



VOL. IX NO. 56 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

CHAITRA 1, 1405 BS

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 15, 1999

ZILQUAD 26, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00



Bangladesh and Pakistan to play one-day tomorrow

By Rabeed Imam

In a rather dramatic development, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury announced yesterday that a day-night one-day international between Bangladesh and Pakistan will take place on March 16.

The match has been dubbed the 'Merit Challenge Cup'. Square Pharmaceuticals has earned title sponsorship of the fixture by virtue of contributing

Bangladeshi Television (BTV) will telecast the match live.

Tk 10 lakh. RC Cola is paying the BCB Tk two lakh to be the official beverage of the game.

The BCB chief entered the media box at the Bangabandhu Stadium during a drinks break of the Asian Test Championship final and drew the attention of the pressmen present.

'We have taken the initiative of arranging a day-night limited overs international match between Bangladesh and Pakistan on Tuesday (March 16)', declared Chowdhury, much to the astonishment of the journalists as March 16 was the last day of the final.

Asked how it would be possible to conduct a one-day game on the same day, Saber replied unconvinced. 'It will be worked out. Besides, you can well presume that this final may not last the scheduled duration. We shall start an hour after the Test finishes, when-

See Page 12 Col 6

Pakistan poised for victory

By Al-Amin

Another four-day Test on the cards!

Few might argue, but Pakistan made their intentions clear when they left the beligerent Sri Lankans fighting for survival after taking an almost unassassable first innings lead of 363 runs at the end of the third day's play of the Asian Test Championship final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Resuming at 299 for two, Pakistan piled up a huge total of 594 all out with only four overs remaining of what was truly an eventful day that the Dhaka crowd would relish for years to come.

On a day which saw records galore, both overnight batsmen -- Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamamul Haq, went on to score maiden double centuries and Sri

Lanka's leg-spinner Upul Chandana made a dream start to his Test career with a haul of six wickets for 179 runs. But those performances were nothing compared to what the phenomenal Wasim Akram, who earned the fabulous feat of claiming hattricks in successive Tests, did.

Undoubtedly the best left-arm fast bowler of all time, Akram brought the spectators to their feet when the southpaw from Lahore took three wickets

See Page 12 Col 1

we SCORE...
while others watch

Standard Chartered



Hattrick of achievements delight Pakistani heroes (R-L) Akram, Ijaz and Inzamam.

— Star Photo by Anisur Rahman

Ties with Dhaka to grow, says Bahrain's Emir

MANAMA, Mar 14: The new Emir of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamed bin Isa Al-Khalifa, today gave an audience to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who came here on a short visit to convey her deep condolences at the death of Emir of Bahrain Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, reports BSS.

Welcoming the Bangladeshi Prime Minister at the Riffa Palace, Shaikh Hamad said he feels honoured as the Bangladeshi leader has come here to console him at the time of his grief.

The Emir said, his father had left many unfinished tasks which he hopes to accomplish in cooperation with the friendly countries, including Bangladesh.

The Emir expressed the hope that bilateral relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to come. He deeply appreciated Sheikh Hasina's positive role as a peace maker. He hoped that Sheikh Hasina would soon come to visit his country for a longer period.

Sheikh Hasina told the new Emir that a pall of gloom had descended on the people of Bangladesh when they heard the sad news of the death of the Emir. She said the Emir was a

See Page 12 Col 2

Govt firm to radically reform 'colonial' admin system: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is determined to radically reform the administrative system for serving the people and not to rule them, reported said.

Our objective is to take the administration to the doorsteps of the people. From highest to the lowest strata, let it be our commitment that administration is for the service of the people, she said.

Asking the experts to suggest

Related story on Page 11

recommendations for administrative reforms, the Prime Minister said the recommendations should be comprehensive — short-term, mid-term and long-term.

She assured of taking steps for the implementation of the recommendations after due consideration.

Hasina said the Public Administration Reforms Com-

mission (PARC) has already submitted a 16-point recommendation, including accountability and improvement of quality of service of the organisations providing services to the people.

The Prime Minister sought concrete recommendations from the foreign and local experts for prevention of all sorts of waste, restructuring government, semi-government and autonomous organisations and prevention of corruption.

Suggestions are also needed for strengthening of parliamentary supervision over the administration, she said.

Expecting more recommendations from the commission, the Prime Minister said in the reforms priority to be attached to the introduction of a permanent system and procedure for the attraction of local and for-

See Page 12 Col 6

Contempt petition disposed of SC reprimands PM

By Special Correspondent

The Supreme Court has observed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 'should have taken more care and caution before giving out any fact or figure and not merely rely upon newspaper report which arguably is not often the whole or holy truth.'

In a judgement given on March 4, the five-man full bench of the Appellate Division however disposed of the contempt petition brought against her for her alleged comments on the granting of bail by the High Court.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the judgement yesterday.

The observations came in response to the contempt petition filed on February 2 by Supreme Court Bar Association President Habibul Islam Bhuyan against the PM for commenting at a January 29

news conference about the alleged granting of 1200 bails in two days by a High Court Division Bench.

The court heard the arguments of both sides on February 17, during which the Attorney General presented a signed statement by the PM.

The Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ATM Afzal, in a six-page observation, also made public the PM's statement clarifying her position on the alleged comments. She had submitted the statement at the instruction of the highest court.

The clarification was withheld during the hearing. The other members of the bench are Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Choudhury and Justice A.M. Mahmudur Rahman.

See Page 11

They arrive late and leave early

By Staff Correspondent

Recurring absence of quorum creates quite a big inconvenience for the Speaker but lawmakers, irrespective of party affiliations, seem oblivious to punctuality in attending the Jatiya Sangsad session.

