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Politicians

From Page 1

are supposed to disburse money in phases following field level

there would not have been any

such problems in the banking

sector if the bank officials con-

cerned had been sincere about

going by the rules and regula-

Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party,

says that bank managers do not go by rules and regulations in

disbursing money, which is mainly responsible for bank-loan default. "However the

politicians just cannot just shrug off certain responsibili-ties in this regard."

the false entrepreneurs cannot

get loans if the management of the bank concerned did not ap-

prove the projects which are not

viable. "On the other hand, the

bank authorities frequently

refuse to grant adequate loans

to genuine projects, pushing the

Naziur Rahman Manju, sec-

entrepreneurs to be defaulters."

retary general of Jatiya Party.

also categorically blamed the

"unholy alliance" between the

the bank officials rate a project

profile high before granting a

loan, while they produce disap-

pointing evaluation when it

comes to returning the loan by

the borrower," Manju said. "Of

course, the politicians have cer-

tain responsibilities for the

problem, but it is insignificant

"It is frequently seen that

lenders and the borrowers"

Bhuiyan observed.

The BNP leader argued that

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan,

tions.

The AL leader argued that

investigations into a project."

'Zardari rushed to hospital bleeding, unconscious'

KARACHI, May 19: The jailed husband of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto was bleeding heavily from his mouth when he was rushed to hospital unconscious today, his lawyer

said, reports Reuters. "He (Asif Ali Zardari) was profusely bleeding from his mouth and his face was all covered with blood," lawyer Farooq Naik told reporters at Aga Khan

Hospital. Naik, who help up Zardari's blood-soaked shirt, said emergency ward doctors had told him: "It appears to be a vertical cut on his tongue made by a sharp weapon, like a knife."

(See also page - 5) Woman held with five revolvers

By Staff Correspondent A woman auto-rickshaw passenger was arrested with five revolvers from near a cinema hall in the city's Mirpur area yesterday morning

The arrested was identified as Shahar Banu, 35, wife of late Abdul Mannan of Ranin Nagar under Boalia thana in

Rajshahi. Shahar Banu along with her male accomplice hired an autorickshaw from Gabtali bus terminal. When the vehicle arrived in front of the Beauty cinema hall, a team of Gabtali police outpost stopped it.

As police made an attempt to search the vehicle, the accomplice of the woman escaped the scene running. Later, police arrested the woman and recovered five revolvers from her.

Police suspected that Shahar was engaged in arms trafficking and had been used as a carrier of illegal arms. She might have reached Dhaka from Rajshahi with the firearms. Police were interrogating the woman till filing of this report.

Tendulkar From Page 1

morning. Indian team officials in Leicester said today they were confident he would rejoin the

"He was in a state of shock. Our thoughts are with him and his family, Brijesh Patel told

He said Tendulkar, regarded as the best player in the world, could miss one or two matches. "I'm confident, at least, that he will be back for our game against Sri Lanka on May 26. We have had to play without him before and done well, and we will do it again - we will just have to put this behind us," he

Tendulkar was scheduled to open the batting in India's match against Zimbabwe in Leicester today.

India's dream

From Page hooking seamer Neil Johnson into the hands of fine leg. Dravid drove a wide half-vollev from pace bowler Heath Streak to a diving Grant Flower at point and Azharuddin dabbed an easy catch to slip.

The young Sadagopan Ramesh, Tendulkar's stand-in, however, rebuilt the innings as he put on 99 with vice-captain Ajay Jadeja.

But Ramesh, after two big boundaries, charged Grant Flower's leg spin and holed out to mid on for 55 off 67 balls. That set off another panic.

Soon Jadeja was gone, going lbw as the returning Streak claimed his third wicket and one run later Ajit Agarkar was run out by a direct throw from Murray Goodwin to make it 175 for six.

India still needed 78 to win but Mongia and Robin Singh hit out as the game see-sawed from one team to the other. But Mongia's dismissal proved decisive.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of India's innings in the World Cup group A match against Zimbabwe on Wednesday: INDIA

S Ganguly c Brandes b Johnson 9 S Ramesh c Goodwin b G.Flower 55 R Dravid c G.Flower b Streak M Azharuddin c Campbell A Jadeja Ibw b Streak R Singh c Campbell b Olonga A Agarkar run out N Mongia b Whittall J Srinath b Olonga A Kumble not out V Prasad Ibw b Olonga Extras: (b1, lb4, w24, nb10)

Total (45 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-44, 3-56, 4-155 5-174 6-175 7-219, 8-246 9-249

OMR Bowling: Brandes 0 27 Johnson Streak 0 36 Olonga 0 22 Whittall 26 0 0 49 Strang G Flower (India's target was revised to 253 off 46 overs due to slow over

PM for exclusive 'garment village' in northern region

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would give special incentives to garment manufacturers and exporters if they set up industries in the less developed areas of the country, reports BSS.

