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MQM pulls out of Sindh coalition

KARACHI, Oct 29: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League's partner in the Sindh provincial government pulled out of the coalition today after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accused them of harbouring murderers, reports AP.

The Muttahed Quami Movement withdrew its 28 lawmakers from the Sindh provincial Parliament leaving the Muslim League scrambling for new partners.

However it seems unlikely that Sharif will be able to cobble together another coalition given that the single largest party in the provincial Parliament is his arch enemy Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Benazir's party holds 37 seats in the 109-seat legislature. However her party and the MQM are archenemies making a coalition government led by

her party unlikely.

It's not clear how Sharif will deal with the crisis, but one of his options, according to political analysts in southern Karachi is to suspend the legislature and declare governor's rule.

The falling out occurred after Sharif accused the MQM of harbouring the killers of Hakim Saeed, a prominent educator and philanthropist of Karachi earlier this month.

On Wednesday Sharif issued an ultimatum to the MQM: Hand over Saïd's killers or his Pakistan Muslim League would part company with the MQM.

But at a news conference today in Karachi, Aftab Sheikh, an MQM spokesman, said his party will make the first move and leave the coalition.

If governor's rule is imposed, the province will be effectively governed from the federal capital of Islamabad.

A view from the gully

From Page 1 and batting prowess. They are also known as a highly talented bunch and at the same time have gained notoriety for their unpredictable behaviour on the field.

A target of 290 on this feathered should not have been impossible for a side studded with batsmen who are experienced and capable, yet these are the players who turned out to be the most irresponsible at crucial moments. The way Sohail, Ejaz, Malik and Akram got themselves out can inspire their enemies point their fingers at some questionable decisions. On a wicket that has been helpful to the medium and slow bowlers right from day one, Pakistan should have taken a leaf out of the Indian experience on Wednesday. Saqlain tried a strategy in a critical stage of the game that was neither clever nor intelligent. His seven overs proved costly but on this pitch he should have been among the wickets. But it was not his day.

The manner in which the Caribbean started their innings, nobody would have been surprised had they crossed the 300 mark. Lara wanted to avoid spin in the evening and he was right in his decision to bat first on winning the toss. Wallace and Williams were having a ball as the Pakistan attack looked so innocuous and erratic. Wallace in particular was enjoying himself. But a packed house must have been thoroughly disappointed when Brian Lara made a quick exit. The world record holder for the highest individual innings in Test and first class match was on grounds that have been

treated on by his cricketing ancestors of the likes of Sir Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai, 'Sony' Ramadhin, Wesley Hall and Lance Gibbs exactly 39 years ago. On this ground they were defeated by a Pakistani team in a Test match. On Thursday Lara and his men equalled the score, in a way.

Javed Miandad must be a very sad man, coming on the heels of the Test series loss to Australia, this tournament offered a chance to redeem themselves but that also slipped from their grips.

It is time for both Pakistan and West Indies to rebuild their teams for the biggest cricketing event of next year. Both these teams are held in high esteem by the lovers of the game for their cavalier attitude.

But with Tendulkar, Saurav, Azhar and Jadeja round the corner supported by Jaysuriya, Atapattu, Arvinda and Arjuna the good times may not last long.

Ctg crime
From Page 1
crackdown on a small scale as we are trying to develop community policing here to control crime," said one official. "However, we are watching the situation."

The sources said that some of the arrested terrorists were recently released from jail. They have started criminal activities again, increasing crime in the city, they said.

A businessman was gunned down recently at Agrabad soon after a terrorist leader came out on bail, they said.



The Pakistan team heading for the dressing room after the West Indies innings at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ted Hughes dead

LONDON, Oct 29: British poet laureate Ted Hughes, whose stormy marriage to the gifted American poet Sylvia Plath dogged his reputation after her suicide, has died, his publisher said Thursday. He was 68, reports AP.

Hughes died Wednesday at his home in Devon after a 18-month battle with cancer, which he had kept secret, said Matthew Evans, chairman of the publisher Faber and Faber.

The loss to his family is inestimable," Evans said. A collection of searingly intense poems published by Hughes this year called 'Birthday Letters' shed new light on his difficult marriage to the tortured Plath, brought him sympathy and won him rave reviews.

Some Plath fans called Hughes a murderer and his name has been repeatedly hacked off of her gravestone in Yorkshire, northern England.

China: Talks

From Page 1
Bangladesh also requested China to help build a convention centre for the Non-aligned Movement summit in Dhaka scheduled to be held in 2001, to which they agreed to give serious attention, Rahman said.

