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India lift World Youth Cup

COLOMBO, Jan 28: India outplayed Sri Lanka to win the Under-19 World Cup final by six wickets at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground here today, reports AFP.

India dismissed the hosts for 178 after they had decided to bat first, and then knocked off the runs in the 41st over, to clinch an emphatic win.

Led by Mohammed Kaif, India remained unbeaten right throughout the tournament and it was their professional approach to the game that made them strong favourites to win the title.

Once again it was poor running between the wickets that contributed towards Sri Lanka's downfall.

Four batsmen ended their innings via runouts and whatever chances Sri Lanka had of building a competitive total evaporated with them.

In the semifinals against Pakistan, five Sri Lankan batsmen were run out.

Top scorer for the home country was left-hander Jehan Mubarak who made a patient 58 off 107 balls with five fours.

Left-arm fast bowler Sallab Srivastava was the most impressive for India with the ball taking three for 33.

India launched their run chase with openers Manish Sharma and Raneet Ricky putting on 53 runs and although four wickets fell, there was no doubt that India would get there.

Ritender Singh Sodhi and Nira Patel shared an unfinished partnership of 64 off 75 balls to steer India home. — (score on Star Sport)

25 pirates arrested at Mongla

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Jan 28: Mongla thana police arrested 25 pirates who were taking preparation to commit a dacoity at a sea-going vessel 'MV Ocean Wave' on Thursday night.

Police seized a trawler from their possession.

MV Ocean Wave was agrounded with 14,000 metric tonnes of cement imported from China last year. The vessel chartered by A Hossain & Co of Khulna was abandoned by the crew and the captain.

Mongla Port Authority floated a tender for selling the ship on auction.

Three businessmen of Khulna submitted tenders. But the port authority invited re-tenders as the quoted prices were not satisfactory. None has so far responded to the invitation of re-tender.



Final touches being given to a stall at the Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) beginning in the city today.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Public Safety Bill Report finalised, note of dissent by BNP

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Ministry yesterday finalised its report on the Public Safety Bill with note of dissent by opposition BNP members, reports UNB.

BNP lawmakers Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Sadek Hossain Khoka gave note of dissent on the ground that the Bill was brought to the Committee in less than 24 hours after it was introduced in parliament Thursday.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim placed the Public Safety

2 young men shot in city

Two young men were shot by unidentified miscreants at Mirpur and Shaheedbag in the city yesterday evening, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

They said gunmen waylaid computer trainer Kamruzzaman, 22, of 108 West Kazipara at Section 6 Mirpur and Shah Alam, 17, son of Mamtajuiddin, at Shaheedbag and shot in their legs.

Both the victims were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Opposition plans tougher agitation

By Staff Correspondent
A meeting of the Central Liaison Committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday discussed fresh programmes in the wake of the government's move to introduce the Public Safety Bill.

Though the meeting could not finalise a fresh programme, it, however, decided to face what it termed the 'repressive black law' through tougher street-programmes.

Sources said the meeting could not finalise any programme because the secretaries general of the four parties did not attend it. The Liaison Committee will meet this evening at 29 Minto Road to finalise fresh programmes.

Held at the residence of BNP vice chairman M Shamsul Islam MP, it was attended by BNP leader Anwar Zahid, Jatiya Party leaders Mostafa Jamal Haider and Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Qader Mollah and Islami Oikya Jote leader ARM Abdul Matin.

Meeting sources said the alliance leaders are unanimous about declaring harder programmes to compel the government to withdraw the new law.

He said the proposed law would not ensure natural justice to people and has curbed their fundamental and individual rights.

Karachi police chief tells court Two Sharif allies told me to take over airport

KARACHI, Jan 28: A senior Pakistani police officer gave evidence today against two senior allies of deposed premier Nawaz Sharif at their trial before a Karachi anti-terrorism court, reports AFP.

Sharif and six of his former officials have been charged with abduction, attempted murder, hijacking and terrorism.

All pleaded not guilty but if convicted of the hijacking charge they face the death penalty.

Sharif has been in detention since he was overthrown in a military coup on October 12, led by army chief General Pervez Musharraf.

He and his co-defendants are accused of trying to prevent the landing in Karachi of a Pakistan International Airlines flight carrying Musharraf and nearly 200 other passengers from Sri Lanka on the night of the coup.

The plane landed, with fuel running low, only after the army seized control of the airport. Musharraf then took control of the country and detained

Sharif. Akbar Arain, the Karachi police chief on the night of the coup, said he was told to take over Karachi airport that night and stop the plane from landing.

