

## Whitewash double

FROM PAGE 1

Flintoff was on 52 not out when England coasted to victory. He dominated an unbeaten 83-run fourth wicket stand with Paul Collingwood, whose contribution was 46.

Like an impregnable rock Flintoff, who scored 55 and 70 in the previous matches, stood and delivered for the third time. He smashed four towering sixes and as many boundaries in his 39-ball hurricane.

He also ended up as the richest man in the England camp after walking away with a hat-trick of man-of-the-match awards as well as the series.

Opener Murcas Treschothick also came good after two failures. The Somerset southpaw scored 50 off 70 balls with five fours while skipper Michael Vaughan made 29.

The lone success for Bangladesh was the emergence of Mushfiqur Rahman as an all-rounder. The Rajshahi right-hander was top scorer

with a 37-ball 36. He also shone with the cherry by removing Solanki and Vaughan to finish with 2 for 29.

Captain Khaled Mahmud took the other wicket conceding 32 runs in 10 overs. But he was involved in disappointing run out after looking good with 18.

Opener Hannan Sarkar and one-down Habibul Bashar scored 21 runs each before the former was brilliantly run out by Paul Collingwood, who picked up the ball at point and fired a direct throw at the stumps.

Manjarul Islam gave substance to the lower-order with an unbeaten 20. But Alok Kapali completed a miserable series of low scores. He scored only one before departing after playing a reckless pull shot.

James Kirtley, Andrew Flintoff and Rikki Clarke took two wickets each for the visitors.

England will leave the capital today for Colombo.

## Crop diversification

FROM PAGE 1

reporters later the meeting felt the urgency of developing a better crop marketing mechanism across the country.

The meeting also took up three other vital issues -- growing more food grain from ever depleting croplands, proper steps against shirker block supervisors in agriculture extension sector and smuggling in and marketing of adulterated pesticides and fertilisers.

Talking to The Daily Star later, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Today we took up crop diversification to face munga and increase food output at par with the growth of population. We also discussed the urgency of making agricultural extension service more effective."

Committee member and opposition Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Kader told newsmen many of the 26,000

## Jubo Dal men 'attack' rally at Chashara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Naryanganj

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activists yesterday allegedly attacked a rally organised by left-leaning 11-party alliance at Chashara Central Shaheed Minar in Naryanganj protesting the death of a garment worker in police fire.

A gang led by David, Faruq Ahmed and Reza attacked the rally on the occasion of Garment Workers' Solidarity Day in presence of police and Bangladesh Rifles and vandalised the stage, sources said.

The ruling BNP's youth front also threatened Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, a workers' leader, at 1:00am on Tuesday and told him not to attend the rally.

Speakers at the rally condemned the attack and demanded arrest of the culprits. They also demanded a judicial probe into the police fire at the BSCIC premises on November 3 and punishment to the killers.

Bimal Kanti Das of Workers Party, Shahidullah Chowdhury of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, Abdullah Sarkar of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and workers' leader Ismail, among others, spoke at the rally.

## Man to die for killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered death penalty to an unemployed man for killing his wife in Savar in August 2002.

Abdul Kader alias Delu of Dagan Bhuiyan upazila in Feni was given capital punishment for murdering his wife Laizu Akhter Bobby, a garment factory worker.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Huq of the Court of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge pronounced the verdict at 12:30pm, cross-examining 10 prosecution witnesses.

On August 10, 2001, Kader stabbed his wife to death at about 7:30pm following an altercation over Kader's unemployment. He went into hiding since the incident. Savar police arrested Kader one and a half years after the murder.

Yaar Ali, owner of the house, filed a murder case with Savar Police Station accusing Kader.

On August 27, 2002, police pressed charges against Kader and the court framed charges against him on May 22 this year.

## Godfather list

FROM PAGE 1

the accused AL leaders did not appear before the court within the time fixed by the court.

He also fixed December 17 for a hearing of the case, court sources said.

The other accused are frontline party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, SAMS Kibria, ASHK Sadique, Obidul Kader, Abdur Rahman and Ishaque Ali Khan Panna.