Dhaka and Beijing also reaffirmed their opposition to nuclear non-proliferation as a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty while discussing regional and nuclear issues.

"It (China) likes to promote peace and development in the region within its capacity while showing strong interest in South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), expressing interest to become a dialogue partner," Rahman said.

Rahman said Bangladesh also invited Chinese President Jiang Jemin and Premier Zhu Rongji to visit Dhaka. "They (delegation leader) said there would be a high level visit sometime next year."

Bangladesh foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad has been invited to visit Beijing sometime this year," he added.

AL leader

From Page 1
Meanwhile, police arrested another person Wednesday in connection with Asha murder. The arrested, identified as Kamal, 21, son of one Abdur Rashid of Darshana, was taken to four-day police remand.

Earlier, police took a woman named Aklina to custody for interrogation, according to UNB.

Weather

From Page 1
A depression is hanging over the West Central Bay and adjoining South West Bay. "It was near the Andhra coast but we are keeping watch on it in case it changes course and moves towards Bangladesh," a meteorologist said last night.

It moved slightly north-westwards and was centred at 6 pm yesterday at 1210-km south-west of Chittagong Port and 1100 km south-west of Khulna city (near lat 15.2. N and long 82.5. E). It is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction.

The maximum sustained wind within 44-km of the depression centre is about 40 kmph, rising to 50 kmph in gust/squalls. The Bay will remain moderate.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep close to the coast and proceed with caution, the Met office said.

WI dump Pakistan

From Page 1
in the tournament so far. In the process, Wallace achieved the personal distinction of completing the quickest 50 of the competition in the same over. His 'half century' came off 37 balls studded with eight boundaries.

West Indies were 107 in 15 overs -- the highest number of runs within the period of field restriction.

Wallace went on to hit a career best 79 off 58 deliveries before needlessly running himself out in the 20th over with the Caribbeans comfortably placed on 143. Wallace hammered 13 cracking fours in his highly entertaining innings. Together with Chanderpaul, he shared 102 runs for the second wicket.

In strode captain Brian Lara, who swept the first ball he faced

for four igniting rapturous applause from the stands. But he really let his admirers down when he ended his chancy and unconvincing innings of 16 in the most forgettable way -- missing a lofted drive into the sure hands of Saqlain Mushtaq.

Off spinner Arshad Khan, who got that prized wicket, further put the brakes on the West Indies batting by sending back Chanderpaul (49) and Carl Hooper (13) in quick succession. Chanderpaul played a typically sound innings that consisted of three hits across the ropes.

Arthurton and Phil Simmons (21) then shared an enterprising partnership of 46 before Akram came back to rattle the late order with a three-wicket burst in a classic exhibition of fast bowling. First he had

Arthurton caught behind. Then he got Ridley Jacobs out LBW with an express delivery off the very next ball. Raul Lewis denied Akram a hat trick but the former Pakistan skipper clean bowled Simmons to round off a superb spell of three for 55. However, Arshad was the most impressive among the Pakistani bowlers with figures of two for 43 runs in his 10 overs.

Lewis scored an unbeaten 20 and West Indies eventually piled up a total of 289 but could perhaps have scored a lot more had their top guns played with more responsibility.

Pakistan, in their chase, never quite put the West Indies under pressure after their explosive opener Shahid Afridi fell for only four. They kept losing wickets at regular intervals in the face of intelligent bowling from left-arm spinner Arthurton.

Only opener Selim Elahi with a stylish 46 off 79 balls, which included a massive six over mid-wicket, played with some purpose.

Ijaz Ahmed, who scored a 64-ball 51, briefly threatened to cut loose. But Pakistan's slim hopes of a turnaround was truly over when Arthurton had the dangerous clean bowled in the 37th over. Arthurton also dismissed Selim Malik in the same over for a run-a-ball 15.



Miss Croatia gets to keep her crown

ZAGREB, Oct 29: The controversy surrounding this year's Miss Croatia beauty contest ended Wednesday with a compromise -- the Muslim woman who had been stripped of her title will go to the Miss World contest this year, while her replacement will go next year, reports AP.

Lejla Šehović, a Muslim who was crowned Miss Croatia on Oct 11, only to have her title revoked amid a national scandal weeks later, said Wednesday that she accepted the organisers' offer to represent Croatia at this year's Miss World pageant in the Seychelles.

Šehović, 22, had no other immediate comment.

Gold ornaments worth Tk 75 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
Customs officials at Zia International Airport seized gold ornaments worth Tk 75 lakh from a Sylhet-bound baggage of a Biman flight coming from Muscat, officials said yesterday.

