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Bangladesh and Pakistan to play one-dayer 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

Bangladesh 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 unconvincedly. "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-

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Ties with Dhaka to grow, says Bahrain's Emir

MANAMA, Mar 14: The new Emir of Bahrain, Shaikh Hamad 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 Bangladesh Prime Minister at the Riffa Palace, Shaikh Hamad said he feels honoured as the Bangladesh 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

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Prayer Timings

March 15

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:30 5:35

Zohr 12:45 1:30

Asr 4:30 4:35

Maghrib 6:20 6:23

Esha 7:30 7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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 belligerent Sri Lankans fighting for survival after taking an almost unassailable 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 Inzamam-ul-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 hat-tricks 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

off successive deliveries, sending the Sri Lankans reeling at three for nine in the second innings.

The islanders, who scored 231 in the first innings, got little respite after a gruelling day on the field as Akram struck with the fifth delivery of the innings. Left-handed opener Avishka Gunawardane fended a bouncer to leg gully where Shahid Afridi diving to his right took a brilliant catch.

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we score... while others watch

Standard Chartered



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

— Star Photo by Anisur Rahman



Asking for the better half?

Umpire Doug Cowen wants a new wicket after Wasim Akram broke Chaminda Vaas' off-stump into two. The Pakistani captain, in the background, seems upset about the fragility of the stumps that were too weak to withstand his fiery deliveries!!!

— Star Photo.

And Akram does it again

By Syed Ashfaque Haque

And Mahela Jayawardane made the mistake!

That's exactly what the Pakistani skipper wanted. The dream came true. Nay, he later said, he had not even dreamt of it.

Yesterday, at Dhaka, the venue for the tri-nation Test championship final, Wasim Akram produced a seven-ball cameo to become only the third bowler to achieve a hat-trick twice in the history of Test cricket.

One of the most talented bowlers of all time, Akram repeated the rare feat within the span of eight days here at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The lethal left-arm fast bowler, playing his 88th Test match, jolted the Sri Lankan top order shortly after the islanders began their second innings on the third day of the Asian Test Championship final and then went on to accomplish his second hat-trick in successive Tests.

The tall all-rounder, who claimed his first hat-trick in last week's Lahore Test against the same opponents, devastated the top-order to leave the Lankan reeling with three for nine.

Burst of speed, seam and swing were all that were the seven balls.

"I'm definitely feeling very happy. Dhaka has been a lucky ground for me and this hat-trick is more important for me because I did it with the new ball and, off course, my father is here to witness that," said the beaming Pakistani captain after the match.

"I never dreamt of such a day. But I believe it was lucky for me... and probably it was my father who is also lucky to see my performance," he said.

A beaming Chowdhury Akram, the senior, was sitting alongside Wasim as the press mobbed his famous son to record his comments.

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Govt firm to radically reform 'colonial' admn 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, report agencies.

The present 'colonial system' has to be replaced by a most effective administration suiting the needs of society, national development and democratic set-up of an independent country, she said.

"This administrative system shall have to be efficient, transparent, accountable, corruption-free, disciplined and dynamic," she added.

Inaugurating a three-day international seminar in the city on 'Administrative Reforms for Development of Bangladesh,' she called upon the lawmakers, the policy makers, scholars, researchers and experts to think how such an administrative

system could be introduced. "Achievement of this goal will be the main objective of our administrative reform," she 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

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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-

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7 drown in Pirojpur boat capsize

PIROJPUR, Mar 14: At least seven people drowned and many were nursing when a boat capsized in the river Mudhumati today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said, seven bodies were recovered from the mechanised boat. Ashirbad-2, weighed down into the river in Nazipur thana of Pirojpur district at about 11.30 am.

Three of them were identified as Nirod Baror, 50, Malat Rani, 35, and Bijoy Rani, 30. All from Sreeramkhati village in Nazipur thana.

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

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

Curbing terrorism my first job: Nasim

New Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday expressed 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 Jessore 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 Jessore."

He said another of his prime

task would be to keep the political situation peaceful.

Urging the opposition BNP to come back to the politics of parliamentary 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.

"Why the government will invite problem for itself?" he asked.

Seeking cooperation from all in his fight against terrorism.

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11 JS standing committees recast

Parliament yesterday unanimously reconstituted eleven parliamentary standing committees, reports UNB.

