

Hosts under pressure already

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Bangladesh threw away a solid start to be bowled out for a paltry total on the first day of the first Test against South Africa at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Bangladesh were all out for 173 after Khaled Mahmud won his first toss as Test captain and elected to bat. And despite a customary half-century from one-down Habibul Bashar, the other batsmen failed to put any fight against the accurate South African bowlers. At stumps South Africa were 84 for two with Jacques Rudolph and Boeta Dippenaar batting on 15 and 16 respectively.

Bashar, the most prolific home batsman, who has played in all of Bangladesh's 18 Test matches, scored a cultured 60 off 87 balls in 138 minutes. It was the right-hander's 10th fifty in Test cricket. He hit ten fours.

Coming to bat after Bangladesh had lost opener Mehrab Hossain for six, Bashar steadied the innings with a 83-run second wicket partnership with opener Javed Omar. At lunch, Bangladesh were refreshingly poised on 97 for one.

But the scenario changed completely right after lunch with both

Cabinet body for ban on NGO politics

Report submitted to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on NGO affairs has suggested a ban on all sorts of "political activities" by the non-government organisations (NGOs).

Chairman of the committee LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan handed over a 138-page report on the proposed NGO policy to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday.

"The prime minister might form an implementation committee or send it to the parliament for ratification after scrutiny by the ministry or the NGO Affairs Bureau," Bhuiyan told a press conference.

He said that the NGOs have been supporting the country's development without any policy. "Now, we are formulating the policy for giving a fillip to their activities and improve supervision on them," he added.

The government formed the cabinet committee in November 2001, which met with a section of the NGO representatives and donor agencies to prepare the report. Suggestions from the donors and NGO representatives have been included in the report, the minister said.

Industries Minister MK Anwar, Information Minister Tariqul Islam, Social Affairs Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mozahid and Principal Information Officer Khondoker Monirul Alam were also present at the press conference.

The minister alleged that a section of the NGOs were directly or indirectly involved in politics. "But they should not be doing politics and that's why we have recommended to stop such practices," he said. The minister, however, did not name the NGOs involved in politics.

Formation of Iraq govt starts next week: Garner

REUTERS, Baghdad

US administrator Jay Garner said yesterday the process of forming a government in Iraq would start by the end of next week.

"I think you'll begin to see the governmental process start next week, by the end of next week. It will have Iraqi faces on it. It will be governed by the Iraqis," the retired US general told a news conference in Baghdad.

He gave no details. As part of the process of replacing Saddam Hussein's government, a number of Iraqi political groupings are to meet in Baghdad on Monday with US officials, following an initial meeting near Nassiriyah last week.

Garner will lead an interim administration that will oversee the rebuilding of Iraq. The interim administration plans then to hand over to an Iraqi government.

Garner said Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress, was not Washington's choice to lead Iraq, despite his reputation as an American favourite.

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Commuting has become a nightmare in the city as the roads clog with old buses that were once taken off. This picture was taken yesterday in front of the Secretariat.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's Habibul Bashar drives one on way to his half-century on the opening day of the first Test against South Africa at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Outlaws loot 20 rifles from Daulatpur Jute Mill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty 303 rifles and 600 bullets were looted from the storeroom of Daulatpur Jute Mill allegedly by the activists of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) last night.

According to Khalispur police, a group of 35 armed cadres of PBCP stormed into the mill at around 7:30pm. They broke into the storeroom and looted the arms and ammunition without any resistance.

Police, quoting witnesses, said the PBCP cadres left the mill at around 8:30pm by two trawlers through Bhairab river.

Police went to the mill after the incident and took 24 ansars on duty into custody for interrogation. Police said the rifles were given to ansars for security reasons after closure of the state-owned jute mill on December 7 last year. They raised slogans in the name of PBCP while leaving with the loot.

BNP men 'attack' cop for recording rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A group of BNP leaders allegedly ransacked the residence of the officer in charge (OC) of the Tanore Police Station on Wednesday night and threatened to have him transferred for recording a rape case.

OC Nurul Amin yesterday took up the matter with his seniors in Rajshahi. In a written complaint, he alleged Tanore upazila Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President and Tanore Pourashobha Chairman Emran Ali Mollah, upazila BNP Joint Secretary Jamal Uddin, Saranjai Union Parishad Chairman and BNP leader Mofiz Uddin, the municipal BNP President Omar Faruk and local BNP activist Moniruddin swooped on him.

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DCC contractor slaughtered in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants slaughtered Safuruddin Safu, 38, joint secretary of Mirpur Police Station unit of ruling BNP and an enlisted contractor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Housing Department, early yesterday.

The beheaded body of Safu was found at his family graveyard at Madhya Pirerbagh. The police failed

to find his head till yesterday evening.

Family members said, a someone called Safu on his cell phone at around 11:00pm on Wednesday while he was having dinner with them at his Madhya Pirerbagh residence.

"Receiving the call Safu went out hurriedly without telling us anything," his wife Jesmin Akhter Lucky said.

"At about 3:00am, an unknown

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Unity must to survive in new world order

Prothom Alo roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All political parties in Bangladesh must now work for building a self-reliant economy and reducing dependence on foreign countries as the world is now stepping into a new order.

National, regional and international unity and strengthening of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) are now badly needed to protect interests of the developing nations in the post-Iraq war global scenario.

This was the consensus among participants at a roundtable on "Iraq Aggression: Prospect of Bangladesh's Politics" in the city yesterday.

Criticising the role of the United

Nations, some speakers proposed formation of an alternative world body to address critical situations effectively.

Most of them ruled out any possibility of rise of religious fundamentalists in Bangladesh in the wake of the Iraq crisis.

The roundtable, organised by the Prothom Alo, was participated by noted writers, economists, academicians, former civil and military bureaucrats and former diplomats.

The participants included Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof. Anisuzzaman, former diplomats Faruq Chowdhury and Mosl-

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Soybean oil scare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different brands of soybean oil available in the market contain health-detrimental elements, according to a research.

Continuous intakes of the elements -- radical oxygen and hydroxyl -- may cause intestinal diseases, said the study carried out by Proshika in cooperation with several scientists.

Lack of proper packaging and storage has been blamed for the presence of the elements in different brands of soybean oil.

The research was carried out on 42 samples of well-known brands and open containers randomly collected from Gazipur, Khulna, Rajshahi and Chittagong, said a Proshika press release yesterday.

Physicians say most edible oils contain a high level of saturated fatty acid, which causes heart diseases.

The study, however, said soybean oil contains essential fatty acids like oleic acid and linoleic acid on an appropriate level, which are hygienic.

Proshika will carry out a follow-up research after three months, based on precautionary measures to be taken by oil producers, as the centre informed the producers about it.

A report on the finds has been sent to the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution, requesting for necessary steps.



PHOTO: STAR

Redesigning road dividers has become a frequent exercise for the authorities even at the cost of banishing the trees, as the picture shows.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
April 25		6-24 pm
April 26	5-28 am	

Prayer Timings		
April 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-45	5-10
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-35	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation