The Paily Star

Quorum crisis

ings has been happening in the very first session of the new legislature.

Yesterday was only the ninth working day of the ongoing session yet members of the new parliament seem less interested in attending the House businesses. Excepting for the first couple of days, the current session of the parliament has so far failed to start business on schedule. Delayed start apart, the attendance in House is also getting

thinner day by day. Front-ranking leaders including the ministers in the treasury bench are not regular in attending the proceedings, let alone being punctual. No surprise that other treasury benchers, who include many new

faces, are following suit. Deferring listed items on the agenda has become a common practice on the part of the Chair thanks to the absence of the ministers concerned. Similar is the case with many general members who had either questions to raise or motions to move in the House. The speaker is often found inviting the fellow ministers or MPs to give proxy

for the absentees Leader of the House and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia herself seldom attends the session. The front row of the treasury bench these days is dotted by a few ministers who are late and leave soon after their business with the House is over. There are ministers who attend the House only when they have sched-

uled business With the main opposition Awami

Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday.

Complex and Chondraghuna

Christian Mission Hospital one by

one. However, as the on-duty doc-

tors at these local hospitals refused

to admit them, it took another two

hours to shift the policemen to

Chittagong. When they were finally

taken to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and the

Combined Military Hospital (CMH)

in Chittagong, they were barely

casualties could have been low had

the ailing policemen been shifted to

the CMCH or CMH earlier by heli-

Doctors at the hospitals said the



Local BNP accorded a reception to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at

Police camp tragedy

alliance in the treasury bench in terms of attending the proceedings the House continues to be lifeless.

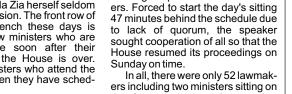
However, situation often gets worse when protests against poor performance of the parliament come from within the treasury bench "Things should not go on like this. I had to stay wake last night and

line up in the queue to submit my amendment motion but none of the wo ministers concerned is present today," ruling BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam said yesterday.

Angered by the common practice by the ministers, Islam told the barren parliament that he did not go to his constituency on the weekend only to see to it that the minister addressed the issue he had raised

in the House yesterday. Nevertheless, Speaker Sircar appeared unconcerned about the crucial issue the treasury bench member had raised. "You are wasting your time. Please talk about your motion." the speaker advised. As regards the lingering crisis of

quorum, the speaker is often heard seeking cooperation of the lawmak ers. Forced to start the day's sitting Sunday on time.



concerned.

PHOTO: STAF

awmakers to attend parliament sittings on time as he announced its adiournment for two days. The House will sit again at 12 noon Sunday (November 25).

3 killed

FROM PAGE 12 fied as Mortazul, 30, and Tariqul

Islam, 26. A case was filed with Nachol

thana in this connection. Police seized the mishuk but the driver of the bus managed to escape

Saudi flight

for autopsy.

Saudi Arabia few months ago for employment. He was arrested by documents. He was deported to ment, sources added.

Police said the victim fell sick and died while flying. The reason behind the death could not be known immediately, sources added An unnatural death case was

filed with airport police station in this reaard

Gunfight at DU FROM PAGE 12

Provost of Jagannath Hall Dr. Min Chandra Bhoumik, house tutors Dr. Ajay Kumar Das of Jagannath Hall and Dr. Abul Bashar and Nizamul Haq Bhuiyan of Zahurul Haq Hall. When contacted yesterday,

Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam said the report is now at the final stage. "We appealed to persons con-

cerned to testify before the probe body, but none came to us", he said. He said though the probe body

was formed on November 14 it began working after two days due to some administrative difficulties.

Bill FROM PAGE 1

it on the ground that the whip's function in the House is irrelevant to the number of administrative divisions in the country. However, the House later accepted the bill by voice vote

city yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

polls

elections.

more days.

explained.

devoid of reality.

against the renegades.

