

A taste of Test cricket for Dhaka as Asia's giants clash today

Sports Reporter



Getting into shape
Pakistan cricketers limber up for the final

Dhaka gets its first taste of Test cricket since 1969 today, when the final of the first Asian Test Championship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, will inaugurate the five-day final at 9:30 am (BST). Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to hand over the trophy at the end of world's first

ing one extra bonus point from their two drawn games.

Pakistan, led by Wasim Akram, arrived on Tuesday morning and had two complete practice sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Sri Lanka led by Aravinda de Silva arrived on Wednesday, and could avail only one practice session yesterday morning before today's match.

The match will be officiated by two neutral umpires -- David



ever Test Championship final on March 16.

Bangladesh Television and satellite channel Star Sports will telecast the match live, which is the first Test match being played at a neutral venue.

Pakistan secured their final berth by beating India at Calcutta's Eden Gardens last month and drawing against Sri Lanka later at Lahore. Sri Lanka edged India out by gain-

Shepherd of England and Douglas Cowie of New Zealand. VK Ramaswami of India has been appointed as the third umpire while former West Indian cricketer Cammie Smith will act as match commissioner.

The match will be played every day in three sessions. The lunch break will be from 11:30 am to 12:10 pm while the tea break will be from 2:10 pm to 2:30 pm.



Lion in the mood
Sri Lankan star Aravinda getting ready to do battle.

—Star Photos: Anisur Rahman

CBA polls bring fear of violence at Adamjee

After nine years, workers of the ever volatile Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) are going to elect their new bargaining agents, triggering high tension amid fears of violence.

The fears among general workers heightened ahead of the highly-politicised exercise by a 20917-strong electorate as rivals are reported to be "building up an arsenal."

In the past few days, the fears of the impending armed conflicts were evident all over.

In an usual event, a group of journalists, who turned up to visit the Mills on Wednesday, three days ahead of its CBA election, were promptly stopped at the main gate.

Stunned by the unusual security enthusiasm, the newsmen produced their identity cards. But the security officer kept them waiting at his room for half-an-hour.

"We're checking each and everybody ahead of the polls. We've been asked to keep watch on all to prevent inflow of illegal arms and intrusion of goons in the mills compound," the officer said trying to tame the angry journalists.

The officer then phoned several higher officials inside, but none could guide him properly as each of them was referring the matter to another. Finally, a solution was worked out.

The newsmen were allowed entrance with a Special Branch policeman guarding them. They were asked not to visit the workplaces or enter any official's room. The SB man followed them everywhere and tried to overhear their conversations with the labour leaders and general workers.

Several yards past the main gate, the four-member team of local correspondents of different national dailies including The Daily Star, met dozens of workers who appeared panicked by the fears of violence. The workers made guarded remarks and led the scene.

Without identifying themselves, they said they would strongly recommend immediate police raids of the AJM and deployment of the army during Sunday's election.

While the official boasted high security in the jute mills -- notoriously known for violent criminal activities for many years -- scores of people were reportedly making their way inside apparently unhindered.

Reports had it that huge quantity of unauthorised arms and explosive materials were being brought into the mills area.

"In fact, the huge AJM area has been turned into a den of notorious criminals. They include absconding convicts guilty of murders and other terrorist activities," a worker said describing the pre-election situation.

But the Supreme Court postponed the polls scheduled for February 17 after the government petitioned for it citing the law and order situation at the AJM.

The SC later ordered holding of the polls by March 16. The court order led to the announcement of the present schedule of March 14.

The election fever has

By Nazmul Ashraf and Ehsanul Haque



Sign of the time
Election graffiti at Adamjee jute mills.

The conflicting workers' groups were known to have mustered all their might -- muscle, money and unauthorised arms -- soon after the long-pending CBA polls scheduled was first announced on January 12. The last biennial election was held in March, 1990.

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Power crisis grips Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent

Parts of Dhaka city and adjacent areas plunged into darkness last night as the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) had a shortage of 150 megawatts of power.

The DESA was allocated 800 megawatts last night against its total demand of 950 megawatts for the day, according to a control room source.

As a result, each sub-station under DESA had to shed 8-10 megawatts of electricity load. The 17 sub-stations of DESA distributed power alternatively keeping some areas under darkness, the source explained.

The supply deficit was attributed to shortage of power generation in the country.

Out of a total demand for 2400 megawatts in the country, only 2197 megawatts were generated yesterday evening, according to sources at Siddhirganj power station.

The Dhanmondi area including The Daily Star office faced frequent disruptions last night as a supply line was snapped at Road 4.

