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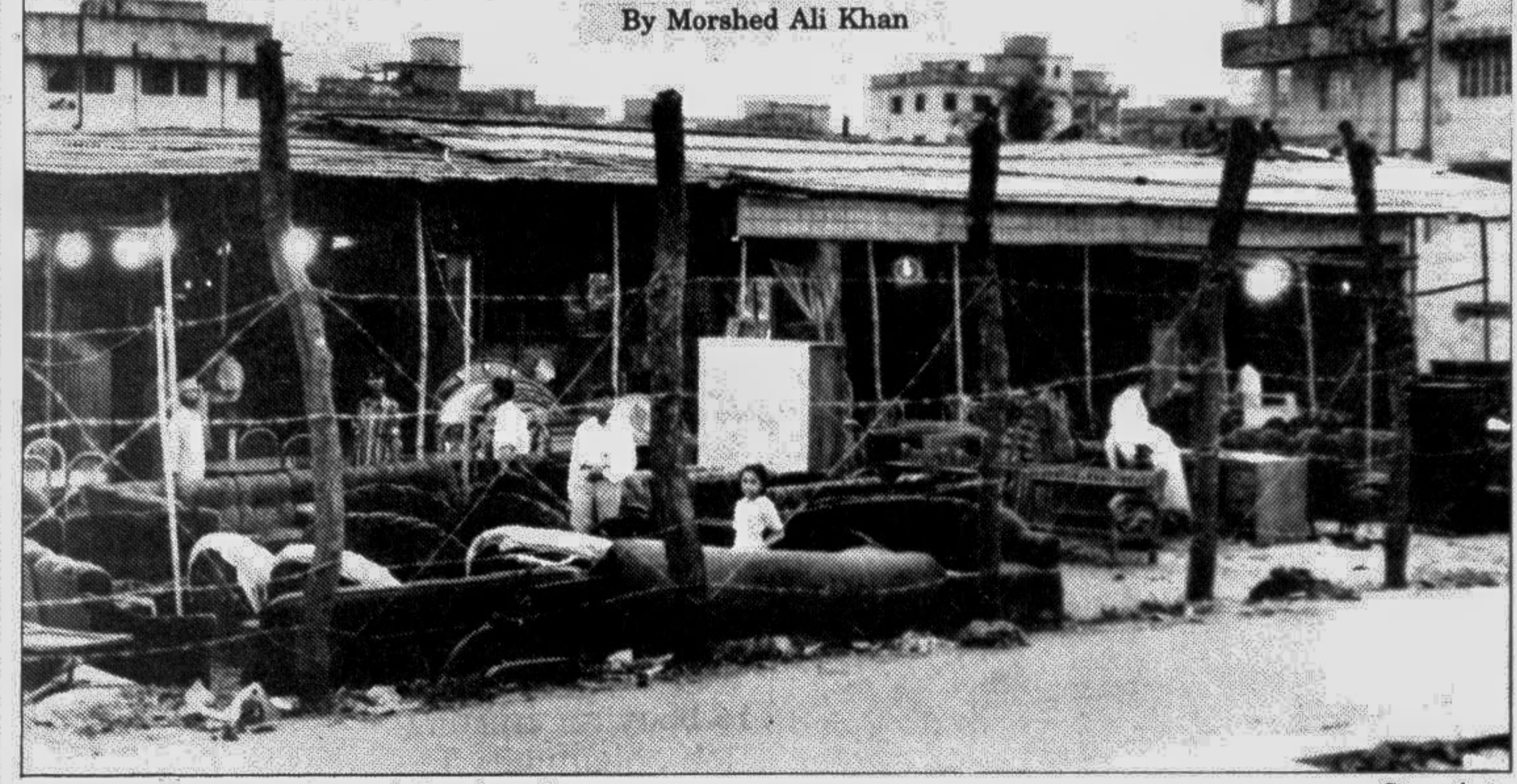
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PHILIPS

Illegal markets mushroom under DCC's nose

By Morshed Ali Khan



Star photo

While many city roads and public places are already choked with hundreds of unauthorised shops, some unscrupulous people have now embarked on constructing kitchen markets illegally in different areas of the city.

Despite complaints from residents in Sobhanbagh, Panthopath, Gulshan Section-1, Z-gatola, Green Road and numerous other places, neither the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) nor the Rajuk has taken any action against the growth of such "nuisance" in the city.

The DCC and the Rajuk are blaming each other for "failing to do something" in this regard while it is alleged that officials of both organisations are regularly collecting "handsome amounts" from the market organisers.