"In view of the existing communication facilities, new industries can be set up in the northern parts of the country. she said when a 23-member delegation of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) led by its president Anisur Rahman Sinha called on her at her office.

She suggested that an exclusive 'Garment Village' can be established in North Bengal where communication system has been developed with the opening of the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge. She said the capital Dhaka cannot bear the burden of so many industries.

Sheikh Hasina said her government has been providing all possible support for flourishing the garment sector and to enable it to compete in the international market.

Terming the garment sector as vital for the country's economy, the Prime Minister said her government has always given total support to the pri-vate sector. She said the gov-ernment had provided adequate facilities as a result of which

She also called upon the members of the delegation to look into the welfare of the garment workers, including their accommodation and safety. She also stressed the need for protecting the environment by taking special care for disposing of the industrial

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury

BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha thanked the Prime Minister for extending government's support for the promotion and expansion of the industries.

Share scam cases point fingers saying that 'look

transfer of the cases to a particular judge. I am not making allegation against any judge but saying that their intention is not bona fide," the additional attorney general

He said the lower courts are not identified by the judges who are presiding. "And when Mia Mohammad Sharif heard the cases, he was not acting on personal designation.

At this stage, Justice Latifur Rahman, one of the two judges in the two-judge bench, commented that if the defence has any fascination for a particular judge and if the prosecution has any objection then the cases should not transferred in court of that judge. Additional attorney general

responded that there was no such objection. "If you do not have any ob-

jection then why are you fighting this case?" asked the Justice.

Dr M Zahir, an SEC lawyer, then stood up to point out that jurisdiction of a judge was all that mattered. Prosecution's acceptance or rejection of a particular judge, he said, "does not give jurisdiction (to the judge). The point is that whether the Metro court acted illegally (in distributing the

Mahbub-e-Alam then resumed his arguments saying that a prayer for transfer of the cases should be "on law point" and should not be made referring to particular a judge.

"If transfer is allowed, then the entire judiciary will be

questioned because people will

the country's export was not hampered during the devastating floods.

also spoke on the occasion.

they are rich so they are getting special treatment'," he said. Earlier, Dr Zahir challenged the petitioners' ground for the transfer application. He told the court that hearing in January this year on discharge petitions filed by the three

companies were heard by the court of First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka District and not on the charge framing petition filed by the prosecution lawyers. Opposing the petitions, Zahir pointed to the order by

that hearing on a discharge application was heard in his "So the proceedings did not start as the prosecution did not state the charges." Dr Zahir argued. "What the prosecution did was give the background of the cases and read out the judge-

the district judge which said

ment of the Appellate Bench which rejected a quashment petition by these companies." "But, the arguments on charge framing began in the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court, where the prosecution opened all the cases on law point and concluded argument of

Shinepukur from its side. "So the petitions are not maintainable as the grounds are not true," he said.

Zahir concluded by saying that the cases were transferred automatically by the "operation of law" following a notification on December 29. 1998 stating that Dhaka district cases involving the metropolitan area will be heard the newly formed Metropolitan Courts.

Marchers were so enthusiastic,

Says Khaleda
Opposition leader Begum
Khaleda Zia likened the enthusiasm of people shown during their three-day anti-government 'road march' to the surge of devotees to the Biswa Ejtema. reports UNB.

"Spontaneous flow of tens of thousands of people from all walks of life to wayside gather-ings during the 473-km road march resembled the flow of people to Biswa Ejtema," she said referring to the just-concluded political campaigns of her party and alliance partners.

The BNP chief gave vent to her feelings to the newsmen who went with her motorcade from Dhaka to Panchagarh at Bogra Circuit House gate at 2:15 pm on way back to the capital.

