the central bank said. The banks that are not doing well with a very small capital base would be looking for mergers with bigger banks if the new provision were implemented, it added.

The BAB agreed on the proposal for raising the capital base requirement, but suggested implementing the measure in phases over four years.

The central bank thinks there is a need to improve the environment of governance in the banking system to meet the Basel global standards; otherwise the country has to pay a price.



Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia presides over a meeting of the ruling BNP-led four-party alliance at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

### 7th PW gives deposition

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In his deposition, Masum told the court that at about 10:30pm on April 23, 1998 a telephonic message came that Shazneen had fallen victim to a serious accident. Soon after the news came, Masum along with his wife went to their (Shazneen's) Gulshan residence

and saw many people present there. He also saw Latifur Rahman crying near the stairs and asked him, "What happened to Shazneen?" Latifur replied that Shazneen had been murdered, Masum added.

"On April 30, I called Hasan to Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence. Then, Shazneen's elder sister Simeen Hossain, her (Simeen's) husband Waqar Hossain, her brother-in-law Arshadul Haque and I asked Hasan when he heard about the tragic incident. But his answer was not satisfactory and he went away evading our questions" Masum told the court.

Masum continued, "On September 27, my wife and I went to Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence at noon and later police took Shahid there, and Shahid narrated the incident chronologically. He said Hasan and his supervisor Badal hired him, Humayun, Parvin, Minu and Shaniram with money to rape and kill Shazneen. Shahid told us that on the night of the incident he, Humayun and Parvin entered Shazneen's bedroom. Before entering her room, Shahid took a knife from the kitchen and Humayun took the chisel of carpenter Shaniram.

Shahid said he stabbed Shazneen with the kitchen knife and Humayun hit her with the chisel. Parvin grabbed Shazneen by her hair and pressed the victim's hands on the bed. Then the three pulled down Shazneen from the bed. She was almost unconscious. Shahid raped her in this condition. Shahid then came out with the blood-stained knife through the northern side door of the victim's room and threw it by the side of the tin-shed before fleeing the house. Shahid then met Hasan at Gulshan Avenue, Hasan was waiting there in a white microbus and asked him if the job was properly done. Shahid told him that it was done as per his instruction, the witness said.

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

Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Arfan Uddin Khan and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state, while advocates Mosharrar Hossain Kajol, MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam and Abdus Salam Bhuiyan represented the accused.

### Rakhi Bahini

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party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office.

"Your husband gave indemnity to the killers of Bangabandhu and you gave indemnity to yourself for the order issued for killing 58 people during the joint operation," Hasina said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Tuesday said in Parliament that the Joint Drive Indemnity Ordinance 2003 was not the first one in the country; a similar indemnity ordinance was passed by the Awami League government on March 7, 1972 exempting Rakhi Bahini from trial by the civil court.

Hasina also said the prime minister's remarks on prices of essentials were all lies.

She said the recent appointment of judges to the Supreme Court exposed the government's "naked interference" in the judiciary.

Hasina said bomb blasts at Kotlajpara, Narayanganj AL office, Udichi's programme, Ramna Batumul and Dinajpur are results of BNP-Jamaat alliance's use of "extremists" for achieving their political end.

She called upon lawyers to be united and establish the rule of law and human rights, and stop the government from interfering in the judiciary.

Awami League presidium member Zillur Rahman, AL law secretary Advocate Shahara Khatun, advocate Syed Zezur Rahman, Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad general secretary advocate Abdullah Abu, newly elected president of Dhaka Bar Advocate Mohammad Israfil and general secretary Advocate Mokhlesur Rahman Badal also spoke.

### Serbian PM assassinated

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delusion," Djindjic was quoted as saying by the Politika newspaper at the time.

The assassination of Djindjic heralds turbulent days for Serbia and a bitter power struggle for his successor. Otpor, or Resistance, an independent pro-democracy group, said the shooting means "criminals have won the battle" in Serbia.