Technicians tried to restore the line cutting power supply which plunged many areas into darkness on and off.

Besides, there was a six-megawatt deficit for Dhanmondi area, according to control room sources.

Three more power towers face collapse

Three more electricity towers have been identified as risky because of removal of earth alongside the towers, reports UNB.

According to Power Development Board sources, the three towers bearing 132 KV high tension transmission lines are likely to collapse at any time if proper maintenance, including piling of earth, was not done immediately.

The condition of the three towers came to the knowledge of the PDB only after the recent collapse of a tower in Narayanganj.

Sources said these towers are situated at Hasiab sub-station, Fatullah and Panchabati.

Meanwhile, negligence duty by the persons responsible for the task has been identified as the primary cause of the tower collapse in Narayanganj.

A PDB probe committee is investigating the incident and it will submit a report to the Energy Ministry within next seven days, sources said.

Normally linemen and sub-divisional engineers are responsible to look after the towers.

When contacted, the acting chairman of DESA told UNB that he had visited the place of the tower collapse and instructed the local authorities to repair and replace the tower.

Prayer Timings

	March 12	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	5:35
Jumma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:20	6:23
Esha	7:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Home minister fired

Nasim replaces Rafiq at key ministry

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

The widely-specified change in crucial Home portfolio came yesterday with powerful ruling party man Mohammad Nasim stepping into the tough job.

The outgoing home minister, Rafiqul Islam, said he came to learn about his removal from radio. He would however retain his seat in the Council of Ministers without any specific responsibility.

The crucial change came in the wake of rising acts of terrorism, especially the recent gruesome killings of political leaders and cultural activists in Kushtia and Jessore.

Rafiqul Islam claimed he was successful as home minister and that he was happy with his own performance. "There was no failure... no lacking (on my part), he said, "it is not possible to perform alone. It's a teamwork."

The minister however hastened to add it was the "prime minister's prerogative" to make changes in her Cabinet.

The change was announced yesterday evening by the Cabinet Division, putting to rest lingering speculations. The fallen minister's attended office yesterday and had apparently no knowledge of the impending removal.

Among others, Nasim was being tipped to succeed Rafiq amid reports that many others were refusing to take the risky job.

Nasim's new assignment will be in addition to his ministry of post and telecommunications but he was relieved of the other ministry he was running simultaneously.

The housing and public works portfolio went to civil aviation and tourism minister Engineer Mosharrar Hossain as an additional job.

Reached by telephone last night, Minister Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that he did not feel he had failed to perform as home minister for the last 32 months.

"Fighting terrorism cannot be a one-man show. It's a teamwork," said Rafiq.

Rafiq declined to comment on his current status -- a minister without portfolio.

Meanwhile, ruling party insiders called the change a positive step.

They said the key ministry should be manned by one having long association with the party and dedication to it.

"Much depends on the home minister as far as the image of the government is concerned," said an influential MP.

The MP hailed Nasim as "a born Awami Leaguer", one who "inherited the AL politics" from his father -- the late Mansur Ali, a close friend of the Bangabandhu.

On the other hand, it was pointed out, Rafiq had joined the AL only before the 1996 general election.

Nasim told UNB that he would try his best to perform his new assignment.

Sources close to him said that he would meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today and formally take over at the Home Ministry Sunday.

Harkat man nabbed in Jessore

Links to Udichi bombing being probed

From Shehab Ahmed

JESSORE, Mar 11: Police arrested one person, said to be a regional organiser of extremist outfit Harkatul Jihad from Chhatti Amtala Bazar, 10 km off here this afternoon.

Alhaj Monirul Islam, 35, was arrested from his clothing store at 5:15 pm. A 7.62mm pistol and five rounds of ammunition, few books and an audio cassette eulogizing

Afghanistan's Taliban forces were also recovered from the near empty shop.

Police said a Taleban pocket calendar, a photo album of Taleban operations, which also have pictures of Monirul Islam as a student of Deoband Madrasa in India, were recovered.

The police also netted a certificate book of Bangladesh

Ansarul Mujahidin', 27 of which were already distributed to different people of Jessore.