She stayed overnight at the circuit house in her return

northern tip. Begum Zia reached Dhaka at 7 pm after ending the long march that started on May 16. The return convoy of the former prime minister crossed the Jamuna Bridge at about 4:15

journey from the country's

Two staffers engaged in toll collection at Jamuna Bridge told the newsmen that Begum Zia crossed the bridge with a fleet of about 100 vehicles. "Voucher for the toll would

be sent to Begum Khaleda Zia. said one, adding it was not paid

Probe body formed Rajshahi WDB

withholds work orders

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 19: The Water Development Board authorities have withheld issuing work orders of the tenders for renovation of Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment and formed a probe body to investigate alleged irregularities in offering tenders. The decision was taken in

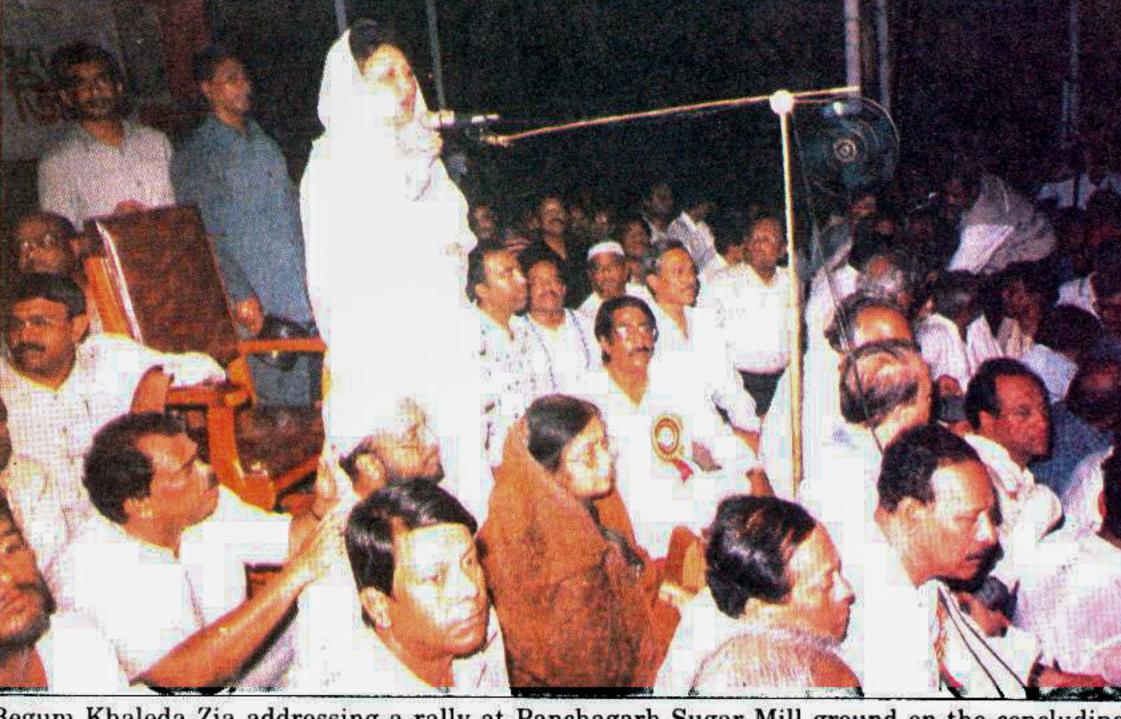
the face of strong protest by Rajshahi WDB Contractors' Association. More than 100 members of

Rajshahi WDB Contractors' Association yesterday gheraoed the Chief Engineer at his divisional office in the city and demanded removal of irregularities in offering tenders.

Meanwhile, several hundred people today observed mass hunger strike from 8 am to 2 pm on the office premises of the Deputy Commissioner, Rajshahi demanding immediate repair of the Town Protection Embankment. Addressing a rally during

the hunger strike, the speaker

threatened a tougher agitation programme if their demand was not met immediately.



Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a rally at Panchagarh Sugar Mill ground on the concluding day of the opposition's 3-day 'road march' Tuesday night. - Star photo

Bar Council asks top lawyer

From Page 1 was a privileged communication," the MD said.

"Barrister Huq thus committed a gross professional misconduct of the worst kind, first by giving a copy of the letter to them in breach of trust, faith, confidence and privilege, to enable them to file a case against us, and then by appearing as lawyer for the said four petitioners against our bank in a case challenging our notices under Section 17," he added.

"During all this time while he was conducting case against us challeging our notice under section 17, and appearing against us in the court, he was receiving his monthly retention fee of Tk 15,000 and other facilities regularly and unabated as well as drawing fees for other legal works".