Officials of DCC's Market wing under its Revenue Department said it is Rajuk's responsibility to stop construction of unauthorised structures while Rajuk officials said all kitchen markets in the city have to obtain permission from the DCC and "therefore it is DCC's job to stop the nuisance".

At Panthopath, between Samorta Hospital and the under-construction five-star hotel, one influential individual has built a pucca kitchen market without any authorisation whatsoever.

The market with more than fifty stalls started operation from the first week of this month. Shopkeepers said they have rented the shops from one Yusuf Ali. Near the market, huge piles of garbage have been rotting for days. Residents said since it was not a designated spot for dumping garbage, DCC trucks do not clean it.

At Sobhanbagh, one Haji Saheb has built a huge market with more than hundred shops. A banner there reads: "Haji Nabinewaz, Katcha Bazar, Shops are being allocated."

When contacted DCC's Market Wing officials confirmed that none of these markets were authorised. Blaming the Rajuk for this, an official said, if a decision comes from above to demolish such structures, then it should be done by the Estate Department of the DCC.

Estate Department officials said that those were very "sensitive issues" and so any move to demolish those "must come from above". If the Market Wing officials asks us to demolish these markets then we will move our magistrates and bulldozers, an Estate Department official said.

DCC runs about 20 kitchen markets in the city. The rest are unauthorised, DCC sources said.

PM orders Krishi Bank outlet at every union

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has decided to open a Krishi Bank branch at every union to make agricultural loans available at the grassroots level, reports UNB.

"For the first time our government has decided to provide loans to shareholders and marginal farmers without guarantee from land owners," she said at a review meeting of the Finance Ministry.

The Prime Minister chaired the meeting at the finance ministry that reviewed the progress of implementation of post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction works.

Hasina said previously the shareholders did not get loans because the land owners refused to be the guarantors for the loan of the marginal farmers.

But now she said the bottleneck has been removed and the bank officials will scrutinise the applications of the marginal farmers and provide loans to them to boost production.

She, however, advised the officials concerned to create awareness among the farmers to utilise the loans properly and payback the loans on time.

The system would continue not only for the current year, but also in future, said the Prime Minister who was also apprised of the activities of various financial institutions.

The Prime Minister asked the officials to monitor the loan distribution system so the real farmers get the loans and the middlemen cannot grab those.

No ULFA business venture in Bangladesh: Mustafiz

The government has no information about any business venture run by the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) guerrillas in Bangladesh as has been claimed in a publication of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman said yesterday.

This is "spurious information," he said.

Talking to BSS at his office yesterday afternoon, Rahman said the Indian Home Ministry's publication "Bleeding Assam" has been received in the Foreign Ministry. "It contains some unsubstantiated allegations against Bangladesh," he said.

It has been alleged that the ULFA got sanctuary in Bangladesh and put all their money into Bangladesh banks. It has also been stated that ULFA operates a number of business houses in Bangladesh which include media consultancy, soft drink manufacturing, hotel, private clinics, motor driving schools, groceries, shops, drug stores, poultry farms and such other income generating projects.

Earlier, Rahman, responding to a BBC report on the "Bleeding Assam" monitored and published by newspapers here, stated that there was "no truth" in the allegation that Bangladesh was providing shelter to the Indian insurgents.

The Foreign Secretary said "as have been stated on a number of occasions earlier, the territory of Bangladesh will not be allowed to be used against its neighbours". He stressed that the arrest, trial and conviction of Anup Chetia, the ULFA leader, and his associates are "testimony to Bangladesh government's resolve not to give support or sanctuary to insurgents from across the border."

The Foreign Secretary said "it is unfortunate that Indian Home Ministry has chosen to publish such a spurious information without verification."

DCC limps

From Page 1

keeping their respective areas clean paying for the door-to-door garbage collection service. To avail the service, households are paying up to Tk 400 each annually. The money is being paid without any receipt and it is in addition to DCC's holding tax. In Dhanmondi, for instance DCC cleaners are charging Tk 30 a month from every household for daily collection.

"We don't mind paying the amount as long as our area remains clean," said Quamruzzaman, a government official living in the area.

Although the business of door-to-door collection has reached millions of city dwellers, involving millions of taka, DCC does not officially recognise it. A DCC official termed it a "multi-million taka black business".

"We feel glad about the service and we even encouraged such moves by giving away about 300 rickshaw vans to the ward commissioners," said an official of the Conservancy department.

In many areas, besides private entrepreneurs, the collection is organised by the respective ward commissioners under whom certain number of DCC cleaners have been assigned with wheelbarrows, brooms and other tools. Conservancy officials said on an average, every Ward Commissioner in the city has 55 cleaners working under him. There are over 5,000 cleaners working under the DCC.

