

Second Test

FROM PAGE 1
Khaled Mahmud's men are already down 1-0 in the series after losing by seven wickets in the first Test in Dhaka. But the Bangladesh captain was banking on a positive vibe in the squad that has developed over the last two away series in Australia and Pakistan and the first Test against the Englishmen.

A 20-minute rain just after the teams had finished practice, reminded everyone of the threat from the weather in hand. There is a depression in the Bay of Bengal and dark clouds were hovering scattered all day. However, it was largely sunny and bright raising hope for an one-time start.

The match is scheduled to begin at 9:30am with Star Sports and Bangladesh Television providing live coverage.

"In the past, we've done comparatively better in Chittagong than in Dhaka and as I have said at the beginning of the series, we'll try to continue improving our performance. We have continuously played good, positive cricket. The players are more aggressive and they will fight all the way. So, if everything comes together for us, there's no reason why cannot beat them," said Mahmud.

"Besides, we have had a good look at the England players. So we can now plan our strategy according to their strengths and weaknesses," he said after the team's final practice.

Mahmud was tight-lipped about any thoughts on the possible composition of the team but insisted that he wasn't over-dependent on his two left-arm spinners to force a result.

"It's true that (Mohammad) Rafique is our main spinner and Enamul Haque bowled very well on debut. But I still believe that pace bowlers can make a more decisive impact on the outcome of a match.

"Rafique might take five wickets but Mashrafe or any other fast bowler can change the course of the game with a three-wicket burst," said the all-rounder.

Mahmud's line of thinking might have got something to do with the state of the pitch. "It's still very early to predict how it will act but my gut feeling is it won't turn that much," said the Bangladesh captain adding fuel to the probability that one spinner could be dropped to accommodate an extra seamer in Tapas Baisya or the doors could open for 27-year-old batsman Moniruzzaman to make his Test debut.

Mahmud pointed out that during the first Test against the tourists, it was one or two of their key batsmen who made the difference by making big contributions.

"We have talked about the importance of building on from good

starts. We don't want to lose successive wickets in the top order. So if someone is set, he should stay there and try to make a big score. In the England first innings in Dhaka, (Marcus) Trescothick made a hundred and Graham Thorpe added 60-odd. The rest of the batsmen just rallied around them. My expectation is something similar to that from our batters. We are having two or three fifties but no one is playing a long innings."

In a late night development the England management confirmed that Harmison, who took nine wickets in Dhaka, was also out of the second Test for injury. The tourists now consider playing either seamer Richard Johnson or giving fast-medium Martin Saggars a debut. Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, who had a disappointing outing in Dhaka, is competing for a lone spinner's role it seems with offie Gareth Batty as Vaughan is expecting the wicket to aid the quick bowlers.

"It will all depend on the sunshine but I think there's something in this wicket for the seamers," said Vaughan.

About his expectations after the fright in Dhaka, Vaughan was pretty straightforward.

"Bangladesh played excellent cricket on the third and fourth day but we blew them over on day five. We hope to start from where we left off on the last day in Dhaka and win the series 2-0."

TEAMS BANGLADESH (from): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Hannan Sarker, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Habibur Bashar, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Masrafe bin-Mortuza, Tapas Baisya, Enamul Haque, and Moniruzzaman.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Rizki Clarke, Chris Read (wicketkeeper), Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Richard Johnson, Martin Saggars, Gareth Batty.

Umpires: Ashoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan)
Third Umpire: Mahbulullah
Match Referee: Wasim Raja (Pakistan)

Kadianis

FROM PAGE 12
The Kadiani families filed a general diary with Daulatpur Police Station on October 27, requesting security. The police visited the area but this has not improved the situation of the Kadiani families as the fundamentalists keep watch over their movements, sources said.

The sources said a group of moulanas led by one Moulana Abdur Razzak issued a fatwa ostracising the Kadianis in a meeting at Bharampur Bazar on Friday after Jumma prayers. The fatwa took effect instantly due to the influence of Moulana Abdur Razzak in the area.

This correspondent yesterday visited the area, 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, and talked to some Kadiani families. According to them, they were told to "convert" to Islam.

At least nine men with Kadiani names have agreed to "convert" to Islam.

Some Kadianis, feeling insecure, alleged the fundamentalists were plotting an attack on them.