"Beximco Group of companies had borrowed huge sums of money from our bank in various names and all their liabilities are overdue which they have failed to repay despite being given various indulgence and forbearance.

"Barrister Huq is also the legal advisor of Beximco Group and his wife is also a director of Beximco Group. Yet, Barrister Huq advised us from time to time regarding these loans and their documentation ignoring his conflict of interest "We acted on his advice in

these matters and have suffered detriment and loss, and we are facing enormous difficulties in realising these loans. We also find that some of the documents approved and advised by him for these loans are inadequate."

The second complaint, by the IFIC Bank shareholder, said that Rafique-ul-Huq filed a suit on October 28 last year and obtained an injunction for Beximco Holdings Ltd against the IFIC Bank. Huq is a retained lawyer of IFIC Bank. In the case, Huq prayed be-

fore the 5th subordinate judge to issue notice upon the IFIC Bank to show cause and to pass an order of temporary injunction restraining the IFIC from demanding payments from the company.

The IFIC shareholder said

that the court recorded the filing in Bengali and the following day Rafique-ul-Huq managed to obtain an exparte order in English from the 5th Sub-Judge. Dhaka issuing a show cause notice on the IFIC, which restrained the IFIC Bank from sending the names of the Sohel and Salman Rahman to Bangladesh Bank as defaulters. This prevented the Credit Information Bureau of BB from including their names on its list of defaulting borrowers.

During the period, the IFIC shareholder pointed out, Huq was the retained lawyer of IFIC and drawing a monthly salary amounting to Tk 20,000. "He was also paid a monthly salary of Tk 16,000 for a full time junior lawyer and one steno typist," the complaint said. He was also paid for appear-

ances in courts for conducting cases for the bank. In an affidavit before the No-

tary Public, shareholder IFIC Shahidul Islam said that despite being a paid lawyer of the IFIC Bank, Huq acted against the interest of his client "in breach of his professional ethics, integrity and in particular, in violation of the 'cannon of professional conduct and etiquette' as prescribed by the Bangladesh Bar Council, by representing conflict of inter-

The complainant pleaded for disciplinary action against Rafique-ul-Huq.

"Rafique-ul-Huq is pleading in this case on behalf of ASF Rahman and Salman F Rahman in spite of being the legal advisor of IFIC Bank and thereby diluting the interest of the bank and instead representing the interest of the borrowers of the bank and as such representing, 'conflicting interest' which is prohibited by the Bar Council.

"I feel, that no lawyer can advocate both the plaintiffs as well as for defendants at a time," the complainant pointed

Talking to this correspondent, an official of the Bar Council said that a letter has already been issued to Rafique-Ul-Huq asking him to reply within fortnight regarding the complaint from AB Bank.

He also said that the executive committee of the Council was working on the complaint from the shareholder. When contacted, Barrister

Rafique-Ul-Huq said he has received a letter from the Bar Council.

Asked about appearing against the bank which retained him, the barrister said that he was asked by the chairman and managing director to appear for the MD of Arab Bangladesh Bank who was directed not to act as MD of the bank under Section 46 of the Bank Companies Act 1991 by the central bank. "It was on 7th May of this year that I was told not to appear any more," the barrister said. "If I can appear for a sus-

pended MD of the bank then what's wrong in appearing for the sitting directors of the bank?" the barrister said. "Besides, for appearance in court for the MD, I was paid from the account of the bank and that is also illegal."

But when told that his acts were going against the interest of the bank which retained him. the barrister said, "I challenged the order of the Bangladesh Bank and not any order of AB Bank". When told that AB Bank

17 and not the central bank, the barrister said that the notices are given through the central bank. When pointed out that AB bank was a defendant in the

served the notice under Section

case, the barrister reiterated that his act was against an order of Bangladesh Bank.

In response to the IFIC shareholder's complaint that Barrister Huq had appeared against the bank and obtained an injunction for the Beximco Directors against the IFIC he said that he did not go to "any lower court nor filed any such case whatsoever."

"I don't know about any injunction restraining the bank to demand money from the borrowers," Rafique-Ul-Huq said.