AL central leadership has asked

party leaders at grassroots level to

send names of party men who either

acted against its interest and

supported rebel candidates

or remained inactive during the

contents first. This would help the

through special councils, he

The AL central council would be

organised once the councils at

grassroots level are completed by

"We will serve show cause

Earlier, with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair, the House resumed sitting more than 40 minutes behind schedule, as most lawmakers came in late. In yesterday's sitting, the second private members' day of the current session, three private members' resolution were dealt with. Two other such motions were suspended one was due to a minister's absence and the other. for absence of the lawmaker

The speaker called upon the

mishuk from behind. Three passengers of the mishuk were killed on the spot. Two other passengers sustained severe injuries and were rushed to Raishahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). They were identi-

with his vehicle would be wise to remove the mal-

party men choose their new leaders FROM PAGE 12 Medical College Hospital morgue

Sources said the victim went to Saudi police as he had no valid Bangladesh by the Saudi govern-

FROM PAGE 1

pinpointing the places of occurnantly Hindu village of Annada rence. Prashad under the Lord Hardinge

union. As a result (of the police post), apart from one or two isolated incidents, we the Muslims and the Hindus are living in total harmony. and es instead of in

confined us and snatched three supremacy in the union. rifles," he told UNB correspondent.

Villagers said Awami League

government replaced all the personnel from the temporary police camp at Annada Prashad. The officer-in-charge of the Lalmohon

Taliban hillton positions here with police station was transferred. tank and rocket fire after a US B-52 bomber dropped its payload in a

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2001

AIDS prevalence low

est in Asia, and condom use is lower here than in anv other Asian countrv surveyed so far, showed the find-

The third round (2000-2001) of second generation surveillance for syphilis and HIV was conducted on behalf of the Bangladesh govern-ment by ICDDR, B and ORG MARGquest, and supported by internationals donors DFID and FHI.

Dr Tasnim Azim of ICDDR.B presented the findings at a seminar itled "Dissemination of Findings of the National Sentinel Surveillance for HIV 2000-2001", held yesterday at SASAKAWA, ICDDR,B, organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The study revealed that the high levels of risky behaviour have already resulted in an epidemic of STDs in several groups. Between 27.2 to 42.7 per cent of

sex workers were infected with syphilis in different parts of the country together with some 3.7 to 8.2 per cent of rickshawpullers, truckers and dock-workers who are

Among others, Major General Dr SM Matiur Rahman, Chairman, TC-NAC, Pam Baatsen of FHI, and David Sack, Director, ICDDR,B, spoke at the seminar

Local MP Ataur Rahman Khan

Angur said villagers held the police-

men as the dacoity was committed

in connivance with the police. "The

sad incident was a result of failure of

Deputy Commissioner Iqbal

usually their clients. Incidence of

Hepatitis C among drug addicts

using hypodermic needles is as high

Hossain, Minister for Health and

Family Welfare, attended the semi-

nar as chief guest while Professor M

Rezaul Karim, State Minister of the

same ministry was special quest. M

Fazlur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry

Dr Hossain termed the finding as

very alarming and said the govern-

ment was very committed to step up

efforts to fight the spread of

for concerted and integrated efforts

by government, NGOs, religious

leaders, youths and people from all

walks of life to face the challenge.

The minister stressed the need

of Health and family Welfare pre-

sided over the meeting.

HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh.

Dr Khandaker Mosharraf

as 66.5 per cent, the report added.

Police fire on villagers

rebels who had contested against FROM PAGE 1

PHOTO: STAF

the party-nominated candidates in

different constituencies in the recent

Villagers claimed six people were killed in the police firing, but police confirmed three deaths. Villagers said police fired over 200 gunshots and teargas shells

Guljar, and Rabeya Begum were

lbrahim, Nasir, Ratan Chakma,

Sahajuddin, Mojibur Rahman,

Badiuzzaman, Taher, Idris, Moniar

Hossain. Osman Gani. Selim.

Hasmat Ali, Abdur Razzak,

Moslemuddin, Khorshed Alam,

Ramjan Ali, Mainuddin, Amir

Hossain and Alamgir, were also sent

ASI Rabiul Hossain said they

were patrolling the area at night and

rushed to the spot at 1.30 am hear-

ing a hue and cry. "But the villagers

The injured policemen, including

rushed to the DMCH.

in the incident.

the police," said the ruling party Police reinforcements from lawmaker. Narayanganj and neighbouring He demanded punishment and Narsingdi district joined the previwithdrawal of all the policemen from ous team. The clash between police Araihazar thana. and villagers continued for two hours.

Uddin Ahmed said that a probe body Of the injured villages. Dewan was formed to inquire into the inci-Ali, Nabi Hossain, Mohammad Nayan, Mainuddin, Akhtar, Abdul "Suspension and legal actions Mannan, Mohammad Ali, Aminul against the four accused policemen Islam, Hossain member, Mujibur, have already been ordered." he Anwar Ali, Guljar Hossain, Áwal, said.