Daulatpur Police Station OC claims the situation is under control.

Three senior Kadiani leaders from Dhaka went to the area, seeking an audience with Moulana Razzak, but he declined to meet with them, sources said.

EC prepares to hold municipal polls in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has started preparations for elections to 144 municipalities and directed its district offices to update the voters' list by January 15 next year.

The elections are likely to be held in April, EC sources said.

The last elections to 136 municipalities were held on February 23-25, 1999 amid boycott by the then opposition and present ruling party BNP that enforced a hartal on the day of nomination paper submission.

But this time the main opposition Awami League (AL) will participate in the elections.

"We will nominate our local leaders to contest the municipal elections for the posts of chairmen and commissioners. The party will fully back our nominated candidates," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per election rules, elections to the local bodies are not held along party lines and political parties have no scope to participate officially. But they unofficially nominate their candidates for the polls rare.

The tenure of the present municipalities will expire by March.

According to relevant laws, elections to municipalities are held within six months of expiry of their five-year tenure.

Sources said the EC plans to hold the elections in April next year as the SSC and HSC examinations are likely to be held in March and May. It may also hold the elections after both the public examinations are over as it will have time still September.

FTA

FROM PAGE 12

because of hostility between the two big players, India and Pakistan.

The Saarc, region with just 3 percent of the world's area, houses 21 percent of the global population with 43 percent living below poverty line.

But the collective share of the region in the world trade is less than one percent while intra-Saarc trade is dismally a low four percent as the region failed to tap the potential for social-cultural exchange and economic cooperation.

20,000 marooned

FROM PAGE 12

Urgent relief to be sent to the affected areas to prevent further sufferings.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Enamul Huq said two embankments, one near Madinabad launch terminal and the other near Gobra Orhatala sluice gate collapsed due to cracks on October 11, flooding at least 10 villages. The cracks were then repaired by volunteers including the Upazila Parishad chairman and political leaders before the dams collapsed again on October 23.

The contractor given the work order by Water Development Board (WDB) for repair of the cracks is to blame for the disaster, said the UNO whose office is in five feet deep water.

According to the UNO, a large number of livestock have died and shrimp enclosures washed away by the flood. Standing crops on over 30,000 acres of land have also been destroyed. There is an acute crisis of food and water, and diarrhoea has broken out.

The UNO demanded exemplary punishment to the contractor.

Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12

The two rival NSCN groups are fighting a bitter turf war for territorial supremacy, with both factions equally influential in their respective areas of dominance in Nagaland.

Hundreds of tribal Nagas Tuesday demanded unification of all Naga inhabited areas in the north-east, displaying placards and banners making this call during the prime minister's rally.

The NSCN is stressing the need for creation of a greater Nagaland by carving slices off the neighbouring states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur -- all of which have sizeable Naga populations.

The demand for a Greater Nagaland is, however, not acceptable to the other states in the north-east.

"The aspirations of all the Nagas to stay under one platform should be respected," Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio told the rally.

Meanwhile, several pressure groups in Assam and Manipur have threatened to launch a massive protest if New Delhi agrees to the demand for a Greater Nagaland.

"There would be a bloodbath if the government of India tries to threaten the territorial integrity of Assam," said Apurba Bhattacharyya, president of the Assam Jatayatadabi Yuva Chhatra Parishad, a radical students' group in Assam.

More than 50,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the northeast since India's independence in 1947.

Police tortured Saiful to death, says HR report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and some constables of Gulshan Police Station tortured Saiful Islam of north Badda to death, a human rights watchdog said yesterday after investigation.

"Police claim of mob beating of Saiful is totally false as no such incident took place during the time of his arrest," said a three-member team of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) in its probe. BSEHR (Director Advocate Alena Khan led the team that also included Ziaul Hasan and Main Uddin Molla.

The watchdog said Saiful left his house at Ja-33, north Badda with top criminal of Mirpur area Babu alias 'Mirpur Babu' at around 4:00pm Saturday. He was going on a motorbike to drop Babu, who he met recently, at Mirpur.

They sped on to the Niketan residential area when a police team led by ASI Shahinur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station signalled them to stop at the Rifle Shooting Club in Gulshan Section-1.

Babu shot thrice at the chasing policemen and entered a mess at Road No. 12. Saiful did not know before that Babu had a firearm with him.