Djindjic had many enemies because of his pro-reformist and Western stands. He was key in Milosevic's extradition to the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Djindjic, a pro-Western leader, saw Serbia's fate as linked to the West and favoured greater cooperation with the U.N. war crimes tribunal, where Milosevic now is standing trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

He was pivotal in arresting and handing Milosevic to the war crimes tribunal in June 2001. For this, he was blasted by Serbian nationalists, including his former ally Vojislav Kostunica, who stepped down as Yugoslav president earlier this month after the formation of a new state, Serbia and Montenegro.

Djindjic's feud with Kostunica since the two jointly toppled Milosevic had virtually paralyzed the country's much-needed economic and social reforms.

Djindjic was often criticized by his opponents for seeking too much power and for "mercilessly" attacking his political rivals.

A German-educated technocrat known to supporters as "The Manager" for his organizational skills and as "Little Sloba" to his detractors for his authoritarian tendencies, Djindjic nonetheless managed to gain some political capital from his willingness to surrender Milosevic despite a constitutional ban on extraditing Serbian citizens.

Though derided for his fondness for big cars and flashy suits,

### Massive arrest

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house-to-house search.

Two separate cases -- murder of two constables and bomb explosions-- have been filed with the Sonadanga Police Station. No one was named in the cases.

The Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury arrived in Khulna from Dhaka yesterday morning.

He visited injured constables Nizamuddin and Moniruzzaman at the KMCH soon after his arrival in the city.

Later, he attended the namaz-e-janjana of constable Shariful Islam held at the police line ground. The IG has asked KMP officials to leave no stone unturned to reveal the motive behind the bomb attacks on police and to arrest the culprits involved in a series of bomb explosions in Khulna.

Tuesday night's bomb attack on patrol police was launched only four hours after the judicial confessional statement was given by two young men Sujon, 15, and Abul, 28.

They were arrested on Monday night by the DB in connection with the bomb attack and murder of

### Iraq action

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But doubts persisted over whether it had the nine votes necessary to win adoption of the measure, which also faces a triple veto threat from France, Russia and China.

In response, diplomats said Britain was seeking to lengthen a March 17 deadline, perhaps to March 21 or March 24, and add several specific disarmament demands for Baghdad to meet.

With British Prime Minister Tony Blair under intense anti-war pressure at home, Rumsfeld left open the possibility the United States might invade Iraq without British forces.

US officials, who have said they are ready to invade Iraq without UN approval, indicated they could be flexible on the question of Iraq's final deadline -- but only slightly.

"The Security Council needs to stand up, give him (Saddam) a very clear message that he needs to disarm -- that he has days, not

### Ayodhya excavation

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Zafariyab Geelani of Sunni Waqf Central Board, accompanied by two archaeologists R K Takran and Mohammed Abid and VHP organising secretary Champat Rai along with historians Ranjana Agnihotri and Prasad were among those present during the survey carried out by Archaeological Survey of India team led by Dr BR Mani.

Earlier, Mohammed Hashim Ansari, main plaintiff in the tide suit pending before a court, announced his decision to boycott the exercise termed 'gitasa' "political drama".

"We have no faith in the ASI which comes under the Human Resource Development Ministry headed by Murlil Manohar Joshi, a prime accused in the demolition case. If the excavation has to be done, why are they keeping out the makeshift temple? Tomorrow, there will be demand to excavate Jamaa Masjid and Qutab Minar," Anasari said.

Geelani expressed apprehension alleging Joshi had replaced ASI director the eve of the excavation. "We will wait for the process. We will cooperate if it is done with honesty and dedication," he said.

Faizabad district administration sources said excavation was likely to begin in the afternoon and about 52 labourers with photo identity cards have been engaged for the purpose.

Representatives and counsels of other parties including Mahant Ram Chandra Paramhans Das of the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas, Ram Lalla, Umesh Pandey were also present.

### CNG auto ban

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of Monipuri Para, who commutes to office in Kakrail by auto-rickshaw.

"I take my daughter to the Vigarunnisa Noon School every day. I have to find an alternative," said Shirin Sultana of Khejurbagan.