## Bagerhat tense over BNP's attack on Jubo League office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tension is running high in Bagerhat town following an attack on Jubo League's office allegedly by activists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Tuesday.

Sources said the trouble began in the afternoon when BNP's discussion marking National Revolution and Solidarity Day coincided with a meeting of the main opposition Awami League (AL)'s youth front on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

Jubo League alleged that the ruling party goons attacked its office although Jubo League's meeting was authorised by the civil and police administrations.

The attackers went on the rampage causing extensive damage to office property and later drove them out of the building, Jubo League leaders said at a press conference yesterday.

Cadres of the BNP and its front organisations were still occupying the Jubo League office yesterday afternoon.

The press conference was attended among others by President of Bagerhat District AL and former state minister Mozammel Hossain, District AL President Fakir Mansur Ali, Vice-president Sardar A Jalil and Jubo League District President Khan Habibur Rahman.

The Jubo League president alleged that District BNP Secretary Shamsul Alam Talukdar masterminded the attack, adding that police helped the attackers. Talukdar refuted the allegation.

A protest procession by Jubo League yesterday was intercepted several times by police and residents of the town fear violence might erupt any time.

## Unesco DG arrives today

UNB, Dhaka

Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Koichiro Matsuura arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day official visit.

During his stay here, he will meet President Iajduin Ahmed, Education Minister Osman Farruk and State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman.

Matsuura will visit National Memorial at Savar, Paharpur Buddhist Monastery, Mahasthan-garh in Bogra, Jamuna Multipur-pose Bridge and Lalbagh Fort in Dhaka.

He will also meet newspaper editors, intellectuals and civil society members to share views and experiences with them.

Matsuura will sign a bilateral agreement between Unesco and Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco on capacity building of "Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme" in Bangladesh, said a press release.

## Contempt

FROM PAGE 1

was passed on to his two aides. Advocate Mansurul Haq Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the petitioners. But the court dismissed him as not being empowered.

The bench of Justice Syed Amirul Islam issuing a contempt rule on October 29 directed Judge Alam to appear before it yesterday to explain why he failed to show up during the former's visit to the district on October 22.

His conduct was "outrageous and contumacious.... A judge of the Supreme Court always carries his office with him and deserves respect from all concerned," observed the court in its rule upon the judge and his Nazir and Nayeb Nazir.

## Gas export

FROM PAGE 12

pushed Bangladesh to export natural gas, most likely to India. Intense domestic criticism of such proposals has prompted successive governments in Dhaka to put off any decision because of its potential political consequences.

The main opposition Awami League insists the country must first be assured of 50 years of reserves. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party had also opposed gas exports while in opposition from 1996 to 2001.

US ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K. Thomas in August expressed Washington's wish the government export a "certain amount" of natural gas to boost the cash-strapped economy.

Khan said in Singapore on Wednesday any decision to export gas would not be due to US pressure.

"Bangladesh takes a decision on its own economic compulsion... not at the behest, not at the persuasion of somebody," he said at an open forum after delivering his speech.

He said the government was aware of the opposition to such exports but was prepared to take a "realistic" policy.

"If they have enough, they have to export. The people deserve a better living in their own country because of their own resources," he said.

## Monga spectre

FROM PAGE 1

harsher realities awaiting them back home, because the city provides them sustenance that the villages can't.

"I came along with my two neighbours and I don't know yet if I should go back or stay," said Ali, who lives in a shanty in Bashabo.

Others haven't been lucky enough to find a place to stay and are sleeping under the sky at places like Karwan Bazar and Kamlapur Rail Station.

Scores of others from the eight *monga*-affected districts -- Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur -- have travelled to the capital or other district towns in search of jobs, but many didn't find any and have taken to begging instead.

Montaz Miah, who came here three weeks ago to become a rickshawpuller, agreed.

"People of these districts are very, very poor. Hence, they form the bulk of the migrants. Anyway, here we at least get food, which is hard to get in the villages," he said.

Interestingly, the abundance of poor rickshawpullers like Montaz Miah wishing to sell their labour for cheap has pulled rickshaw fares down in the capital.

## New-old leadership

FROM PAGE 12

problems of the party men, sources pointed out.