Defaulter ISPs

FROM PAGE 12 Meanwhile, the ISP Association of Bangladesh at a meeting yesterday urged the government to restore connections of defaulting ISPs on a provisional basis if there is no other . complaint against them except defaulting in paying licence fee in

to Dhaka in the evening. Police Superintendent Ataur The sources said the association Rahman reached the spot at 9 am leaders tried to meet Post and and assured the villagers of taking Telecommunication Minister egal action against those involved Barrister Aminul Haque yesterday, but failed.

They will hold a meeting with leaders of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) to discuss how to reduce miseries of Internet users, the sources said

A rejoinder and our Reply

We regret the fact that the local MP and jute minister, Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed. a valiant freedom fighter known for his integrity

On Tuesday the superintendent Bhola police (SP) removed for his alleged failure to

prevent atrocities or arrest the

perpetrators at Annada Prashad

and elsewhere in the district. The

rejoinder. The guestion to ask now

is did these people voluntarily send

the rejoinder or were they coerced

N Alliance moves FROM PAGE 1 Alliance troops ringed Khanabad about 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of Kunduz, and hammered the

"The office of Mullah Omar strongly denied that, and the Taliban army chief Akhdar Othmani said the information was totally false," correspondent Mohammad al-Shuli reported from the southeastern city

Chowdhury, newly appointed polls Political Secretary to Sheikh Those expelled include AL Hasina, said the AL President is firm presidium member Dr Mohammad on bringing changes at every tiers of Selim, who was in the polls race against his younger brother and the party. Sheikh Hasina wants to see former home minister Mohammad more dynamism in the party, which Nasim in Sirajganj, Hemaetullah would be guided by the experience Awranga and Delwar Hossain who were elected lawmakers.

Party insiders mentioned that

They pointed out that for long the party has maintained status quo in clash ensued when local BNP leadership at different levels on the leader Ramzan Ali along with his ground that changes might trigger supporters harvested paddy from discontent and commotion among rival aspirants for vital party posts

an eye opener for many AL leaders who now think that 'maintaining statues quo' in party leadership was

post of president for 15 to 24 years.

notice on them. If their replies are not satisfactory, disciplinary actions will follow." AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman who heads a party committee on this issue told this Saber said. correspondent.

AL likely to expel

NEWS

Disciplinary actions range from verbal warning to expulsion. On October 23, AL formed a

committee headed by Zillur to report leaders at different levels. within 15 days about the party men who acted against its interests in the Zillur said the report was yet to be finalised and it would take a few

> not a good idea at all. The insiders referred to some

Mentionably, AL's renewed move for cleansing itself began with Wednesday's expulsion of 24

of long tested and dedicated party leaders and also by the enthusiasm the new and young leaders, AL activist dies FROM PAGE 12 Hasina has already given instructhat Jamat Ali died a natural death

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offering munajat at an Iftar Party hosted for journalists at Prodhan Mantri Bhaban in the

the first quarter of next year, he said.

yesterday, Saber Hossain

Talking to this correspondent

tions for enrolling fresh members in and hence no postmortem is the party and make room for young required. The body was laid to rest yesterday. Witnesses and police said the

the field of Awami League leader The debacle in last elections was

organisational district units of AL where the same persons held the

Taijal Ali Wednesday morning. The An AL presidium member, seekand their supporters. houses of Taijal and his brother ing anonymity, said that as the were also damaged and plundered. overwhelming majority in the party demanded a change in leadership at all levels, the party thought it

Both sides used firearms and lethal weapons during the clash Jamat Ali died in action and 15 injured on both sides. Of them. Taijal, Salek, Nazar, Abul, Sattar

and Raijal were admitted to Kushtia general hospital. and BNP had been warming up for

the last few days to establish

No reforms, no aid

FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 12

alive.

told the finance minister that they wanted to see notable improvement in law and order, wastage in the public sector and overall governance before the scheduled meeting of the Aid Club in Paris in April next year. The WB official reiterated

donors' conditionalities to stop funding loss- making state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and privatise those, increase the administered price of fertiliser, power, gas and petroleum before considering Bangladesh's request for increased financial assistance

Talking to newsmen later, Saifur Rahman admitted the donors' conditionalities. "Without reforms, specially if we don't dispose of lossincurring SOEs to the private sector the donors won't consider our request for significant assistance. But we are hopeful of fulfilling their

Left-leaning parties

allegedly perpetrated by the ruling alliance. CPB leaders said at the meeting that left parties would soon organise a convention against communalism.

