

Clean sweep for visitors

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target in only 35.4 overs.
Afridi set the stadium alight with his trademark shots over the top and reached his 50 off only 35 deliveries. It contained four boundaries and three sixes.
After reaching his 18th half-century, the dashing right-hander launched a savage attack on left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque in the ninth over that produced 28 runs.
He smashed the first three deliveries out of the ground then blocked the fourth before hitting a four and a massive six over long-off in that spell-binding over.
The 22-year-old was however bowled by Khaled Mahmud in the eleventh over while trying to hit another ball into the gallery.
And by the time the aggressor left the scene, the scoreboard had a peculiar look to it. His partner Naved Latif was batting on nine only in a total of 97.
Pakistan reached the mark with Younis Khan scoring an unbeaten 66, his second successive half-century.
Razzak, who had earlier returned with career-best figures of 6-35, made 25 not out.
The classy all-rounder after going wicketless in his first spell of six overs got his rhythm back in slogs over.
He began his assassination by dismissing Bangladesh's in-form batsman Tushar Imran with a perfect shower delivery.
Tushar top-scored for the home team with 43 off 56 balls.
The young right-hander demonstrated his growing confidence with an array of shots before being

caught at cover. He also scored highest 65 in the second match on Thursday.
Razzak's previous best figures were 5-31 against Sri Lanka in Sharjah Champions Trophy in 1999.
After winning the toss, Bangladesh made a cautious start with openers Mehrab Hossain and Javed Omar putting on 88 runs in 25.2 overs.
Javed scored 35 before being comfortably caught at long-off by Youhana. Mehrab returned four balls later flashing at an Afridi delivery that was too close to cut.
Amirul Islam, a late inclusion in the side, made 31 off 42 balls.
But while trying to accelerate the run rate, Bangladesh lost their last five wickets for 15 runs.
Afridi was adjudged man-of-the-match for his exploits with the bat while Razzak picked up the man-of-the-series award.
Pakistan fly home today at the end of their successful 25-day tour. Waqar Younis' team will enjoy a short break before taking on the West Indies in Sharjah next week.

Law & order
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Barisal, Jhenidah and Jamalpur.
In the last 75 days of AL rule, the highest number of 16 killings took place in Feni, 11 in the capital and its adjacent areas, eight in Chittagong and five in Laxmipur. Four persons each were killed in Kushtia, Narayanganj and Rajshahi, three in Jamalpur, two each in Bhola, Sylhet, Netrokona, Fatikchhari and Jessore and one each in Gopalganj, Noakhali, Chuadanga and Shariatpur. A total of 242 political clashes took place during the period.
At least 46 people were killed in political violence across the country in the election month, October last. Of them, 30 were leaders and activists of AL and its front organisations, nine of BNP and its fronts, two were activists of Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir while identity of five others could not be known.
In the first three months of the present government, the highest number of 63 killings in the capital took place in December.
The number of deaths in mob beating was also the highest—63—in December while the highest number of seven deaths in crossfire was recorded in November.
The Dhaka Metropolitan police (DMP) launched a 'jihad' against illegal drug trading in the city on the New Year's Day, calling it the root cause of rise in crimes. Yet an improvement in the situation is but to be seen.

Outlawed partymen

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After a short lull in recent times, armed cadres of these outlawed organisations have again started regrouping under the shelter of the two main political parties Awami League and BNP. Some godfathers of these two parties are hiring these outlaws to murder their political opponents, police records say.
Victims of gruesome murders committed by outlaws in last three years include KCC mayoral candidate SMA Rab, AL leader advocate Kalidas Boral of Bagerhat, treasurer of Khulna University Sardar Abdur Razzak, AL leader of Rupsha Upazila Sardar Harun-ar-Rashid, Jubo League leader and Dumuria UP chairman Kabirul Islam, Bagerhat BNP leader MA Awal, shrimp exporter Farhad Hossain of Fakirhat Upazila, BNP activists Bhutto and Moazzem Hossain of Shironomi of Khulna City, and Jubo League leader Anwar of Sonadanga.
Besides, outlaws killed more than two hundred activists of political organisations during the same period, police sources said. Many businessmen and other professionals considered 'class enemies' by the outlawed parties have also been murdered.
Two MPs of the ruling party said that under the prevailing circumstances they felt that their own lives were in danger from an attack by the outlaws anytime. They said that firm and tough steps were needed to crush the outlaws and anything short of an all-out crackdown will not help the situation where ordinary citizens continue to live under constant fear of bloodshed.