He also denied passing any confidential documents to the directors. "I never gave any letter of Bangladesh Bank (to the directors)."

compared to the malpractice done by the bank managers themselves. The JP leader also pointed out that the higher rate of interest is another factor that dis-

return loans properly. Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party said it was the ruling class politicians who are involved with the process. "We, the leftists, were the first to raise voice against the bankloan defaulters."

courages many borrowers to

Police raid 5 CU halls

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 19: Police raided five residential halls of the Chittagong University in the early hours

During a four-hour long raid on Shah Amanat, Shahjalal, Suhrawardy, Alaul and AF Rahman halls, police could not recover any arms or arrest any outsider.

Of matters From Page 1

in no small measure by some very wayward bowling and quite inexplicable goings-on in the field.

Azharuddin's ears did not show any signs of earphones (his would have been designer ones, of course). It would be fair to assume, then, that that he was responsible for what was happening on the field. Ganguly being taken off after only five overs for a wicket and 22 runs. and Agarkar being persisted with for nine overs for 81 runs are not really the stuff that degendary captaincies are made of

Nothing however should detract from the methodical manner with which the Zimbabweans went on farming the lacklustre Indian bowling However poor the bowling might be, it still has to be put away, and that the men in red did with remarkable and clinical efficiency. The old firm of Flower & Flower gave the innings a solid footing, with the older of the two remaining alive and kicking right till the end with a masterly 60-plus. As if that was not bad enough for India, they were penalised four

overs for slow over rate as well. When the time came for the Indian batting to come into its own, the captain let them down again. Whichever way Indian fortunes might lie in this tournament, one fact remains inescapable. As Ashek Elahi (whose recent utterings on contemporary events have to be taken seriously) put it succinctly, Sonia Gandhi is more likely to become Prime Minister, than Azhar is to remain

Meanwhile at Northampton, bizarre events were unfolding. Sri Lanka managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. After struggling for the better part of the last few months, Sri Lanka finally managed to put things in perspective by bowling well enough to restrict South Africa to manageable proportions. But Sri Lankan form does not yet permit it to perform well in all departments of the game. While the heart wanted Sri Lanka to stage an upset, the head debated strongly. Not surprisingly, therefore the Sri Lankan batting crumbled against the ram-

/ policemen

stage tried to strip off her saree. The Metropolitan Magistrate after an initial hearing the matter.

Moni Begum, petitioned before the magistrate to refer the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court . The magistrate accepted the prayer.

passing an order in this regard.

BUMPER HARVEST: Farmers taking home paddy in Birganj, Dinajpur. The picture was taken on Tuesday. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Ctg Steel Mills workers enforce

road barricade From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 19: The workers and employees of Chittagong Steel Mills today enforced a road barricade programme to press home their

demands, including withdrawal of 'pay-off decision.' They put up barricades at Cement Crossing and Agrabad Barek Building Crossing disrupting traffic movement in Chittagong Port and Patenga industrial areas from 6 am to

12 noon. They also declared that the family members of the workers and employees would stage a sit-in tomorrow.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

A view from the Gully

From Page 1

and Felix, to JR Mason, APF Chapman, Frank Woodley, Leslie Ames. Dough Wright, Godfrey Evans, Colin Cowdey, Derek Underwood and Alan Knott, Kent have had actors to do honours to their stage. Pakistani Asif Iqbal was also an overseas professional for this county in the 70's.

Despite an early setback the Kenyans rode on Tikolo and Shah, and as Odumbe played most irresponsibly the depth of the African lions was pitifully laid bare by Darren Gough coming in for his second spell. As long as Tikolo was in charge there was always hope for them. This elegant batsman is in a class of his own and can walk into any top team any day. Sad though, it is true that we do not have any batsman of his class in Bangladesh team. Mullally did the job against Sri Lanka and here at Canterbury, Gough, who bowled so superbly at Lord's also, delivered. But in all fairness it must be said that in such conditions, when the 'na-

tives were seen trying to keep themselves warm, the Africans did well to surpass the 200mark again within a span of four days.

When England started the modest chase, fifty precious minutes had already been lost to lunch which could have been shortened. When play had to be stopped after 20 overs. Stewart was a worried man. Forecast was depressing but when play resumed Nasser Hussain and Graeme Hick, who is in fine tune of late, went about their business in right earnest. A delayed start had no effect whatsoever on the playing conditions, especially the light. In spite of the overcast sky and occasional rains, visibility was never hampered. This is the beauty of English weather. That is why they don't need lights in their cricket grounds; play can continue well into the evening on normal summer day. England must be feeling very

happy with full points from two matches and bracing themselves for the tougher ones ahead. hospital.