CPB leaders present at the meeting later told The Daily Star that AL did not raise the question of jointly organising the convention, planned by AL

"We will fix the date for a convention at our meeting day after tomorrow. As we understood, they (AL) are planning for another after the Ramadan. We can join each other's convention upon invitation. The question of jointly organising the programme was not raised," said a CPB leader.

AL sources said such meetings will continue to seek support from other parties to organise the allparty national convention, sometime in January next year.

Other important national and secretary of Women and Children international issues also came up Affairs Ministry Murari Mohon Datta for discussion at yesterday's meetbecame member of Tax Appellate ing, the sources said.

CPB leaders told AL leaders that though there were lots of ideological differences between the two parties, remains vacant since November 19 CPB always likes political dialogues among parties.

"Such dialogue should be held between AL and BNP also," one looking for a suitable Secretary for CPB leader said.

this important Ministry. A number of CPB leaders also explained to senior secretaries are trying desper-AL that left democratic parties were ately to get appointment to this post.

conditions and get significant assistance in the future," he said. The WB vice president sua-

"Only a few years ago, the

policemen stationed at those moun-

tainous places would usually be

sent for treatment to the CMH (in

Chittagong) by helicopter. But the

service has remained suspended

for unknown reasons," a member of

the Armed Police Battalion (APBN)

Police Camp, Subedar Altaf

Hossain, demanded resumption of

the helicopter services in case of

emergency. During a visit to the

camp yesterday morning, this

correspondent found that fresh

consignment of rice, pulse, soybean

fish and pumpkin in the kitchen.

The commander of the Paglipara

gested the government to overhaul the financial management for efficient revenue collection and to control 'wasteful' public expendi-

Nishimizu also mentioned corruption and mismanagement in health and education sectors and suggested taking corrective measures for development. Pointing out lack of good governance, she said the government has been deprived of huge amount of money every year due to a nexus between dishonest officials of utility services

and customers. During her five-day visit, Nishimizu held meetings with the government leaders, business people and NGO activists.

trying to develop a "third political front" in the country by breaking the

bi-polar political environment cre

Changes in admin

Matiur Rahman to Ministry of

Education, joint secretary of

Ministry of Agriculture Sirajul Islam

was made Director of Jamuna

Multipurpose Bridge Authority while

joint secretary (OSD) M Shamsul

Hag became Member of Land

Appeal Board. Director of Jamuna

Multipurpose Bridge Authority Nurul

Amin was transferred to Ministry of

Agriculture as joint secretary while

joint secretary of Education Ministry

Anisuddin Mia became Member of

Tariff Commission. Member of

RAJUK ABM Kamrul Islam was

made member of BADC and joint

Meanwhile, the post of Secretary

the Establishment Ministry

Sources said the government is

The post fell vacant following retire-

ment of Sved Marghub Murshed.

ated by AL and BNP.

FROM PAGE 1

ommission.

Khaleda FROM PAGE 12

order. They stated that the government had earlier ordered adjournment of hearings of all political cases, filed against opposition leaders and workers during the Awami League rule. So, they prayed for adjournment of hearings of the

accused persons. case After hearing, the court passed **Our Reply**: The rejoinder does the order on the issue not address any part of our reports.

Khaleda Zia and Abdul Matin Chowdhury, while in office, directed the authorities concerned to appoint 745 sub-inspectors violating government's rules.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a corruption case with Ramna reports were based on a visit to the thana accusing Khaleda Zia and sites and evewitness accounts. The Matin Chowdhury in December, 1996

Accused Khaleda Zia and Matin Chowdhury were not present in the court during the hearing.

next week.

hospital

meeting yesterday.

returned to power.

A good number of patients left

the BSMMUH due to the strike.

When this correspondent visited the

hospital yesterday afternoon, most

of the wards almost deserted.

were present at the meeting.