6000 brick kilns

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Although setting up of new brick fields was banned under an Executive Order passed about a year ago, hundreds of those are being set up without any licence or permission. The Deputy Commissioner's office in every district should monitor the developments, but it is widely alleged that the district administrations ignore the matter in exchange for 'monthly payments.'
Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Sabihuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star the relevant law was amended to 'make it more effective' to tackle environmental problems. "Please contact the Department of Environment (DoE) for details about the amendment," he said.
But DoE sources confirmed they are working on amendment to the Environment Conservation Act, and not the Brick Burning Ordinance.
Mohammad Reazuddin, DoE Director (Technical), said the Ordinance needs to be amended to deal with the problems now gripping the sector.
"Before a brick field is set up, it must have proper clearance from various agencies including the DoE and the law must set the criteria," he



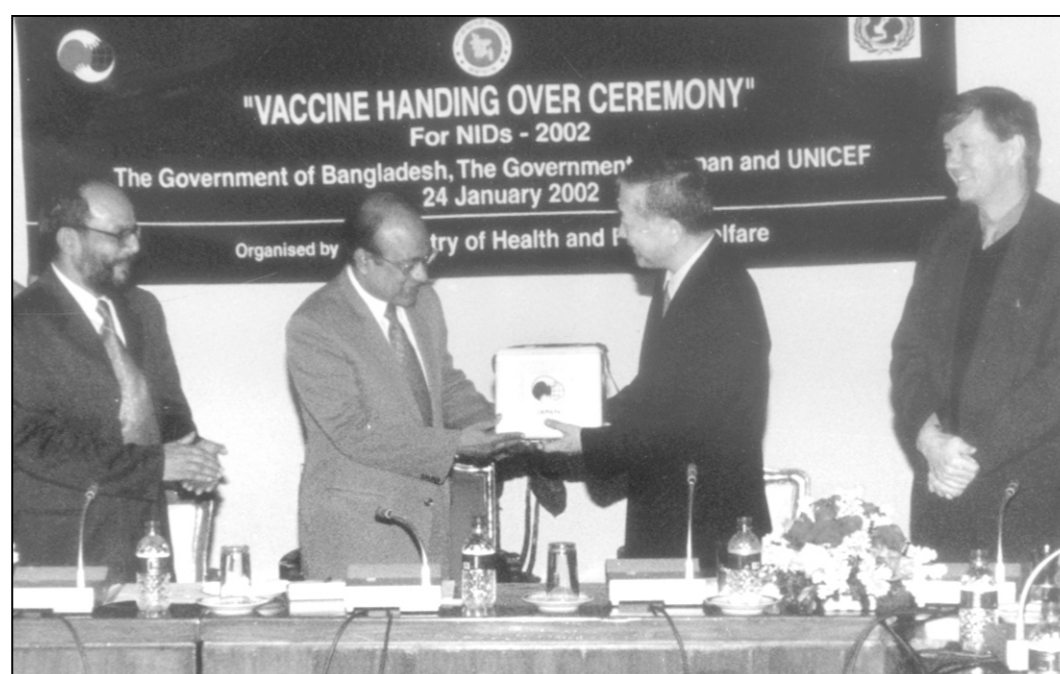
The Children's Unity Against Oppression formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting factual replacements in the textbooks of new academic year and the attacks on minorities and opposition activists.

Opposition kept at arm's length

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Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Mosharrar Hossain, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.
Besides, cases were filed on various charges against former MPs and AL leaders. Among them are Haji Selim, Dr HBM Iqbal, Alhaj Mojab Hossain and Kamal Ahmed Maqbul.
During the 100-day agenda of the present government, police charged baton on the Awami League leaders during hartals on December 2 and January 9. Former ministers Mohammad Nasim and Matia Chowdhury were beaten by police.
The government all on a sudden imposed a ban on torch procession on December 3, saying that wielding sticks with fireball on top can be "dangerous weapons".
According to government statistics, during these hundred days, incidents of clashes and dacoities were over 1005, murders 928, acid throwing over 3000 and those of stealing, robbery and cheating were over 4000. There was no statistics on extortion.
The government has decided to repeal the Public Safety Act and taken a move to release thousand of leaders and workers of the ruling party who were arrested during Awami League rule.
Meantime, the government has repealed the Special Security Act for the family members of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In protest, Awami League observed a half-day hartal in the capital on December 4.
A second half-day countrywide strike was called by Awami League on January 9 to protest price hike of oil, gas, water and electricity.
Dozens of government officials were served with show cause notices for taking part in the Janatar Manch that forced the then BNP government to resign in 1996. Also, many officials were made OSD or sent on forced retirement for their alleged links with Awami League.
According to unofficial reports, over 4000 minority people lost their homes, over 30 were killed and 269 raped while 5,000 people fell victim of torture since the October 1 general elections. Government leaders confute the figures and say there were some stray incidents by certain quarters.
According to Awami League sources, 37 party workers were killed in 100 days while nearly 4000 activists came under attacks while the incidents of rape were 928.
Awami League Presidium member Abdul Jalil MP told UNB that the four-party government during its 100 days destroyed the country's economy and caused people's misery.
"Torture, terrorism, looting, killing, rape and repression have broken all past records during the first 100 days of the alliance govern-