"Saiful hid in a room of the mess leaving the bike outside, but Babu threw his revolver and fled. ASI Shahinur, two constables and one

Grim cleanup at ICRC's bombed Baghdad HQ

REUTERS, Baghdad

US troops and Iraqis were still collecting body parts around the blasted Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad yesterday, 24 hours after suicide bombers killed 43 people there and at three police stations.

Nada Doumani, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, told Reuters the ICRC had yet to decide whether to pull out more international staff, but was determined to maintain its operations in Iraq.

President Bush, seeking re-election next year amid growing criticism over his Iraq policy, vowed not to retreat after the apparently coordinated attacks and said the success of the US-led forces had triggered a violent response.

US troops and armored vehicles guarded the devastated ICRC building in a street flooded with water from a pipe broken in the blast. A soldier gingerly accepted bloodied remains from a local resident and removed them in a plastic carton.

AUS general said there were signs foreign fighters were behind the bombings that also wounded 230 in the capital's bloodiest day since Saddam Hussein was toppled in April.

BNP MPs

FROM PAGE 1

Meeting sources said some MPs observed that there should be a limited restriction on the media because the newspapers are not playing a responsible role and are 'grossly' abusing the press freedom.

The MPs favoured making the media accountable and viewed that the development works of the present government are being obstructed due to the negative role of the media, as it is not highlighting any positive achievements of the government.

Earlier, he had filed a general diary with Savar Police Station after the same gang tried to enter his mill and threatened its workers on September 26.

Islam lamented that the occupation of the mill, which he built in 1986 with financial support from a state-owned bank, suspended its production and forced him to incur a huge financial loss.

Ex-Khilgaon OC

FROM PAGE 1

The case was filed by Nurjahan Begum, the victim's mother, against OC Entejar Rahman and second officer SI Mahbub.

Nurjahan Begum alleged that her son Sumon, 20, a mobile phone trader, went out for a walk to join a milad at her brother's residence at Bhuiyanpara in the city at 10:00pm on October 23. But he did not return home that night.

At about 12:30am, a man came to her home and informed them that Sumon was detained at Khilgaon Police Station. Upon receiving the information, her husband Shahid Hossain Chowdhury and son Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury Hira went to Khilgaon Police Station at 1:00am and found Sumon at the second officer's room with four others, the complainant said.

Her husband asked the second officer why Sumon was arrested. The second officer took her husband out of the room and told him (husband) to give Tk 30,000 to the demand for a Greater Nagaland.

"There would be a bloodbath if the government of India tries to threaten the territorial integrity of Assam," said Apurba Bhattacharyya, president of the Assam Jatayatadabi Yuva Chhatra Parishad, a radical students' group in Assam.

More than 50,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the northeast since India's independence in 1947.

ansar arrested Saiful and beat him up there. Police recovered a US-made revolver with three bullets in front of the room," the report said.

The BSEHR interviewed witnesses, shopkeepers and locals of the Niketan residential area to confirm the police beating, the report said.

Police continued thrashing him on their way to a van parked at the end of Road No. 12. They shot in his leg while taking to the Gulshan Police Station, the BSEHR said quoting sources seeking anonymity.

"There was no marks of bullet wound on Saiful's body when police dragged him on to their van, but a bullet wound was found after they took him to the station."

The BSEHR said Saiful told one of his friends that police took him to a private clinic later and brought him back to the station after primary treatment.

"When Saiful fell unconscious at Gulshan Police Station from further torture the same night, one constable said it would be good to shoot him once again," said the report, adding Saiful groaned all night.

ASI Shahinur beat him up again on Sunday morning and four constables took him to the court at around noon. Observing his condition, the court ordered to send him to Mitford Hospital immediately.

"But police did not move from there until he fell unconscious at 4:00pm. When police took him to Mitford Hospital in a yellow cab, doctors declared him dead," the report said.

The BSEHR asked Golam Rasul (deputy commissioner, north) and Officer-in-Charge of the Gulshan Police Station Ittefakur Islam whether there was any case or general diary against Saiful, they answered in the negative.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Ashraf Huda told The Daily Star last night that an inquiry by DMP Additional Commissioner Mizanur Rahman found the allegation of police torture on Saiful untrue.