He said his instructions were from Syed Ghous Ali Shah, Sharif's chief advisor in Sindh province, and Rana Maqbool, former Sindh police chief, two of the accused.

Arain arrived at the airport at 7:40 pm that night, just a few minutes before the aircraft touched down, and went into the VIP lounge where Shah and Maqbool were waiting.

'Syed Ghous Ali Shah said: 'Can you take over the airport now?' Rana Maqbool asked me the same question," he said.

'I asked what was the matter and Rana Maqbool replied: 'It is the order from the top. The plane of the army chief is coming and it is not to land here. The Civil Aviation Authority and PIA have made all the arrangements and we have to provide protection.' Arain told the court.

But the police officer refused

to take the airport because he had seen the heavy army presence already there.

I regretted that I could not take over the airport, I told them the army was present. I advised them to leave and go back. They did not say anything.

Defence lawyers will try to establish Sharif only tried to stop the aircraft from landing after the army had launched its coup.

But the prosecution will argue the coup was a reaction to Sharif's attempt to sack Musharraf and stop him from returning to Pakistan.

Defence lawyers were expected to cross-examine Arain later today before the prosecution call the next witness, Ahsanullah Gondal, the senior police superintendent at the nearby city Nawabshah.

Security was tight around the courtroom today, with hundreds of armed police and paramilitary troops taking up positions outside and on the roof of the building.

The case is expected to run for several weeks.

Non-govt pry teachers start fast-unto-death today

By Staff Correspondent

The non-government primary school teachers will start fast-unto-death today at Osmani Udyan demanding regularisation of their jobs.

This was announced at a teachers' rally at the Udyan yesterday.

Earlier, the teachers started a 36-hour hunger strike on Thursday, the fifth day of their sit in programme at Osmani Udyan. Two leaders of the agitating teachers began fast-unto-death yesterday evening.

UNB adds: Two of the non-government primary school teachers were hospitalised yesterday evening.

Headmaster of Fulbaria Primary School in Katladi, Kishoreganj Ibrahim Khaili and assistant teacher of Molda Primary School in Tongbari, Munshiganj Shamsul Alam were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after they fell sick.

Three Ijtema devotees die

GAZIPUR, Jan 28: Three devotees of Biswa Ijtema died at Tongi in the last three days, reports UNB.

They were identified as Haji Mattur Rahman, 54, Sagar Ali and Mohsin.

Sources said Haji Mattur Rahman of Shantibagh in the city died on the Ijtema premises yesterday morning.

Devotee Sagar Ali from Mymensingh was injured critically when a bus hit him while crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh road near Tong Bazar Thursday. He died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

College student Mohsin, son of Mohammad Nurul Huq of East Zurain, Dhaka drowned in the river Turag on Wednesday.

Advocate S R Paul dead

Advocate Sabita Ranjan Paul, a doyen of legal practice in the country, died of heart disease and other complications at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) here yesterday evening. He was 87, reports BSS.

Illegal construction at DMCH No action yet against the man behind the misdeed

By Staff Correspondent

No action has been taken against the man believed to be behind illegal construction at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

According to sources, the deputy director of the hospital, Dr Babar Hossain, allegedly allowed Class IV and Class III employees of the hospital to construct a number of shops without the authorities' permission.

Many of the senior staff of the hospital want the deputy director removed for his corrupt practices.

Sources said following recent press reports about his misdeeds, the health ministry was considering probing the allegations against Hossain.

However, it is yet to do so.

Hossain denied to have allowed the employees to go ahead with the illegal construction.

He said he had no link with them.

Sources said Dr Babar Hossain as acting director allowed a section of the hospital employees to go ahead with construction of a number of retail shops on the hospital premises while director Brigadier Badrul Munir was out.

Sources also said he allegedly issued work order for procurement of about 300 hospital beds each costing roughly Tk 20,000 without approval of the survey committee in August.

See page 11 col 8

26 arrested, arms recovered in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28: At least 26 people, including a terrorist were arrested and three firearms recovered in the district today and yesterday, reports BSS.

Fatikhbari police last night recovered two light guns, a sawed-off rifle and two bullets and arrested two persons from Bananipur village in this connection.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 24 people, including an alleged terrorist from the city today, a CMP press release said.

Paharali police arrested Monir Hossain alias Bhutto from Goalpaha area. He is allegedly involved in criminal activities in the area for long and wanted in eight criminal cases.

Time to review Indian constitution?

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Jan 28: Does Indian constitution need a review? Political circles in India are abuzz with a debate today, a day after divergence of views came out in open between President KR Narayanan and the government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on the need for a review of the constitution.

