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Rubel murder case

Hearing for charge framing April 13

By Staff Correspondent
The third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court yesterday fixed April 13 for hearing on framing charges against the accused in the Rubel murder case.

According to a CID investigation, Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student at Independent University, was picked up by a team of Detective Branch of Police from near his residence on July 23 last year and was subsequently tortured to death in custody the same day.

During yesterday's proceedings, SI Amir Ahmed, a charge-sheeted accused who had been absconding since the murder of Rubel, surrendered before the court and prayed for bail. Judge Molla Mustafa Kamal ordered him to be detained at Dhaka Central Jail rejecting the bail prayer.

Bail petitions were also moved on behalf of AC Akram, Mukul Begum, Havilder Nuruz-zaman and constables - Rahatul Parvej and Kamrul Hasan. The court rejected all the petitions.

The CID submitted the charge-sheet of Rubel murder case accusing AC Akram, Mukul Begum and 12 other policemen on September 24 last year to the CMM's Court.

With the arrest of SI Amir Ahmed Tareque, ten accused are now being detained at the Dhaka Central Jail, while four others - SI Nurul Alam and constables Mong She Oen, Abul Kalam and Zakir Hossain - are still absconding.

Businessman shot dead

By Staff Correspondent
A businessman was shot dead by a group of hoodlums at his residence at Tilpa Para under Khilgaon thana in the city yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Mustafa Kamal, 35, son of Abdul Mannan.

The incident took place following an altercation over the alleged killer, Sharif's affair with the victim's niece, police said.

Sharif along with some of his friends went to Kamal's residence at about 5 am and locked in an altercation with the victim in his drawing room. At one stage, Sharif shot Kamal point blank and left the scene, police added.

Kamal was an accused in Shahen Shah murder case. Shahen Shah was shot dead last year, Khilgaon police said.

Kamal was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries soon after admission, hospital sources said.

Inside Today

Article

In Quest of Democratic Governance

by Prof Ataur Rahman
Page 4

Focus

WHO framework convention on tobacco control: where do we stand?
Page 5

Business

Inflation, govt borrowings soar
Higher oil prices unlikely to have severe impact on Asia
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 8, 9 & 10

Prayer Timings

March 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-35
Maghrib	6-20	6-23
Esha	7-30	7-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Chittagong WASA office gheraoed, ransacked

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 23: Chittagong WASA office was gheraoed and ransacked today by people who came in a procession protesting scarcity of water, witnesses said.

The agitated people numbering over three thousand, gheraoed the office at about 11 am and pelted stones, damaging some window panes while police looked on.

The demonstrators, who included women, were mostly residents of Lalkhan Bazar area, where the WASA office is located, police and WASA sources said.

The women demonstrated carrying empty pitchers.

The demonstrators withdrew the gherao after WASA officials assured them to supply water to their area, the sources said.

When contacted later, Lalkhan Bazar Ward Commissioner Badiul Alam, known as a pro-Awami League man, said continued scarcity of water due to very poor supply from WASA angered the residents that led to the "attack" on WASA office.

"It is an outburst of pent-up anger and resentment. They are not getting supply of water for the past 15 days, Alam said.

"During the gherao, I was called by WASA officials to persuade the demonstrators to withdraw. I went there to hold a meeting with both the sides. They left the place after assurance of water supply," Alam said.

According to sources, Agrabad, Halishahar, Amirbagh, Jamalkhan, Beparipara, Hajipara, Monsurabad, Patantuli, Moghaultoli, Kadamtoli, Madar-

bari, Lalkhan Bazar, Bahadurhat, Anderkilla and Ghatforhadbeg areas are worst affected by scarcity of water.

People in those areas are regularly seen queuing for hours with empty pitchers in front of water hydrants or taps along roads, witnesses said.

WASA officials said Chittagong city having 3 million people needs ten crore gallons of water daily.

"But we are now supplying three and a half crore gallons against our capacity of four crore gallons," one official said.

They said uninterrupted supply of water can not be ensured due to frequent power failure and loadshedding.

The port city is witnessing unabated loadshedding for the last few days that mounted sufferings of the residents.

3 cops were punished 3 yrs ago Police probe confirms rape of 'a foreigner'

By Raziur Rahman

An expatriate woman, identified as wife of a US embassy staff, was violated by three policemen at Gulshan outpost in the early hours of May 26 1996, senior police officials admitted.

A police inquiry conducted after recent press reports concluded that the incident occurred when the lady, allegedly in an intoxicated state, was detained by the three cops - two havildars and a constable, a senior police official admitted.

The three later violated her, the police inquiry found.