These cleaners are to report to the respective commissioners on daily basis and ensure cleanliness of the wards as per their direction. The cleaners get their pay only after the ward commissioners give clearance. But none of the DCC officials could say where the "collection money goes or whether the money is spent on development activities in the wards."

The door-to-door garbage collection was initiated by some local enthusiasts in Kalabagan area. DCC is yet to take any step for garbage recycling. The only recycling is done in the informal sector.

Tendulkar

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wickets for a staggering 71 runs in his 10 overs.

Steve Waugh, the Australian captain, was still nursing hopes when his twin brother Mark Waugh and Gilchrist gave their side a rollicking start. The right-left combination put on 51 runs in only 7.5 overs in which Gilchrist scored a run-a-ball 25 laced with a quartet of fours.

But the rot of the Australian innings started when Mark Waugh, who was on a 79-ball 74, departed after playing a rash shot in an eventful over from Indian left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi.

In that 28th over, Brendon Julian, who was promoted up in the order, clobbered 17 runs from the first four deliveries that included a six over long-off and a four through the extra cover. But Mark, carried away by the sudden rush of blood, looked for more and danced down the track only to pay the penalty through his nose. The classy right-hander missed the line completely, leaving wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia to effect a simple stumping.

Tendulkar then removed skipper Steve Waugh, who offered a simple return catch after scoring only seven, and had dangerous Michael Bevan clean bowled in quick succession to effectively dismiss any chance of an Australian comeback.

Tendulkar, the unanimous choice for the man-of-the-match award, then killed off the Australian resistance when he had Young caught at mid-wicket by Dravid in the penultimate over of the affair. Tendulkar finished with four for 38 runs in his 9.1 overs.

India will now take on the winners of the Pakistan-West Indies match, slated for a 2 pm start today, in the second semifinal on Saturday.

DV craze puts Tk 2.6 cr in postal coffers

By Gobinda Bar

The Postal Department netted in an extra revenue of over Tk 2.60 crore from the DV-2000 craze.

Nearly 15 lakh aspirants from Bangladesh applied for the American dream visa, each paying Tk 18 as mailing charge to send applications to the USA.

The race for filing the standard visa format through post offices began on October 1 and ended Monday for entrants from Bangladesh.

Talking to The Daily Star, post master general of Dhaka Ataur Rahman said yesterday that no additional expenditure was incurred by the Postal Department for earning the extra revenue. The huge number of letters was accommodated by using the existing manpower of the department.

"This extra revenue will help reduce the budget deficit of the department. The postal department earns around Tk 100 crore every year and usually faces a deficit of Tk 60 crore," he said.

Massive hunt for ticket

From Page 1

many of them who found tickets of the eastern and western gallery in black market for the quarterfinal match between India and Australia. But prices were many times higher than usual.

"I couldn't manage a ticket for the match. But I was optimistic that I'll have one if I walk around the stadium before the match," said Arifur Rahman, a student of Dhaka College.

Arif, an ardent supporter of India, especially of master blaster Sachin Tendulkar, also didn't want to miss the match.

But police said many students engaged in black marketing of tickets this time.

"It's a new phenomenon. Usually an organised group around the Bangabandhu National Stadium were engaged in such crimes. But this time students were also engaged in black marketing," said a police official.

The official said he was surprised to find many students among the arrested during crackdown on the black-marketeers. "They did it to make a quick buck," he added.

Boy held for fratricide sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Fifteen-year-old Babu, who killed his elder brother Milon, 21, with an axe at their house at Shanir Akhira in the city in the early hours of Sunday, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday following his confessional statement before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

Babu was arrested by Demra police on Tuesday and produced before the CMM's court yesterday.

According to police, Babu told the court that he had been planning to kill his brother for quite some time because he rebuked and misbehaved with him (Babu). He had procured an axe for this purpose and kept it hidden. Babu said. Some days before the murder, he had written a story on killing of a brother by a brother and got it printed in the form of a book, police said.

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Woman shot dead in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 28: A woman was shot dead while 10 others sustained bullet wounds when a group of armed men attacked a house in Gowaitola last night.

Local sources said that a group of young men riding 5 to 6 motorcycles attacked the house of one Abdul Hakim of Gowaitola at about 10:30 pm yesterday. They opened fire creating panic in the area.

Sajera Begum, 40, a maid servant of a nearby house while returning from a grocery was hit by bullets. She succumbed to her injuries in the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital. Ten others also sustained bullet wounds. Among them, Hashbi Bibi, 40, her daughter Kokila, 18, and Liton, 16, were admitted to the hospital while the others were released after first aid, hospital sources informed.