Some senior ministers however said sitting at the party office in the name of meeting leaders and activists is an waste of time because the latter also go to the Secretariat and official residences of ministers even after meeting them at the party office.

A few leaders like BNP Secretary General and Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, senior joint secretaries general Tarique Rahman, Nazrul Islam Khan, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and City BNP chief and Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka still occasionally visit the party central and city offices at Naya Palta.

Meanwhile, over two dozen senior party leaders including Oli Ahmed MP, KM Obaidur Rahman MP, Mir Shawkat Ali and Abul Hasnat have long remained inactive and refrained from attending party programmes.

Some of them alleged the party leadership thinks the party does not need them anymore.

"Some more senior leaders might be inactive soon as the party does not require them any more with the emergence of young leadership," one leader said.

He mentioned several senior ministers and dozens of important party leaders have stopped saying anything to the party chief and prime minister about the current state of party affairs and happenings within the government, as

## New shopping malls

FROM PAGE 1

Alamgir, a salesperson at the Prince Plaza shopping mall.

"Items sell at lower price here than in other markets. But they are a bit dearer than before and that's because of the Eid," Alamgir said.

But the customers have a different view: the new shopping malls are charging more.

"Although the quality of items and the environment in this market are good, prices are higher," said Anannya who was shopping at Prince Plaza.

Defending the high prices, Saiful Islam who runs a shop at the same market, said, "Initial investment and maintenance costs in the plush shopping complexes are higher than other markets. The quality of our items is definitely better."

## Indigenous

FROM PAGE 12

ration for 65,000 indigenous refugees of 12,222 families and rehabilitate them permanently.

The PMO however asked the ministry to continue ration for 26,000 Bangalee families in cluster villages in the CHT.

Stoppage of ration led to agitation, road barricade and strike by the refugees.

The prime minister then asked the CHT affairs ministry to provide them ration at its emergency stock.

A high official at the ministry however said, "It is not possible to fully meet the refugees' food grain requirement from the emergency stock. Hardly can we meet half of their annual requirement."

Ministry sources said in the first phase, 3,778 tonnes of food grain will be distributed among the refugees. Their annual requirement is 15,300 tonnes but the emergency stock has 8,000 tonnes.

Previously, the refugees used to get five kilograms of rice for an adult and two and a half kilograms for a child a week.

The refugees returned from the camps in the Indian state of Tripura following the CHT peace treaty in 1997 and mainly depend on ration as most of them were not rehabilitated properly.

According to official statistics, 3,055 families out of 12,222 are yet to get back their homesteads.

The process of rehabilitation was stalled after the four-party coalition government took office, leaders of the indigenous people alleged.

Professor Nazrul Islam, an urban expert.

Most beggars are women, children and old people who can't do hard labour. Some sources have claimed the figure has reached no less than 1 lakh already, adding that a big chunk of this floating population will go back home when the harvesting begins in a few weeks.

Meanwhile, the exodus of the hungry people into the city continues unabated.

Most of this floating population however is from Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Panchagarh, sources said.

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### Cabinet secy

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"The PM leaves for Saudi Arabia today, and if a decision is not made before she departs an uncertainty would grip the administration as she is due to return on November 23," a high official at the Prime Minister's Office told The Daily Star last night.

BNP policymakers and high-ups at the administration hinted that the PM may consider an extension for a year.

However, if Saadat does not get an extension, the second most senior secretary Badiur Rahman, member of the Planning Commission, should take up the demanding job.

Badiur, one of the two remaining CSP secretaries regarded for their professional excellence, could not win the confidence of the government for unexplained reasons, according to sources.

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She will stay in Medina till November 18 for Ziarat at the Rouza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and say her prayers at Masjid-e-Nababi.

Khaleda will spend the holy night of Shah-e-Qadr in prayers at Masjid-e-Haram in Makkah.

She is expected to return home on November 23.

The 19-member entourage of the prime minister includes her youngest son Arafat Rahman and his wife, two grandchildren, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and his wife, and Prime Minister's Political Secretary M Mosaddek Ali and his wife.

### 500 deer

FROM PAGE 12

Sundarbans to immortalise the union of Lord Krishna and Radha. On the first full moon night of Bangla month of Kartik, the devotees gather on the islands and take holy dips in the Morjat river. But the festival has taken on a secular face with people of all religions congregating there from adjacent villages.