Police found a new funds collection book of Harkatul Jihad al-Islami, printed in offset papers and bearing the address B-381 Khilgaon, Dhaka 1219, telephones 837260/621434. It is signed by one Amin, whose name was not legible.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

• প্রদেয় আয়কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করুন এবং
• অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

তৃতীয় কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান প্রসঙ্গে

চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৯ইং। সংশ্লিষ্ট করদাতা কর্তৃক দেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ফরম নং আইটি-৩১(বি) (সংশোধিত) চালান ফরমের মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এই ফরমের যে যে স্থানে '৭৪ (১)' সংখ্যাটি উল্লেখিত আছে তার স্থলে '৬৪' সংখ্যাটি প্রতিস্থাপনপূর্বক চালান ফরমটি যথাযথ পূরণ করে করদাতাগণ অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করবেন। উল্লেখ্য, সকল শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে মোট আয়ের আর্থিক সীমা বর্তমানে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল করদাতাকে ১৯৯৯-২০০০ কর বছরের জন্য চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৯ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে এই পদ্ধতিতে প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান না করলে অথবা প্রদেয় অগ্রিম করের অংক থেকে কম পরিমাণ পরিশোধ করলে বাৎসরিক ১০% হারে সরল সুদ আরোপণের বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।

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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

BNP seeks better security cover for party chief

By Nazmul Ashraf and Rezaul Karim

Citing recent acts of terrorism, BNP has asked the government to strengthen the security cover for Khaleda Zia, the party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The demand comes ahead of her plans to address a series of public meetings in and outside the capital. She has planned her first such meeting in Jessore, where explosions of powerful bombs at a cultural programme killed eight people after Sunday midnight.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mainan Bhuiyan sent a letter to Home Minister (until then) Rafiqul Islam yesterday noon. Earlier in the morning, Bhuiyan talked to the minister by telephone. He also phoned the Jessore police chief to ask for adequate security measures during the Opposition leader's visit to the town on Saturday.

The SP was learnt to have assured a "leak-proof" security for the BNP chief.

Bhuiyan's letter to the home minister referred to the brutal killings in Jessore and the murders of veteran politician Kazi Aref Ahmed and five other JSD leaders at a public meeting in Kushtia on February 16.

The content of the letter, delivered to the minister by two BNP leaders -- Barakatullah Bhui, MP and former MP Lutfulzaman Babar -- was disclosed to The Daily Star.

"The massive killings had exposed an extremely deteriorated law and order situation in the country... Under such circumstances, we are deeply concerned about the security of Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia," it said.

"She should be given adequate security cover during her movement and attendance of public rallies..." the letter said, referring to Khaleda's planned visit to Jessore.

Presently, the Opposition leader is covered by a mobile team of seven Special Branch members. In addition, 12 uniformed policemen are guarding her private residence at Dhaka Cantonment and the official residence at Minto Road, by rotation.

Khaleda Zia has a 10-strong private security force. Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan heads the team called CSF or Chairperson's Security Force.

জার্জন

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯ তৃতীয় শ্রেণি (স্টল) ট্রুই অর্জন করেছে। এই শুভকণ্ঠে প্রতিষ্ঠান সকল ক্ষেত্র, পরিবেশক ও বিক্রেতা যারা বিগত দিনে আমাদের পাশে থেকে সহযোগিতা করেছেন তাদের গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতায় স্মরণ করছে।

প্রতিষ্ঠান তৃতীয় বর্ষেই গাজী ট্যাংকস্ ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯ এ তৃতীয় শ্রেণি (স্টল) ট্রুই অর্জন করেছে। এই শুভকণ্ঠে প্রতিষ্ঠান সকল ক্ষেত্র, পরিবেশক ও বিক্রেতা যারা বিগত দিনে আমাদের পাশে থেকে সহযোগিতা করেছেন তাদের গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতায় স্মরণ করছে।

গাজী ট্যাংকস্ এর মানবীয় পরিচালক জবান আল মামুন গিনিকী প্রতিষ্ঠানের পূর্ব পাহাচাতী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সর্বস্বীয় পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী জনাব আব্দুল হামিদ আহসান-এর যত থেকে ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯ তৃতীয় শ্রেণি (স্টল) ট্রুই অর্জন করেছে।

বিত্তিক পানির নিরাপদ সরবরাহ

শ্রদ্ধা পানির নিরাপদ সরবরাহ

শ্রী এ.কারপ্রাইভ

ঢাকা অফিস
রতন চৌধুরী, ১৫২/২/এ-২, গ্রীন রোড, পাথরপাড়া, ঢাকা-১২০৫, বাংলাদেশ।
ফোন: ৯১২২২০৩ ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৯১২৩৭০৫

চট্টগ্রাম অফিস
১১, মাকির হোসেন রোড,
হলিফোর্স্ট ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এলাকা, মুন্সী, চট্টগ্রাম।
ফোন: ৮৫৬৬৭১ ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-৩১-৬৩৮৫২

GAZI