None of the Sylhet-bound transit passengers of the aircraft claimed the ownership of the baggage. The baggage contained gold ornaments weighing 8.95 kg, officials added.

The aircraft BG-022, landed at ZIA at about 8.45 am, officials said.

Acting on a tip off, the customs officials checked the luggage of the passengers and found the gold ornaments in one of those, officials said.

A departmental case was filed in this regard, they said.

Home minister's order

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday instructed the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to take stern action against those who are manufacturing and selling 'explosives', reports BSS.

The instruction came following an incident during the cricket match between India and Australia in the Wills International Cup tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here Wednesday.

The minister also ordered the IGP to launch a special drive to round up the culprits.

PARC plans course

From Page 1
they are not functioning, the meeting observed.

It also stressed improving the signalling system at railway level-crossing points to help ease traffic congestion in the cities and on highways.

For Dhaka city, more traffic weeks were suggested to educate people on road rules.

There should be at least one traffic week every month with mobile courts to cut down traffic rule violation and congestion," Shamsul Huq told the Star yesterday. He said enforcement of the rules could help ease traffic jams in the cities.

ommendations made by the PARC, he said four of them have been accepted in principle by the government. "These are aimed at making the administration more accountable and accessible to people," he said.

These include right to reply to a citizen within two weeks of receiving the complaints or queries, setting up of information booths at Secretariat and Prime Minister's Office to receive the complaints or letters of queries from members of the public, creation of an office of Ombudsman and provision for early retirement of officials.

The PARC is planning to initiate a series of roundtable discussions and workshops at thana level to be followed by ones at national level on administrative reforms.

An international seminar would be held in March in Dhaka to wrap up the discussions. A national report would be made incorporating all the inputs from these discussions.

Delhi to 'expose' Pakistani spy chain in India

AHMEDABAD, Oct 29: A White Paper was being prepared on the activities of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in India and it would be placed before parliament during its winter session beginning November end, Union Home Minister L K Advani said here today, reports PTI.

The White Paper was being prepared following a demand in this regard by members of parliament during the meeting of the advisory committee on the union home ministry recently, Advani told reporters at an informal get-together organised by the state unit of the BJP.

During the meeting, a presentation on the ISI was made following which the MPs demanded a White Paper on the

ISI activities in India which was agreed on by the government, Advani added.

The ISI was masterminding a 'proxy war' for Pakistan against India and was trying to create internal disturbances, he said, adding that India would never fall short of defeating the Pakistani designs. "We will never allow Kashmir to be annexed by Pakistan or anybody," he said.

Meanwhile, in its reaction, Congress said that BJP's description of India as a network of the ISI is a slur on the nation and said the Vajpayee government's bungling has brought the Kashmir issue again on the international agenda.

Arms recovered, one arrested at Adamjee

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 29: Police recovered five pipe guns, one country-made rifle and 89 crackers from the vicinity of the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) in a two-hour massive drive here today.

One Abdul Maleque, 35, was also arrested during the raid which continued from 4 am to 6 am.

Some 1,100 policemen led by the Narayanganj additional police superintendent Abdur Rahim raided Gate Number One and Two, CBA office premises, Dhaka-Baju, New Colony, Sweeper Colony inside the AJM and SO Road, Burma Stand and Ailpara areas outside the mill to recover arms following clashes between rival worker groups at the AJM recently. A large number of policemen were mobilised in the raid from nine adjoining districts.

Delwar Hossain, General Secretary of Jatiya Party-backed 'Sramik Union' in a statement termed the raid as 'an eyewash' because police 'did not storm the canteen, medical centre premises and guards' residence where the CBA-backed terrorists usually conceal their arms.'

General workers while talking to this correspondent also alleged that police harassed general labourers in the name of raid. The raid became a farce as the terrorists fled the area following the spread of news of the raid," they said.

Road accident

From Page 1
The dead, however, remained unidentified to railway police till filing of this report last night.

None, however, could confirm how Touhid fell under the train. His body was cut into three pieces, hospital sources added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was lodged with GRP thana in this regard yesterday.

In another incident, an unidentified boy aged about 14 died after he was fatally injured when a truck hit him in the city's Airport Road at about 9 am.

Earlier, he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died soon after admission.

Loadshedding

From Page 1
ferred 6 mw of loadshedding, Khilgaon 10 mw, Postagola 12 mw and Lalbagh 10 mw. Munshiganj 10 mw, Narayanganj 12 mw, Siddhirganj 15 mw and Narsingdi 12 mA.

Several DESA areas also suffered loadshedding till 10:30 PM, DESA sources said.

The city's daily demand for power is now around 1000 mw on an average, the sources said.

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

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