BSMMUH strike FROM PAGE 12

career.

in our reports.

sible for the death of the nurse and the four-member probe body formed to investigate the incident was asked to submit its report within BSMMUH unit president of SKSP Abul Kashem and its leaders

Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, Shamima Akhter, Harunur Rashid, Rokey Khatun and Mohammad Hossain Meanwhile. leaders and workers

of SKSP cleaned name plates of the They were dropped in a major immediately after the Sources mentioned that eaders and as a player. of SKSP reportedly belonging to the

ruling BNP had been demanding restoration of the hospital's previous fourth victory in 45 one-dayers. status since BSMMUH came into being in April 1998 under the then Awami League government. The sweep demand intensified after BNP

The Southern African country have won all the seven matches between the two teams. Most recently Zimbabwe handed Bangladesh a 3-0 defeat when the international newcomers toured in April

Patients alleged that there were "I don't know how much they no nurses or doctors to look after (Bangladesh) have improved since them since the strike began on our last meeting. But we want to November 16. "Even we found none start with a win," Carlisle told reportto clean garbage in the wards and ers. the toilets," alleged one patient.

We notice with surprise that the ing and punishing the perpetrators of these heinous crimes, should be news items were exaggerated and part of a cover-up effort.

There was an incident of rape at It is the all the more regrettable Annada Prashad three or four days when the secretarial committee, after the election, they said. At the formed to report on alleged atrocidirective of the honourable minister. ties against the religious minority at a case was filed with the police some places in the country, has station and the principal accused confirmed as partially true two of was arrested. The police are trying the nine incidents reported, includtheir best to arrest the absconding ing the one at Bhola

It is attitudes like these that encourage criminals, who, because of the government's unwillingness to investigate, get away with their crime

We would like to suggest to the Minister, assuming that he is sincere in his intention to find the truth, that it is not The Daily Star that is trying to mislead him but his own party men and sycophants. It may be mentioned that follow-

reporters talked to dozens of local people and identified the victims ing The Daily Star reports, the

Hosts opt for youth

FROM PAGE 1

The 50-over-match gets underway at 9am. Bangladesh Television and private channel Ekushey Television will telecast the match live from the port city. Bangladesh Betar will also provide ball-by-ball commentary.

It does not contradict a single

assertion raised in our reports. The

rejoinder only makes generalised

statements on events not dealt with

The Daily Star investigative

But the Chittagong crowd will not be seeing the veteran pair of Aminul Islam and Akram Khan, who began their international careers at this very ground in 1988 Asia Cup.

shake-up by selectors, who also axed Naimur Rahman as a captain

While Bangladesh will be banking on youth to record their only Zimbabwe captain Stuart Carlisle will be wanting nothing but a clean

"If we win the toss. we will bat first Sanwar, who scored back-toand score at least 250 runs. We will back centuries during the be treating this match very seriously Bangladesh A team's successful because we want to give the youngtour of India. is returning to the sters a chance to perform." he said national team after a gap of three years

false

TEAMS

into doina this.

Bangladesh: Khaled Masood (captain), Mohammad Ashraful, Al-Shahriar, Tushar Imran, Habibul Bashar, Sanwar Hossain, Khaled Mahmud, Mohammad Rafique, Fahim Muntasir, Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza Kowshik and Mohammad Sharif

Zimbabwe (From): Dion Ebrahim, Trevor Gripper, Stuart Carlisle (captain), Grant Flower, Andy Flower, Craig Wishart Douglas Marillier, S Ervine, Heath Streak, Paul Strang and Travis Friend

Jewellery FROM PAGE 12 sources said.

The gold bars and jewellery were found wrapped in a white cloth and kept under two seats

Primary investigation revealed involvement of some 'key personnel of the flight' in the smuggling. After the flight landed at ZIA, the captain contacted the control tower for taking the plane to the hanger immediately, sources said. A departmental case was filed in

this regard.

prelude to a ground attack

"We are first attacking Khanabad, then we will march on Kunduz." alliance commander Abdul Jamil told AFP.

police also arrested more than ten The Northern Alliance claimed perpetrators, named by our newsmost of the estimated 7,000 Afghan paper in the reports. All these steps Taliban fighters trapped in and for which we commend the governaround Kunduz itself had agreed to ment indicate the claim of the surrender during intense overnight signatories of the rejoinder are negotiations, but this was denied by the militia.