The differences of views between two top constitutional authorities were interestingly spelt out at a function held here yesterday to mark the 50 years of adoption of the Indian constitution.

Looking straight at eyes of the Vajpayee government's

move to set up a committee to review the constitution, Narayanan made no secret of his reservations about it by saying "we have to consider whether it is the constitution that has failed us or whether it is we who have failed the constitution."

Vajpayee, speaking shortly before the president, sought to defend his government's move to review the constitution citing, among the reasons, the need for stability at the centre and in the states, people's impatience for speedy development and removal of imbalances among different regions of India.

However, the Prime Minister made it clear that the constitution's basic structure and its core ideals would remain "inviolable."

Rejecting the plea of stability, the President said "our recent experience of instability in government is perhaps not sufficient reason to discard the parliamentary system in favour of the presidential or any other system."

He said the Drafting Committee of the constitution had preferred the parliamentary form because they preferred responsibility to stability.

Narayanan drew a distinction between amending the constitution and reviewing it and said "the founding fathers made the amendment process easy so that Parliament could rectify the 'shortcomings or lacunae' without much difficulties."

"Whatever we may do... we should ensure that the basic philosophy behind the consti-

tution and the fundamental socio-economic soul of the constitution remain sacrosanct," the President said adding "we should not throw out the baby with the bath water."

The Prime Minister, however, felt that the constitution was "not immutable." "Five decades after its (constitution's) adoption India is faced with a new situation," he said arguing for a review.

"Even in the mightiest fort, one has to repair the parapet from time to time. One has to clean the most and check the banisters... the same is true of our constitution," Vajpayee said.

President Narayanan, on the other hand, asserted that "shortcomings" in the people cannot be obviated by constitutional changes or provisions.

He quoted Dr BR Ambedkar, one of the framers of the Indian constitution, as saying "... if things go wrong under the new See page 11 col 6."

We Are Shifting

The offices of The Daily Star will be shifted to its new premises at Karwan Bazar this month. Please direct all your letters and mails to the following address accordingly. Our new telephone numbers will be announced soon.

The Daily Star
19, Karwan Bazar (2nd & 3rd floors)
Dhaka -1215
Bangladesh

Alleged power theft by Shikdar KMP, PDB start probe

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 28: The detective branch of KMP has started investigation into the alleged theft of electricity worth over Tk 10 crore at Shikdar's residence 'Swarnakamol', ice factory at the Skid ghat, Nalchity project and Shaad-Moni shopping complex at the Station Road.

There is an allegation that Ershad Shikdar stole electricity of such a huge amount in connivance with five executive engineers of the PDB.

DB started investigation following a written allegation to the Home Ministry and the PDB by one Kamal Hossain of Khulna city, said a top official of KMP.

It has been stated in the allegation that Ershad Shikdar had stolen electricity using unauthorised connection for several years causing loss of govt revenue income of over 10 crore.

A former superintendent engineer of the Khulna office of PDB, now serving at a power station in Dhaka and four other engineers helped Shikdar stealing electricity.

All five PDB officials are beneficiaries of Shikdar, said the KMP official quoting written allegation of Kamal Hossain who has demanded an impartial enquiry into this matter.

Meanwhile, a high-level committee of the PDB has also started probing the theft of electricity at Swarnakamol.

It has been learnt from a member of the committee that four of the executive engineers who connived with Ershad in stealing electricity are serving in Goalpara Power Station.

Police have also confirmed this information keeping watch on their movements. Wife of one of the four alleged executive engineers happens to be a close relative of Shikdar, police said.



হজ্জ-যাত্রীদের জন্য বিমানের
সেরা আঙ্কাজিন

নিউ জেনারেশন সুপারিসর বোয়িং-ট্রিপল সেভেন

সম্মানিত হজ্জ-যাত্রীদের জন্য
বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স
ঢাকা-জেদ্দা-ঢাকা
রুটে, নতুন প্রজন্মের সুপারিসর
দুটি বোয়িং-৭৭৭ এর
আয়োজন করেছে।

আগামী ১৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী থেকে ২৯শে ফেব্রুয়ারী পর্যন্ত ঢাকা-জেদ্দা পথে
এবং ২১শে মার্চ থেকে ৪ঠা এপ্রিল পর্যন্ত জেদ্দা-ঢাকা পথে বিমান
সম্মানিত হজ্জ-যাত্রীদের জন্য প্রতিদিন ফ্লাইট পরিচালনা করবে।

বিমানের অন্তর্গত আতিথেয়তায় আপনার হজ্জ পালন আরো সার্থক, আরো অর্থবহ হয়ে উঠুক

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স