But police knew about the episode and took punitive measures against the three immediately after the incident.

A recent inquiry by a local human rights watchdog also revealed that the victim was wife of a US embassy official.

A US embassy spokesman neither confirmed nor denied the incident. "I am not aware of it," said spokesman John Kincaid last night.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC), which conducted another inquiry, said it had evidence of rape of the woman and named the three policemen in a press release last night. BHRC also referred to the police inquiry findings.

Confirming the BHRC findings, Mizaur Rahman, DMP DC for the northern zone, told the Daily Star last night that a departmental inquiry was conducted by the ADC (north) of DMP yesterday and that the report was submitted before the DMP Commissioner yesterday.

Havildars Shahidul Islam and Abul Kashem and constable Abdus Salam detained the lady and raped her, according to both inquiries.

Though no formal complaint was lodged with the thana, police investigated the incident on the basis of information from "reliable" sources, police said.

See Page 12 Col 8

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Man of the Match
Neil Johnson of Zimbabwe

Musclemen of political high-ups terrorise N'ganj businessman

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Narayanganj

Terrorists, "assigned by political high-ups to solve a problem" involving a 130-year-old establishment and a Hindu temple in Narayanganj, unleashed a reign of terror on the businessman extorting nearly four lakh taka from him then resorting to looting goods from his godown at gun point and finally demolishing his shop.

All this happened recently at Kalirbazar of the town that has long had a reputation of a "terrorists' Shangri-la". The owner of the establishment (Ramdhan Oushadhalaya), Bashudev Banik, and his family members are now living in hiding fearing further reprisal from the terrorists. For four generations

as a tenant of the said temple, the Banik family had run the business that sold assorted items.

Narayanganj thana Officer-in-Charge Ashrafur Rahman said police had no knowledge of the incidents although on March 16, the day the terrorists knocked down Bashudev's shop, and they received a 'SOS' call from one Arun. Police log book noted that following the call, Sub Inspector Anisur Rahman went to the spot and found 'nothing unusual except an empty shop and few labourers who were demolishing it' in the presence of Pronob Chakraborty, the caretaker of the temple.

After evicting Bashudev Banik from his shop, the caretaker put up two signboards at the site which read, "Site for the temple ... the land was recovered by Md Golam Sarwar, General Secretary, Narayanganj Town Jubo League ..."

According to local people, the Baniks and the Chakrabortys have been feuding for over a decade. Pronob Chakraborty claimed that his wife, who was the "inherent shebayet or caretaker" of the temple, wanted the Baniks to vacate the premises. Bank kept paying the monthly rent at the rent control office and the matter eventually rolled to the

See page 11



Workers constructing a high wall to seal off Bashudev's shop. The signboard gives credit to a local Jubo League leader for evicting the businessman.
— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

'Strong parliament needed to make govt accountable'

By Staff Correspondent

A regional seminar yesterday suggested capacity building of wider institutions like the Parliament for holding the governments in South Asian countries accountable to their people.

Institutional capacity involves accountability and democracy from within, the five-day seminar was told. Such accountability, to be ensured by checking the abuse of delegated power, is needed to achieve the national goals.

The keynote paper, presented in yesterday's session, also found a lack of confidence in and credibility of the government, particularly the public sector institutions, and blamed the government for failing to resolve the crisis that has been created over the years.

Organised jointly by Transparency International, Bangladesh and the Parliamentary Centre, Canada in collaboration with the Economic Development Institute of World

Bank with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, the regional seminar on "Parliament and Good Governance: Towards a New Agenda for Strengthening Accountability in South Asia" passed its fourth day yesterday at the BRAC centre in Rajendrapur, Gazipur.

Rules are there to check the erosion of public confidence but those are not properly executed," noted the paper by Vinod Sagal, a World Bank represen-

Representatives of donor countries, agencies meet Khaleda tomorrow

The representatives of 16 donor countries and agencies will meet Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in the city tomorrow afternoon to discuss the situation arising out of political contentions, reports UNB.

She had invited the foreign envoys on March 18 to a meeting to apprise them of the current government-opposition standoff on election and other issues, said a party source.

The initiative was taken following a statement delivered to the President, the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader by the development partners of Bangladesh on March 9.

They aired grave concern over the increasing political confrontations and polarization casting shadows on the prospects of the country's economic growth and development.

In the memo the donors called for resolving political

See Page 12 Col 5

Appointment of CMM HC verdict stayed for 6 weeks

By SC Correspondent

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court judgement which on Sunday declared the appointment of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Dhaka, in 1992 and subsequent appointment of CMMs illegal.

Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court passed the stay order following a government petition.