Incidentally we would like to The alliance said the main stummention that the above rejoinder bling block to the negotiations was was faxed from the Ministry of Jute, the fate of some 2,000 Pakistanis, of which Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Arabs and Chechens, believed to be from terror suspect Osama bin Bir Bikram is the minister and also Laden's al-Qaeda network, who the Member of Parliament of were dug in alongside the Taliban. Lalmohon area. It clearly shows the government's hand in issuing this

The foreign fighters preferred death to surrender and feared being executed if they fell into the hands of their enemies. They have asked for UN protection but the world body says it cannot get involved.

"We are ready to enter the city, and those who resist will be killed, Northern Alliance General Mohammad Daoud said.

"Most Afghan Taliban have agreed to surrender, but the foreign ighters will not lay down their arms. Negotiations are continuing," he added.

A bloody showdown loomed when Northern Alliance forces advanced on Kunduz and the Taliban insisted that its commanders had reached no agreement on a surrender

The alliance said General Abdul Rashid Dostam, whose forces are ined up northwest of Kunduz, had been negotiating with Mullah Fazil Mazloom, the leader of the besieged forces, in nearby Mazar-i-Sharif

Other alliance representatives were meeting with local Taliban chiefs at Emam Saheb, on the northern Kunduz front near the Tajikistan border

"This is a lie that the Taliban have started retreating from Kunduz. The delegation which went to Mazar-i-Sharif for negotiations with general Dostum has not returned yet," a Taliban spokesman told the Afghan Islamic Press.

"We do not know whether any agreement has been reached there or not. But Taliban are still in control of Kunduz.'

The Arab satellite news channel Al-Jazeera, known for its exclusive reporting on the Taliban, conveyed a denial from militia chief Mullah Mohammad Omar that his fighters were ready to give up.

of Spin Boldak UN, US and British officials said

they could play no role in Kunduz, but the international community urged the Northern Alliance to avoid using the capture of the city for a bloody settling of scores.

"The best way to save lives in Kunduz is for the Taliban to surrender. There can be an instant end to any bloodshed if the Taliban lay down their arms," said Kenton Keith, the Islamabad-based spokesman for the US-led coalition against

While the standoff in Kunduz seemed to be reaching a climax, fighting broke out between Taliban and Northern Alliance forces near the capital Kabul, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported.

terrorism.

Eleven Northern Alliance tanks, backed by artillery and rocket fire, spearheaded an assault on Taliban hill positions about 20 kilometres

(12 miles) southwest of Kabul. Commanders with the alliance. which now controls Kabul, said the attack against an estimated 600 Taliban troops lasted some five hours before the alliance forces retreated in the face of a flanking counter attack

In the south, local Pashtun tribal elder Hamid Karzai said he was still hopeful the Taliban would agree to a bloodless handover of power in Kandahar province, the home of Mullah Omar

Karzai, an ally of former king Mohammed Zahir Shah who recently returned from exile with US backing to stir up a popular revolt in the south, said he was in contact with the Taliban in Kandahar by telephone.

"They are sending messages. They want negotiations to work out a solution. I am indeed hopeful a solution will be found," he said.

But a spokesman for Omar in Kandahar has said there is no question of a Taliban surrender and no talks are underway.

"At present, our forces in Kandahar and surrounding provinces, they are enough to defend our present controlled areas," Syed Tayyab Agha said Wednesday, adding that the militia had also lost all touch with bin Laden.

Meanwhile, the Taliban's international isolation was completed yesterday after neighbouring Pakistan, once the militia's strongest ally, closed the Taliban embassy in Islamabad.

adding that it would be an interesting battle. Zimbabwe will field a full strength side with the return of Grant Flower and Heath Streak. Both Grant and Streak missed the exhibition match

on Wednesday. Paceman Streak appears to have recovered from flu, according to Zimbabwe's Australian coach

Geoff Marsh. "He looks better today, but will have to face a fitness test for tomorrow's (Friday's) match," said the former Australian opening batsman. Bangladesh captain Khaled

first game in charge. "We will play positive cricket and

close fight," said Masood after the team's nets at the venue in the

The new Bangladesh skipper said that the inclusion of Tushar and Sanwar would bolster the batting line-up. "They performed very well in India.

Tushar become the first Banaladeshi to score a double century on foreign soil.

look for a win. I will rather hope for a

morning.

Masood was optimistic ahead of his