No Bangladesh flag at Bangabandhu

Sports Reporters

Why is there no flag of Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu National Stadium?

This was asked by some cricket fans during the India-Australia match of the Wills International Cup yesterday.

"Everywhere in the world when a match is played, the flag of the host nation is hoisted over the top of the stadium as we have seen in other venues on TV. But it's not happening here," one of the fans said.

"I know the board has offered everything for bringing the tournament to Bangladesh. I would like to know whether they have also compromised in this regard or not."

"It's a shame. After all, this is the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Should not the nation be represented there?"

BSF: Push-in

From Page 1

know our mind on it that we cannot accept their citizens. There is a set procedure to tackle the issue through discussion between the two border forces."

The BDR chief said that Bangladesh also stressed that the push-in should be halted immediately.

But BSF director general E.N. Rammohan denied there had been any attempted "push-in" of Indian citizens to Bangladesh. "We cannot push anyone because they have a right to lodge a habeas corpus to the High Court."

General Aziz said the Indian side had placed a list of camps of alleged Indian insurgents based in Bangladesh. "Our investigations showed there are no such camps. Rather we have sought extradition of tribal rebel leaders like Prity Kumar Chakma from India. They are trying to scuttle the peace treaty between rebels and the government on ending insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts," he said.

The issue of rebels from the north-eastern Indian state of Assam did not come up for discussion, General Aziz said when asked about Indian allegations that the rebels had hideouts and business operations in Bangladesh.

Earlier, the two border chiefs signed the agreed minutes. The Indian delegation left for New Delhi later in the evening.

A view from the gully

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It was very intriguing to hear Azhar and Steve were on the same frequency. This match was played on the fourth pitch and judging from the previous matches it was only logical that first use of the track would be helpful. At the end of the day it appeared to be a good toss to lose from Azhar's point of view. Each of them wanted the other side to bat first. But why? Sri Lanka put New Zealand in to bat because they wanted to chase and were sure of their bowling strength and the weakness of the Kiwis against world class spinners.

Steve Waugh did not have that potential at his command, yet he decided to put a very strong batting line up in sunny conditions to bat first. His front-line bowlers strayed too much and after their initial successes were put in proper place by Sachin Tendulkar, Fleming and Kasprovic accounted for 116 runs in 19 overs out of India's huge total of 307 for eight.

Two quick wickets must have given the Aussies a genuine hope of containing the Indian run-machine under control.

But Sachin had nobler ideas. With an unsure Rahul Dravid on the other end he set upon the task of rebuilding the Indian innings from scratch. Saurav was never quick in turning around in the initial stages of his innings and he could very well leave the ball. But it must be said in all fairness that the agile wicketkeeper Gilchrist took a brilliant diving catch from almost the leg slip position. Azhar played across but the decision was a bit too much for him.

Tendulkar suddenly opened up and played shots in the covers that could only come from his bat only. Even within the first 15 overs he did not take to the skies but sent the Aussies on errands all round the wicket. His innings was like a master craftsman executing an exquisite piece of showpiece. His 79-ball century, 19th of his short career as a cricketer, will be remembered by the capacity crowd and millions of TV viewers across the world for a long time to come. Rahul Dravid came out of his shell gradually and rendered Sachin unqualified support to the extent that he lost his wicket on wrong call from the little master.

Ajay Jadedja, a very popular figure in the local cricketing circles had also his share of success and, with Sachin, took India to an invincible position. Scoring 300 plus runs under lights was a difficult task on any wicket.

During the last few days we had seen some very rough decisions from the umpires, specially Steve Bucknor of the West Indies. A very respected figure here in Bangladesh, Bucknor's decision against MacMillan on Monday and a couple of lbws yesterday could be rightly contested. One had the feeling that Steve Bucknor is not the same that one knew him to be in 1992. His habit of raising the fingers so late gave the creeps to the bowler and made the batsman look like a fool.

The Australians tried to make the match an even contest but irresponsibly batting by Mark. Ricky and Steve took the wind out of the sail.

Here again the genius of Tendulkar came into play. When their regulars clobbered, Sachin did the most wise thing by bowling his slow spinners right on the spot. It was not easy to take liberty and whoever tried that, perished.

Once again he proved that cricket was a thinking game.

Interpol

From Page 1

another, a message received in the city yesterday said.

Interpol representatives from 151 countries attended the six-day conference which ended in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday.

Siddiqi also requested the General Assembly to include trafficking of women in the agenda which was accepted by the Interpol secretariat.

On the occasion of the Wills International Cup cricket being held at Dhaka from Oct 24-Nov 1, 1998

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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