The CMM courts resumed normal business after the stay order, passed at 11.15 am.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Shah Abu Naim Mominur Rahman in a judgement on a writ petition had declared the appointment and posting of former CMM, Dhaka Shahiduddin Ahmed

and subsequent appointment of CMMs illegal.

Those appointments were made in flagrant violation of the provisions of Article 116 of the Constitution and without any consultation with the Supreme Court, the HC verdict had said.

The President of the Republic should take steps to frame rule under Article 115 of the Constitution.

The government prayed for a stay of the HC order saying that it "raised doubt in the minds of Magistrates as to whether they can carry on their judicial function."

Advocate Idrisur Rahman had filed the writ petition before the HC challenging the ap-

See Page 12 Col 5

Hasina pledges her eyes

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has pledged her eyes for posthumous transplantation, reports BSS.

A life member of Bangladesh Society for the Blind, Sheikh Hasina made the announcement while inaugurating "Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Care Project, Bangladesh," at a city hotel yesterday.

The project, being implemented by Bangladesh National Council for the Blind (BNCB) with financial assistance from Sight Savers International of Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (RCSB), is designed to provide treatment to eye patients across the country.

Road accident

Death of RU teacher triggers violence at Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Mar 23: A Rajshahi University teacher was killed in a road accident at Barnali traffic crossing in the city this morning.

Umma Najahat Naj, an assistant professor of the Statistics Department was killed when a truck hit her rickshaw at the Barnali Traffic Crossing. She died on the spot. The rickshawpuller was also injured in the accident. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, the accident sparked a clash between police and mob in the city, leaving seven people injured.

The traffic police was busy in collecting toll from other trucks when the accident occurred, witnesses said. The mob chased the traffic police and damaged the truck.

Later, additional police force was deployed and resorted to lathi charge to disperse the mob.

Road communication between Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj remained snapped for two hours following the accident.

A case was filed in this connection. The truck driver, however, managed to escape.

Expulsion of Ctg JCD leader sparks protest

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 23: Some activists of the city unit of Chhatra Dal staged demonstration in front of BNP office here today protesting expulsion of a leader from the party, police and party sources said.

The agitating activists blasted cocktails and fired blank shots in front of BNP office at Nur Ahmed Road at 7 pm demanding withdrawal of expulsion of Yasin Chowdhury Lito, organising secretary of JCD city unit, police said.

The agitators dispersed when police reached the spot.

Party sources said Yasin was expelled from JCD for his anti-organisational activities and alleged involvement in crimes.

Sources said that the action was taken against him following an intra-party clash recently in front on BNP office here that led to the killing of JCD activist Golam Sarwar.

Johnson century steers Zimbabwe to victory Kenya put up a brave fight

By Hasan Masood

Favourites Zimbabwe made it to the final of the Meril International Cricket Tournament with a comfortable 64-run win over Kenya in their return clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

Opener Neil Johnson slammed his second one-day century to help Zimbabwe muster an imposing total of 260 for six in the stipulated 50 overs. Kenya, while in chase, gave their more colourful opponents a scare scoring 216 for eight in 50 overs.

Johnson scored 101 off 120 balls to give Zimbabwe a solid start after skipper Alistair Campbell won the toss and decided to bat on a perfect track.