Commuters apart, three-wheeler drivers are disappointed by the ban. "Now we have to make a detour to reach most places. This route was a shortcut for us, as it leads to others," said Ismail Hossain, a Mishuk driver.

"We have to ask for more fares for long travels since our fuel cost will go high," said Amin Sheikh, who drives a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

"I think passengers won't understand the problem," he added. Rahimuddin, another auto-rickshaw driver, says passengers do not want to pay high fares.

"The government should think about the consequences before taking any step," said Aminul Islam who works with a private organisation at Karwan Bazar.

However, a few people welcomed the decision. "The measure will help minimise traffic jam in the area," said Ashik Khandaker.

The authorities defended the decision with the same point. "It was necessary since traffic movement on the road became slower than ever," said Abu Musa Mohammed Fakrul Islam, deputy commissioner traffic (south) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The traffic authorities may lift the ban once construction of a flyover at Mohakkali is completed, he said.

traffic sergeant Ariful Islam on the night of March 1, outside the venue of International Trade Fair.

According to witnesses, there were six armed miscreants in masks who hurled bombs on petrol police near Janata Bank building at Sheikhpara. They left the place hurriedly on foot firing two blank shots from the arms looted from the victims.

Senior officers of the KMP said only one shotgun is still missing with ten rounds of bullets. But witnesses said three weapons were looted during the attack on patrol police.

When asked, a senior officer of the KMP said that he expected a breakthrough in the investigation very soon. He did not rule out involvement of drug traffickers in the bomb blast incident, since Sheikhpara is known as a drug trafficking point.

Dead bodies of constables Shariful and Ramesh have been sent to their village homes in Chuadanga and Narail districts.

S I A S H F A Q U Z Z A M A N of Sonadanga thana has been made IO of the murder case.

weeks, to disarm," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said in a radio interview to be aired on Wednesday.

The United States and Britain can count on only four of the nine Security Council votes they need -- their own and those of Spain and Bulgaria.

Five nations, three with veto power, are definitely against the resolution -- Russia, France, China, Germany and Syria.

The six undecided members -- Mexico, Chile, Cameroon, Angola, Guinea and Pakistan -- suggested a 45-day deadline for Baghdad to demonstrate that it was in compliance, although U.S. officials rejected this as too long.

As war preparations continued in the Gulf region, the US Air Force on Tuesday successfully tested its massive "MOAB" bomb in Florida, putting a new facet of American military might on display.

The weapon -- officially the "Massive Ordnance Air Blast" -- nicknamed the "Mother of All Bombs" -- packs 40 percent more power than America's current most powerful non-nuclear bomb, and US officials suggested Iraq should take note.

### Proceedings of MiG purchase scam case against Hasina stayed

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed proceedings of MiG-29 purchase scam case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The case is now pending with the Divisional Special Judge's Court, Dhaka.

The court also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the graft case against Sheikh Hasina should not be quashed. The rule is returnable in four weeks.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case with Tejgaon police in December 2001 accusing Sheikh Hasina and six others of causing a loss of US\$123 million (Tk 700 crore) to the national exchequer in purchasing 8 Russian made MiG-29 in 1999.

All the accused in the case are now on bail.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for Sheikh Hasina.

### Alliance

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the four parties at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

It also decided to form a central coordination committee and liaison committees in all districts to oversee campaign activities.

A series of public rallies at all divisional headquarters will be held as part of the campaign. The heads of the four parties will address the rallies and talk about the government's 'successes' in various fields.

Yesterday's meeting emphasised early implementation of the major election pledges of the alliance.

Issues like push-in, Indo-Bangla relations, inclusion of Bangladesh in the US terror-risk list and current rise of extremist organisations were not discussed. But some leaders felt that the government should defend itself against rising concern over price hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order.

The prime minister said prices of rice and some other items have already come down and the law and order is gradually improving.

She said the government is seriously investigating the bomb blasts and some other serious crimes and is determined to contain crime, meeting sources said.