Delay in the commencement of sittings is becoming a regular feature. It is also upsetting for many that at the day's end, when the House picks up general discussion on President's speech as the last items on the agenda of the day, population inside the parliament quickly diminishes, generally forcing the Chair to abruptly suspend the day's business.

Yesterday, against a scheduled starting time of 4:30 pm, the House convened at 5:40 pm causing a delay of over an hour. As the Chair moved to day's last agenda at 9:25 pm, there were only 52 lawmakers, eight short of the quorum, in attendance.

Few minutes later, when a ruling party lawmaker was

See Page 12 Col 3

7 drown in Pirojpur boat capsiz

PIROJPUR, Mar 14: At least

seven people drowned and many were missing when a boat capsized in the river Madhupur

Police and witnesses said, seven bodies were recovered from the mechanised boat, Ashirbad-2, weighed down into the river in Nazirpur thana of Pirojpur district at about 11:30 am.

Three of them were identified as Nirod Baran, 50, Malati Rani, 35, and Bijoy Rani, 30. All from Sreeramkhali village in Nazirpur thana.

District officials said the boat with about 150 passengers aboard sank off Chakdhati while sailing to Orakandi village of Kashiani thana of Faridpur district.

The boat was ferrying people of the Hindu community from Jukkali village in Sadar thana to a religious festival at Orakandi.

At the same time, my job will be to find out the terrorists who were involved in the recent killings in Kushtia and Jessor.

He said another of his prime

Curbing terrorism my first job: Nasim

New Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday ex-

pressed his strong determination to improve the law and order and curb terrorism with an iron hand, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen at his telecommunications office in the afternoon, he called the Home Ministry as most important and sensitive.

Nasim said: 'I will not compromise on the question of curbing terrorism. Stern action will be taken against any terrorist whichever party he may belong to.'

The new Home Minister said his first assignment would be to make terrorism-torn Khulna, Kushtia and Jessor region free from the menace.

'At the same time, my job will be to find out the terrorists who were involved in the recent killings in Kushtia and Jessor.'

He said another of his prime

Hearing of '96 share scam cases Defence charged with delaying tactic

By M Shamsur Rahman

The prosecution yesterday accused the defence of trying to delay the proceedings of the 1996 share scam cases by employing the 'old tactic' of taking the issue from one court to another.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawyer Dr M Zahir began his arguments pointing out that the hearing on the 1996 share scam began in the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mollai Mustafa Karnal at 10:15 am yesterday.

The prosecution opened all the three cases -- involving Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Shinetek Holdings and Doha Securities -- on law point. The Shinetek case was 'part heard' before adjournment of

See Page 12 Col 3

'Donors adopt hypocrisy in policymaking'

The visiting Chief Eco-

nomic of World Bank admits to come back to the politics of parliamentarian democracy.

Nasim said he already contacted BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and had requested him to come to a dialogue.

'Let him fix the date and place of the proposed meeting. If necessary, I'll go to the place he chooses for it. If their demands are logical, we'll consider those,' he said.

On Begum Khaleda Zia's allegation that the Jessore incident was an arranged drama and the government itself responsible for it, the Home Minister said it was not true.

'The government will invite problem for itself,' he asked.

Seeking cooperation from all in his fight against terror-

See Page 12 Col 6

Cross-examination of Shazneen's father continues

By Staff Correspondent

Latifur Rahman, father of murdered teenager Shazneen, was cross examined by two lawyers of three accused in the Shazneen murder case in the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday for about two and a half hours.

All the six accused were produced before the court yesterday. Mohammad Ali, lawyer of supervisor Badal, completed cross examining the complainant on the tenth day yesterday. Ali cross examined him for an hour from 11am. Mosharaf Hossain, lawyer for maids Parveen and Minu, then started cross examining the complainant.

On the first day, Mosharaf Hossain questioned Latifur Rahman for about one and a half hours from 12:25 pm.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23 last year. A murder case and another case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995, was filed with Gulshan thana regarding the brutal killing.

In charge sheets of both the cases, police accused seven persons -- domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram,

See page 13

3 women burnt alive in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three women of a family were burnt alive and 10 others injured in a devastating fire at Maulavirtek under Khilgaon thana in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and hospital sources identified the dead as Barunessa alias Babuni, 65, her daughter Saleha Begum, 27, and her daughter Sharmin, 8. Of the injured, Liakot, 28, Kamol, 22, Rizia, 25, Shah Ali, 35 and Fatema 22 were admitted at the

See Page 12 Col 6

4 murdered in city in 12 hrs

By Staff Correspondent

At least four people were murdered in the city in 12 hours beginning Saturday night.

Police said two young men -- identified as Syed Ahmed Tipu, 30, of Nurjahan Road in Mohammadpur and Imran Hossain, 28, of Uttara -- were gunned down near the Khilkhet foot-over under Badda thana Saturday night.

In another incident, Hasibur Rahman alias Montee, 24, a resident of Lake Circus, Kalab-

gan, was stabbed to death in the city's Kalabagan area yesterday morning.

Another young truck driver, Shipon, 28, was killed in a clash between transport workers and local traders at Kawranbazar at about 11:30 pm Saturday, police said.

According to police, Tipu and Imran along with three of their friends were going to Mirpur by a car at about 2 pm when Tipu received a phone call at his

See Page 12 Col 4

mobile from the resident of his friend Anisur Rahman Javed.

The caller told Tipu that Javed, a resident of Ainusbagh in Khilkhet, was seriously ill and requested him to visit Javed at his residence.

Tipu, Imran and their friends went to Javed's residence at about 3:30 pm and found that Javed was not sick.

Then the five along with Javed got into the car and left the resi-

See Page 12 Col 4