"The inquiry team submitted its report on Monday night saying it did not find any proof to back the allegation," Huda said.

"I have asked the police headquarters to investigate further," the DMP commissioner said.

Industrialist turns to PM to free mill of goons

UNB, Dhaka

An entrepreneur yesterday appealed to the prime minister and the home minister to free his textile mill from what he said was occupation by a gang of miscreants.

Shafiqul Islam, managing director of Equator J.V. Ltd., alleged at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity that armed goons attacked his factory at Hemayetpur in Savar on October 15 and took control of it, damaging equipment and beating up workers.

Earlier, he had filed a general diary with Savar Police Station after the same gang tried to enter his mill and threatened its workers on September 26.

Islam lamented that the occupation of the mill, which he built in 1986 with financial support from a state-owned bank, suspended its production and forced him to incur a huge financial loss.

Goods worth Tk 2 lakh looted at Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and gold ornaments said to be worth about Tk 2 lakh from a house at Ahmed Nagar in Mirpur early yesterday.

A gang of three burgled the one-storey house of Badiul Alam Chowdhury through the window at about 3:00am. They confined the family members at gunpoint and took away the cash and ornaments.

Badiul filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

Police could not arrest anybody nor could they recover the looted goods until last night.

Schoolgirl abducted in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was abducted at gunpoint on Monday in Bagerhat Sadar upazila when she was returning home from school.

Ujjal Sheikh, an activist of local Jubo Dal, and Maruf Sheikh kidnapped the class seven student of Sundarghona High School and fled in a microbus in the afternoon, said the first information report.

The girl, daughter of a shrimp trader, could not be rescued till writing of this report at 6:00pm last evening.

Police say Ujjal recently proposed to the 13-year-old girl and was rejected.

Naraji petition of Ittefaq's Farazi rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna on Monday rejected a *naraji* petition against an extended charge sheet that accused Danik Ittefaq Correspondent Farazi Ajmal Hossain of journalist Shamsur Rahman murder.

Selina Akhter Lucky, wife of Shamsur Rahman, filed the petition after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police submitted the extended charge sheet to the Court of First Class Magistrate Ashoke Kumar Devnath.

The court also ordered the Ittefaq journalist to appear before it during the next hearing on December 1.

Shamsur Rahman was gunned down on July 16, 2000 in the Jessore Bureau Office of Danik Janakantha. Police earlier submitted a charge sheet, which was termed controversial by the journalists of Jessore. They demanded a reinvestigation into the case.

A fresh charge sheet was submitted on September 14 after reinvestigation at the instruction of the government.

But Lucky submitted the petition against the second charge sheet

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
Chief Justice KM Hasan on October 20 sent a file to the president for his approval for formation of the Supreme Judicial Council following the allegation that Judge Syed Shahidur Rahman had taken money from an accused in a woman's repression case to help him get bail.

The president sent the file to the Prime Minister's Office on October 23 for approval.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Rakanuddin Mahmud at a meeting of the Bar on October 1 alleged that Judge Shahidur received Tk 50,000 from a client for fixing a bail.

him that he had committed the robbery with the pistol, Nurjahan said.

Sumon fell sick and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died from wounds Saturday evening. The victim's family members were not permitted to see him at the hospital, the complainant said.

Police claimed that Sumon jumped to the ground from the roof of a six-storey building to escape arrest and a mob beat him up. But the autopsy report prepared by a medical board did not find evidence to corroborate the police version that the young man died from wounds caused by a fall from a building.

Meanwhile, DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda said the allegations brought against the officer-in-charge (OC) and some other policemen by Sumon's family were not proved.

"The investigation carried out at my directive into Sumon's death did not find proof of any such allegation," Huda said.

AL demands inquiry
Main opposition Awami League yesterday demanded proper inquiry into the allegation of police torture that led to the death of Sumon at Khilgaon Police Station.

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid termed custodial deaths a serious human rights violation.

Price spiral

FROM PAGE 1

Vegetables prices showed no sign of fall in the city markets; rather, prices of some rose further. Tomato was selling at Tk 48-50 a kg yesterday against Tk 40 to Tk 44 Monday. Carrot prices ranged between Tk 44-48.

