

**Tigers complete whitewash**

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajin Saleh grabbed the opportunity of a recall in grand style hitting an imperious unbeaten century as Bangladesh completed the Kenyan whitewash with a comprehensive seven-wicket win in the fourth and final one-day international at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Travelled with the team but not considered in the last five ODIs, the 24-year-old Rajin came out with his trusty bat to smash a dazzling 108 as Bangladesh recovered from an all too familiar top-order collapse to cruise to 237-3, chasing a fighting Kenya total of 232, with 8.3 overs to spare.

Rajin's signature performance in his 34th ODI made him only the **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

**Thais rally for king's help to force Thaksin go**

AP, Bangkok

Tens of thousands of Thais rallied in Bangkok yesterday, begging their king to intervene in a last-ditch effort to force Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from office.

"Thaksin, get out!" the protesters chanted as a band played protest songs and nearly 5,000 police officers stood guard. Police said they feared "troublemakers" would try to hijack the event.

Three hours into the rally, a crowd of about 30,000 had gathered near Thaksin's office in Government House. Many wore yellow head-

bands that said "Save The Nation." Organisers anticipated the protest would exceed several others that have drawn up to 100,000 people. Thaksin's foes have been demonstrating almost daily for two weeks. They say he is corrupt and has abused his powers.

"We are here to fire Thaksin from the office," said Wanwipha Maenmanede, a 45-year-old employee of the state power company who came to the rally with her husband and 13-year-old daughter. "He is the most corrupt prime minister in the country's recent history." Meanwhile, about 30,000 monks

planned to gather Saturday evening at a field near the Grand Palace, the former royal residence, to pray "for peace and unity," said Gen. Chaiyathat Yatchimlee, one of their leaders.

The three main opposition parties, who have said they will boycott the April 2 vote unless Thaksin resigns, appeared to be looking for a compromise to the political crisis.

Democrat party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said he had proposed to **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

**Try people responsible for deal with Asia Energy Demands AL**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded trial of the people responsible for the agreement with the Asia Energy Corporation concerning Fulbaria coalmine development in 1994 during the BNP regime.

Termining it an "imbalanced agreement" they said the BNP government has to take responsibility for the agreement.

Addressing a press conference **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

**PHULBARI COAL MINE Road march ends with call to cancel project**

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Phulbari, Dinajpur

The Dhaka-Dinajpur road march of Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Committee was concluded yesterday at Phulbari in Dinajpur, where thousands of people of Phulbari and its adjacent upazilas expressed their solidarity with the march opposing the Phulbari coal mine project.

After the conclusion of the march, a rally was held on Urbashi Cinema Hall ground around 3:30pm, where speakers urged the government to cancel the Phulbari coal mining deal with Asia Energy Corporation.

The speakers told the rally that at least five lakh people of three upazilas in Dinajpur and in the

surrounding areas of Phulbari would be driven away and a severe environmental catastrophe would come about including depletion of groundwater level if coal is extracted using open-pit method in the area. Half of the Phulbari Township might be required to be shifted elsewhere, they said.

The speakers urged the government not to allow Asia Energy Corporation (AEC) to set up a coal mining plant in Phulbari. AEC is a multinational company with no prior experience in coal energy, which got the contract for coal extraction in the area.

The company is using all its public relation resources to dazzle the government and to influence it **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

**25 MLAs resign to express solidarity with Sonia**

PTI, Bhopal

About 25 Congress MLAs from Madhya Pradesh and Lok Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday met party president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi and submitted their resignations to express "solidarity" with her move to step down as MP and Chairperson of the National Advisory Council (NAC) on the office of profit issue, party sources said in Bhopal.

The 25 MLAs, including Leader of Opposition in the assembly Jamuna Devi and state Congress president Subhash Yadav, reached the Capital to meet Gandhi and put in their papers to her, state Congress spokesman Manak Agarwal said. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

**POLLS REFORMS BNP yet to decide committee's structure**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP secretary general delays his reply to the Awami League general secretary's letter due mainly to indecision whether the prime minister's proposed committee to discuss the opposition's reform proposals would be a parliamentary or party-level one.

Sources said Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, has not yet been able to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Bhuiyan is expected to meet the premier to this end and reply AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil's letter in a day or two, the sources added.

The AL leader on March 22 wrote back to Bhuiyan, seeking **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**



PHOTO: STAR

A boy shows a crack in a wall of their flat due to vibration created by a passing train on Friday night. Similar cracks developed on other walls and ceilings of the four-storey building at Tejgaon Postal Staff Quarters in the city.

**Cause of jolt in Tejgaon remains unknown**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inhabitants of the three four-storey buildings of Tejgaon Postal Staff Quarters are passing their days amid anxiety following Friday night's severe shock wave that caused fall of bricks and plaster from the ceilings.

Vibrations during the running of trains on the adjacent railway lines grip the residents with fear of building collapse.

But no-one could tell for sure what caused the jolt on Friday night.

"We felt a severe jolt on Friday night and suddenly bricks and plaster of ceilings of the kitchen rooms of six flats fell when a train passed, shaking the adjacent area." **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

**Pvt land phones for capital shortly**

MONJUR MAHMUD

Private land phones for the city dwellers are likely to be available shortly as Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is going to award four licences to private operators and has invited bids for this.

Local companies, joint venture firms with local partners and foreign companies are eligible to participate in the bids, paying a non-refundable application fee of Tk 1 crore each.

Fee for each licence in the central zone -- Dhaka Multi Exchange Area -- consisting of Dhaka city, Zinzira, Savar, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Tongi -- will be Tk 15

crore and licence renewal fee Tk 1.2 crore annually.

A pre-bid meeting with the prospective bidders will be held on April 10. The last date for submitting the bids is May 8 and the BTRC will open those the same day at 12:30 pm.

The BTRC has so far granted 35 licences to 19 private sector public switched telecom network (PSTN) operators in the northeast, south-east, northwest and southwest zones. But it could not grant licences for the central zone due to legal battle with WorldTel. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

**Two killed in Ctg over land dispute**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were hacked to death in separate incidents in Hathazari and Chandanaish upazilas of Chittagong during the last two days. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

Prayer Timing		
March 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