The reconstituted committees are:

1) Standing Committee on Home Ministry: President — Adv Rahmat Ali, Members: Minister in-charge, Abul Hasnat, Abdullah, Vice-Principal Abdus Shabir, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Mohammad Tahir Islam, Begum Zinnat Hossain, Khadaker Delwar Hossain, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Hafizuddin Ahmed.

2) Standing Committee on Works Ministry: President — Akhteruzzaman, Members: Minister in-charge, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mostafizur Rahman, Rehman Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Durdin, Ahsanul Huq Mollah, Abdul Mannan Talukder and Ziaul Huq Zia.

3) Standing Committee on Science and Technology Ministry: President — Dr B M Iqbal, Members: Minister in-

charge, Akhteruzzaman, Members: Minister in-charge, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mostafizur Rahman, Rehman Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Durdin, Ahsanul Huq Mollah, Abdul Mannan Talukder and Ziaul Huq Zia.

4) Standing Committee on Education Ministry: President — Dr B M Iqbal, Members: Minister in-

charge, Akhteruzzaman, Members: Minister in-charge, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mostafizur Rahman, Rehman Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Durdin, Ahsanul Huq Mollah, Abdul Mannan Talukder and Ziaul Huq Zia.

5) Standing Committee on Health Ministry: President — Dr B M Iqbal, Members: Minister in-

charge, Akhteruzzaman, Members: Minister in-charge, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mostafizur Rahman, Rehman Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Durdin, Ahsanul Huq Mollah, Abdul Mannan Talukder and Ziaul Huq Zia.

6) Standing Committee on Agriculture Ministry: President — Dr B M Iqbal, Members: Minister in-

charge, Akhteruzzaman, Members: Minister in-charge, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mostafizur Rahman, Rehman Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Durdin, Ahsanul Huq Mollah, Abdul Mannan Talukder and Ziaul Huq Zia.

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 charge framing against the accused began in 1999 while the alleged manipulations in the stock market took place in 1996.

When the SEC filed the cases, the accused filed revision application challenging the merits of the cases, which were referred by the district judge to the High Court for quashment. The High Court rejected the plea of the lower court prompting the three

accused to go to a single bench of the Supreme Court where they obtained a stay order. The order was ultimately vacated by the full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The whole process took about a year, he said.

The hearing on charge framing against three companies and their directors, accused in the 1996 share scam, began in the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mollah Mustafa Kamal at 10:15 am yesterday.

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

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'Donors adopt hypocrisy in policymaking'

The visiting Chief Economist of World Bank admits the donors adopt hypocrisy in policymaking for hampering development of the least-developed countries, reports UNB.

"There is a high level of hypocrisy impressing that is coming out of Washington," Professor Joseph E Stiglitz, also Senior Vice-President of the WB, said at a dialogue in the city yesterday.

He made the unpalatable but factual comment as State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan, who raised some allegations against the multi-lateral donor agency.

"You always maintain a double standard. When developed countries provide subsidy to agriculture, you press us not to do so," the minister said at the discussion of Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Country's three former finance ministers were present at the parity and Saffur Rahman was most critical about the WB and IMF he presided as governing board chairman in the recent past.

"The IMF bluntly and the World Bank halfway ignored the social aspect of the least developed countries," he said, adding the Anglo-Saxon idea is failing also in Europe.

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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 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-examination of the complainant on the tenth day yesterday. All cross-examination for an hour from 11 am. Mosharaf Hossain, lawyer for mauls Parveen and Minu, then started cross-examination of 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,

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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 Maulavirket under Khilgaon thana in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

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

Dhaka Medical College Hospital with burn injuries. According to the fire brigade sources, the fire originated from a burning mosquito coil in a shanty of Amad Ali Slum of Razbagh at about 2:58 am. It rapidly engulfed 35 shanties of the slum.

Five fire fighting units from Tejgaon and Goran rushed to the spot and extinguished the flame after an hour and twenty minutes.

When Khilgaon thana was contacted last night, the duty officer said an Unnatural Death case was lodged in this connection. But he could not ascertain the losses in the fire.

Meanwhile, another fire incident took place at the Shaheen Super Market of Aminbazar in the early hours of yesterday. The fire damaged two pharmacies, one tailoring shop, two libraries, one general store

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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 Mohammedpur 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, Kalaba-

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 Kawanbazar 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

mobile from the resident of his friend Anisur Rahman Javed. The caller told Tipu that Javed, a resident of Anisubagh 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 in the car and left the resi-

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