2 BNP ward commissioners held in city

By Staff Correspondent Two DCC ward commissioners belonging to opposition BNP were arrested on different charges yesterday, police said. The arrested are Chowdhury Alam, commissioner of Ward No 56 and president of Ramna thana BNP, Nabiullah Nabi, commissioner of Ward No 86 and general secretary of Demra

thana BNP. Package programme BTV employees call off strike

Low paid employees of BTV have withdrawn their fourhour a day token strike following an understanding reached yesterday with authorities on their 12-point demand, reports

implementation of their genuine demands. The demands include gradual reduction of telecasting package programme and telecasting of BTV's own programme during the popular

State Minister for Informa-

tion Prof Abu Sayed assured

hours -7 pm to 10 pm. One stabbed to death in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 19: One person was stabbed to death by muggers in Fultola Bridge area under Chandgaon thana in the city this morning. Witnesses said, a group of muggers swooped on one Iqbal

Anwar Taslim, 45, on K B Alam

Road in the area while he was

passing the area by a rickshaw at about 6:30 am. The muggers asked him to give his money bag. As he refused to do so, they stabbed him repeatedly. He died on way to

SA closer to Super-6 From Page 1 innings in the World Cup group The batting failure undid the

effort of the bowlers, who aided by two dubious decisions - ran through the muchvaunted South African top order after electing to field. Vaas and fellow paceman

Pramodaya Wickremasinghe

claimed two wickets each before

off spinner Muttiah

Murlitharan took over with three for 25. Vaas struck first, bowling Gary Kirsten off the inside edge. and then had Herschelle Gibbs caught behind in his next over. Gibbs was unlucky to be

given out as television replays showed the ball miss the out-

side edge when he attempted a

slash off a harmless delivery. Wickremasinghe, finding pace and movement, bowled pinch-hitter Mark Boucher through the gate in the sixth over to make it 24 for three.

He beat Kallis three times outside the off-stump before having him caught at second South Africa's woes continued when skipper Hansie

Cronje was run out and

Murlitharan removed Jonty

Rhodes and Shaun Pollock - the

latter through a return catch

that bounced off silly point Arjuna Ranatunga's boots. The umpires referred the catch to third umpire Ken Palmer, who gave Pollock out even though the replays indicated the ball may have hit the ground from Ranatunga's boots

before lobbing to the bowler.

Umpires Steve Bucknor of

the West Indies and Steve Dunne of New Zealand needed the help of television replays again to adjudge Cullinan (49) caught on the fence by Vaas before the fielder crossed the boundary line. Steve Elworthy, replacing spinner Nicky Boje in the team.

SCOREBOARD

ninth wicket with Klusener.

Scoreboard of Sri Lanka

A match against South Africa on Wednesday: SRI LANKA: S Jayasuriya b Kallis

Cullinan b Kallis M Atapattu c Boucher b A de Silva lbw b Pollock R Mahanama Ibw b Pollock 36 A Ranatunga c Boucher b Donald

R Kaluwitharana c

M Jayawardene c Kallis b Elworthy U Chandana c Cullinan b Klusener C Vaas c Pollock b Klusener P Wickramasinghe b Klusener 6 M Muralitharan not out Extras: (lb5, w10, nb2)

Total (35.2 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-13, 3-14, 4-14, 5-31, 6-66, 7-86, 8-98, 9-Bowling: Pollock 3 10 Kallis 26 Elworthy 25 Donald 5.2Klusener

Cong weighs

From Page 1 leaders who wrote the letter, Jogi said. Leaders from the states and the national party administra-

tion were meeting today, appar-

ently to evolve a common posi-

tion on how to deal with dissi-

dent Congress leaders Sharad Pawar, Purno Sangma and Tariq Anwar, who suggested the constitutional amendment. A split in the Congress is likely if the dissenters are expelled, further weakening the party as it begins campaigning for what it had hoped would be

its comeback election later this

Several of Sonia's supporters said they expected the most chipped in with 23 during a prominent dissident, Sharad valuable 44-run stand for the Pawar, to break from the Congress and ally with leftist and centrist groups after the elections.

captain of India.

pant relentless robocops of modern-day cricket. Que sera,

From Page 1

ordered a judicial inquiry into But Alena Khan, lawyer for

The CMM fixed today for