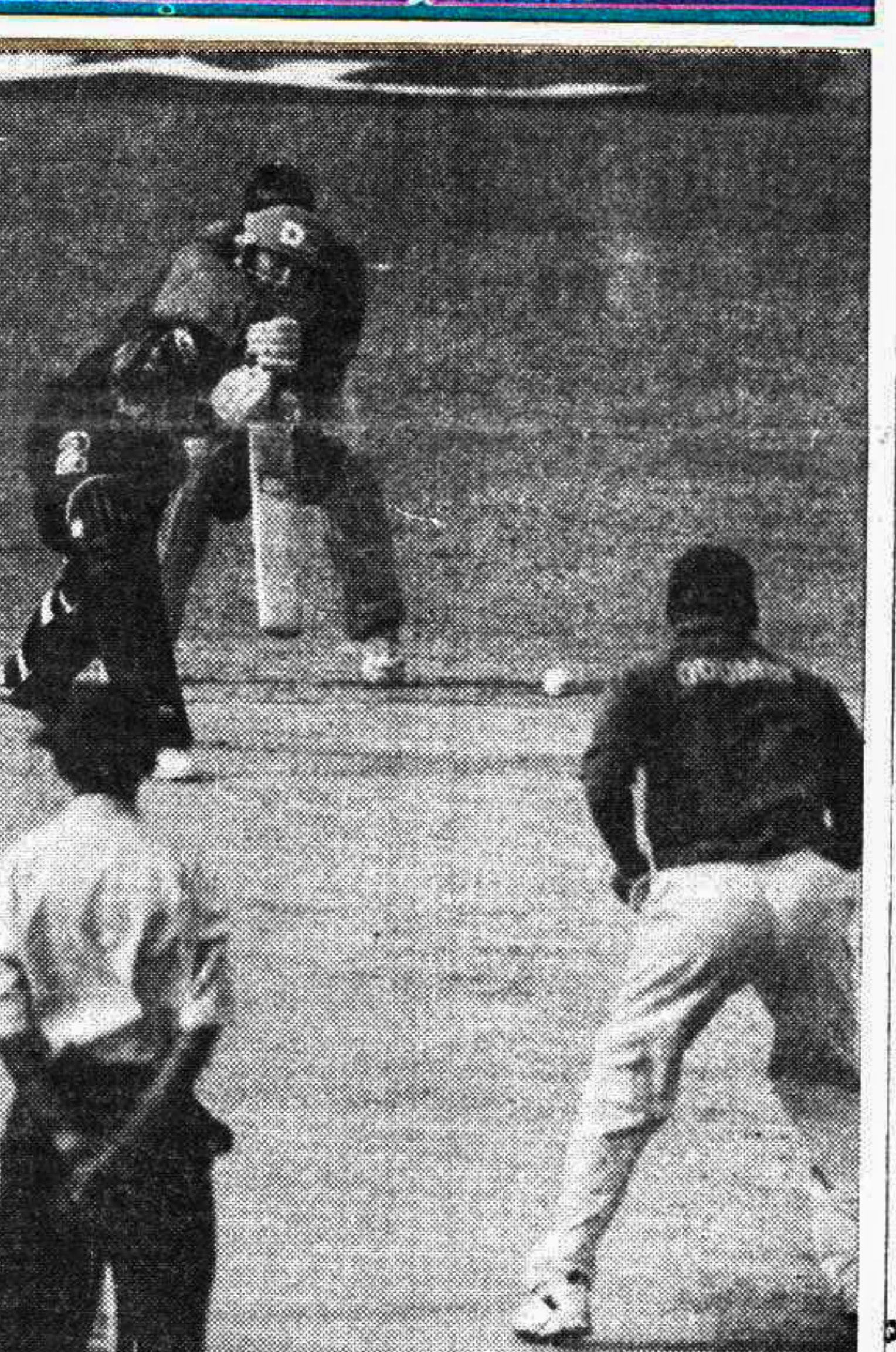
Losing his opening partner Grant Flower (14) on 33 in the fourth over, Johnson shared a 72-run stand with one-down Murray Goodwin. Goodwin gave timely support to the left-handed opener with a patient 26 off 40 balls.

The partnership was broken on 105 in the 21st over when Goodwin pulled left-arm spinner Asif Karim, only to be caught at mid-wicket.

Johnson, who had scored his first century (103) against Pakistan, then added another valuable 85 runs with in-form Andy Flower. The two took the side to 190 before Johnson was un-

See page 11

we score... while others watch
Standard Chartered



Andy Flower, the star Zimbabwean batsman, plays an off-drive during yesterday's Meril International Cup fixture against Kenya at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.
—Star photo

Bangladesh meet Kenya today

Bangladesh will have their last chance to take revenge of their humiliating defeat to Kenya when they meet today in the return league match of the Tri-nation International Cricket Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, reports BSS.

Bangladesh must win against the ICC trophy rivals Kenya to keep alive their chance for the final on March 27 against favourites Zimbabwe, who won all the three matches.

Bangladesh TV will telecast the match live from 2 am.

Mannan Bhuiyan alleges Law & order deteriorated after Nasim's takeover

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday alleged that the new Home Minister failed to behave politically and that law and order deteriorated further and repression on Opposition activists increased manifold after his takeover.

"We hoped that Mohammad Nasim, being a political leader, would behave politically. But he frustrated us as lawlessness, violence and incidents of murder and repression have increased," he said.

Addressing a press conference at the BNP central office in the city, Bhuiyan alleged that repression and harassment of

BNP activists increased in northern areas of Pabna district, particularly in Bera-Sujanagar constituency (Pabna-2) although four months have passed after the by-election there.

Bhuiyan alleged that "terrorists" and cadres of ruling Awami League are torturing BNP leaders and workers even inside police station. "Awami League mastaans have beaten up many of our workers inside the thana with sticks forcibly taken from policemen," he said.

He demanded immediate release of all arrested BNP leaders and workers of Bera-Sujanagar
See Page 12 Col 4

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See Page 12 Col 4