Potato prices also remained high and ranged between Tk 14 and Tk 15 a kg yesterday, potato was selling at Tk 16, long beans at Tk 32, carrot at Tk 58, green chilli at Tk 40 to 48, beans at Tk 60 and medium-sized lemons at Tk 16 to 20 per four pieces.

Okra sold between Tk 30-32 a kg. Brinjal prices shot up to Tk 38 to Tk 40 a kg in the city markets yesterday against Tk 28 and Tk 30 a few days back.

Bean prices still remained high -- selling between Tk 58 and Tk 60 a kg. Green papaya prices ranged between Tk 7-8 a kg.

The prices of pulses also were high today. Moshur pulses rose to Tk 46 to Tk 48 a kg against Tk 42 to Tk 44 on Saturday. Moog ranged between Tk 43 and Tk 45 a kg, khesari between Tk 24 and Tk 25 and chhola between Tk 30 and 34 a kg.

Rice prices also remained unchanged, with Najirshail variety ranging from Tk 19 to Tk 21 a kg and Pajjam from Tk 18 to 20 a kg. Flour prices remained at Tk 18 per kg while wheat was selling at Tk 14 a kg.

Beef prices ranged between Tk 90 and Tk 100 a kg. Chicken weighing 700-750 grams was selling at Tk 80 each, while the prices for the ones weighing 800-1000 grams were between Tk 90 and Tk 95 each. Mutton was sold at Tk 140 a kg.

Prices of puffed and beaten rice -- two popular 'iftar' items -- further rose yesterday.

6 killed in Iraq

FROM PAGE 1
forces and two civilians yesterday, the British military told Reuters.

Yesterday's car bomb exploded near a police station in Fallujah, a flashpoint town 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported.

At least six severely charred and mutilated bodies lay on the ground after a pick-up truck blew up about 150 meters from the police station. Another eight people were wounded, according to hospital sources.

The attack came as police cleared the rubble after Monday's synchronised suicide car bombings in Baghdad, which devastated the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and four police stations.

The killings rang in the traditionally peaceful and solemn Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

They delivered a defiant message as the killers targeted a humanitarian agency, dedicated to Iraq's reconstruction, and the police, considered the very backbone of US plans to restore law and order.

"The terrorists are trying to sow maximum fear and panic among people," a coalition official said on condition of anonymity.

"The message to international groups is don't come here and rebuild the country. The message to Iraqi police is if you think you can work with the Americans, you're wrong."

ICRC officials Tuesday were discussing whether to pull out of Iraq.

The Red Cross compound was ghostly as people searched the wreckage for bodies. A few guards stood around in shock in front of the building's smashed-out windows and collapsed walls.

The explosion was a carbon copy of the August 19 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, which killed 22 people and led to the scaling back of UN staff and ambitions in the war-torn country.

On Sunday, rockets were fired at the Rashid Hotel in the coalition's fortress-like Baghdad compound,

Puffed and beaten rice were selling at Tk 32 and Tk 26 a kg yesterday against Tk 28 and Tk 24 on the previous day.

Another 'iftar' item in high demand -- imported date -- was selling at Tk 120 a kg yesterday while the price of local date also increased by Tk 2 a kg on the eve of Ramadan.

Redwan Ahmed, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry, said the committee will meet today to take stock of the rising essentials prices.

Godfather issue Legal notice on 14 AL leaders

BSS, Natore

State Minister for Finance Anwarul Kabir Talukdar yesterday served a legal notice on top 14 leaders of the Awami League (AL), including its General Secretary Abdul Jalil, claiming Tk 7 crore for "defaming" him through inclusion of his name in the "list of godfathers."

Talukdar's counsel Anwaruzzaman sent the notice asking the AL leaders to pay the amount or face legal actions.

In the notice Talukdar said Awami League had dubbed him a godfather to tarnish his political image.

Other AL leaders served with legal notice are Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Matia Chowdhury, Shah AMS Kibria, Obaidul Kader, AHSK Sadeque, Abdur Rahman and Ishak Ali Khan.

where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying.

After that attack, the top US brass in Baghdad accused the insurgents of striking just as the coalition was starting to show real progress.

The wave of violence came as the nighttime curfew over Baghdad was lifted for Ramadan and the coalition's fortunes were boosted by the Madrid donors' conference promise of 33 billion dollars in reconstruction funds.