Although the forest department did not allow any firearms into the forest, gunshots reverberated all night, breaking deep silence.

But most poaching was done with rope traps, which mostly ensnared the does and their babies. The stags escaped the traps by jumping over them.

This correspondent witnessed the trapping and killing of at least 10 deer on Tinkona Island. The trappers, 20-25 in a group, laid out the snares on at least one kilometre and drove the deer into them by making loud noise.

As the scared deer ran for life, they got entangled in the snares. The poachers then beat them up with thick sticks to immobilise them before slaughtering the animals.

All through the Rash Mela, the poachers ate nothing but venison. They distributed excess meat among the pilgrims.

## Outlaws gun down shrimp trader, staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Extremists of the Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), M-L faction, allegedly gunned down a shrimp trader and his employee at Uttar Matirgati village under Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat in the early hours yesterday.

Police recovered the bodies of Upendra Nath Golder, 32, of Faltita union under Fakirhat upazila and Amalesh Barkandaj, 30, of Maheshwaripur union of Koira upazila at 6:30pm. They also recovered spent cartridges from the spot.

The PCBP (M-L) cadres killed Upendra for his failure to give them Tk 2 lakh as toll. They killed Kamalesh for being an witness to the murder, sources said.

Earlier on November 2, Upendra filed a general diary with Mollahat Police Station after extremists threatened him with death. But police allegedly took no step to secure his life.

No case was filed till the filing of this report at 8:00 last night. Panic gripped the owners and traders of the shrimp enclosures in the district following the murders.

## Charges pressed against 13 for killing Sramik Dal leader Shafi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Charges were pressed yesterday against 13 people, including an Awami League (AL) leader and ward commissioner, for Railway Sramik Dal leader Shafuddin Ahmed murder.

Investigation officer Kamrul Islam, also officer-in-charge (OC) of Chandgaon Police Station, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), accusing the AL leader as prime suspect.

The accused are Pahartali Ward Commissioner and AL leader Mohammad Hossain Hiron, Mazharul Islam, Helaluddin, Ratan Mallik, Ripon Howlader, Noab Ali, Maruf, Haider Hossain Badal, Mahmudul Haq alias Madu, Naimul Islam Naim alias Imon, Md Shipon Howlader, Solaiman and Akhtaruddin Babu.

Of them, five are now in jail, while the rest are absconding.

Shafi, also a freedom fighter, was chopped and shot dead by a gang of 15 at his residence at Arambagh in the port city on the night of June 14.

Shafi's wife Masuda Begum filed a case with Khulshi Police Station, accusing 13 people, including the local ward commissioner and AL leader, the following day.

The case was transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of police on June 17 for investigation. A total of 47 witnesses were quizzed during the investigation.

The case is likely to be transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal soon, sources said.

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## SL PM, president

FROM PAGE 12

talks with the island's Tamil rebels back on track.

"After an exchange of views on events leading to the present situation, the president and the prime minister decided to move forward and continue the dialogue with all parties concerned," the offices of President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a joint statement.

"It was planned to have a further meeting between the president and prime minister in the course of next week," it said, adding the talks were "cordial and friendly".

Bradman Weerakoon, Wickremesinghe's principal secretary who attended the meeting, told the news agency: "The meeting went well."

It was the first time the two had met since Kumaratunga sacked three ministers and suspended parliament on November 4, while Wickremesinghe was on a trip to Washington.

While their talks appeared to have eased tension it was not immediately clear if they had moved towards agreement on key differences.

Wickremesinghe said in a letter to the president before the meeting his "principal concern is to protect and safeguard the peace process" and her actions had put that process in jeopardy.

Kumaratunga's office said she wanted to get Wickremesinghe's views "on her call for a Grand Alliance of all national and patriotic forces".

The statement made no mention of those issues.

Their meeting came as Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen and peace envoy Erik Solheim were in Sri Lanka, trying to arrange preliminary talks before the government and the Tigers resume negotiations to end a 20-year civil war.

A Norwegian-brokered ceasefire has