Delhi working with UAE

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AP from Kolkata adds: A video camera atop the US cultural center captured on film the faces of motorcycle-riding gunmen who killed the guards, police said.
The video films have given us vital clues for investigation," Deputy Commissioner of Police Saumen Mitra said.
The videotape pulled from the security camera on the roof of the American Center gave a frame-by-frame account of the assault, in which policemen were attacked with automatic rifles as they awaited their shift change early Tuesday.
"After questioning several eyewitnesses and seeing these video films, our artists have drawn sketches of the two attackers," Mitra said as police in the West Bengal state intensified their search.
The Kolkata police have so far picked up more than 70 people for questioning, but most of them were released by Thursday, Mitra said. Six people, including three Bangladeshis, have been arrested in connection with the attack, but none are believed to be the gunmen.
Those questioned Thursday included a brother of Asif Reza Khan, who was killed by police in a December shootout and was allegedly the local contact of Dubai-based Aftab Ansari the main suspect in Tuesday's attack, Mitra said.
According to police, Ansari had telephoned from Dubai shortly after the assault to claim responsibility. Ansari, a Muslim from the northern Indian city of Benaras, allegedly has links with Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Jehadi-Islami, an Islamic militant group fighting to separate Kashmir from India.
The Indian government has said it was too soon to say if the shooting was conducted by Islamic militants sponsored by rival Pakistan. US officials have also said they haven't yet determined the motive or the group behind the attack.
In New Delhi, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao said Thursday that Indian police and FBI investigators were working together in the investigation.
Rao said India's federal investigative agency had also contacted its counterpart in the United Arab Emirates to get details on Ansari. India has an extradition treaty with the government in Abu Dhabi and may request that Ansari be handed over if investigations zero in on him, Rao said.
No reaction from Abu Dhabi was immediately available.



Japanese Ambassador Jiro Kobayashi hands over a kit of Oral Polio Vaccine to Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandkar Mosharrar Hossain at a simple ceremony at NEC Conference Room in the city on Thursday.

Hasina's speech 100 day programme

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local private TV channels but had to abandon the plan as the channels refused to broadcast the speech following alleged pressure from government quarters.
State-owned BTV and Bangladesh Betar did not get permission from the government.
Meanwhile, a high-level meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair after a thorough review finalised the draft speech yesterday.
A party insider said apart from making a critical appraisal of the 100-day programme of the Khaleda government, the opposition leader would spell out 'future direction of Awami League politics.'
Senior party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Motia Chowdhury, Shah AMS Kibria, Abul Mal Abdul Muhit and Saber Hossain Chowdhury attended the high-level meeting to finalise the text of the speech.

History repeats
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paige against the then CEC, demanding his resignation.
It had boycotted all the polls under Abu Hena and so elections to the core local government body - Upazila Parisad - was shelved for four years.
Being bitterly criticised by the then Opposition, Abu Hena resigned in April 1999 on 'personal ground' without completing his tenure.
Chosen by the then AL government, MA Syed was appointed CEC by the President on May 23, 1999.
Immediately after his appointment, the new CEC told journalist that BNP would certainly participate in polls under him although the then Opposition was initially against his appointment.
The AL at its Central Working Committee meeting on Tuesday last formally demanded resignation of the CEC, charging him of being partisan, and gave a clear message that it would not participate in any election under the incumbent CEC.
The party has planned to go for street agitation against the CEC side by side its anti-government programmes.
EC officials apprehend that the long overdue elections to city corporations, upazila parishads and district councils would not be held if AL opposes.
While in power, AL did not speak against the CEC and his actions. After AL left office on July 13, the CEC made a proposal to the caretaker government for major amendments to election laws to hold a neutral election.
AL's first reaction came after the amendment was made through a presidential promulgation. The AL charged the CEC and the caretaker government for 'by-passing parliament in bringing "huge changes" in the election code just ahead of the general election.
Facing a debacle in the October 1 general election, AL accused the CEC of "ensuring its defeat in the election as part of a blue-print orchestrated by the caretaker government".

Govt firm
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health hazards and also contributed to water logging in the city by clogging the drainage system, he mentioned.
It would not have been possible to make the ban a success without active cooperation of the people. The FEJB also extended total support to the government in this regard, he said.
The minister pointed out that use, marketing and production of polythene bags will also be banned in the country from March 1.
For protection of environment, Khoka said, the media has a pivotal role in creating public awareness and sensitizing policymakers about environmental degradation and its consequences. "Sometimes, a political government is hesitant to take a decision for obvious reasons, but the media help it take the right decision."
The minister said the government is also determined to protect people from arsenic poisoning and is trying to find effective ways of doing this with the help of experts and scientists at home and abroad.
He mentioned the steps already taken to free the capital from the menacing problems of black smoke, traffic jam, garbage etc.
FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury said they would continue to play their due role in the relevant field. He stressed further improvement of professional skills of journalists writing on environmental issues.
Later, FEJB general secretary Mofizur Rahman presented his report and Treasurer Hasan Hafiz presented the audit report of the organisation at the second session of the general meeting.

Acid thrown
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Akhtaruzaman, Raju, Munna, and Babu again went to Amin's house at 11pm on Thursday and threw acid on his wife Fahmdia.
Fahmdia received acid burn all over the body and was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
Victim's husband Ruhul Amin filed a case with Demra police station in this regard. Police arrested Akhtaruzaman for his alleged involvement in the acid attack on Fahmdia.

former secretary identified 107 bureaucrats who benefited from 'illegal orders' passed during the tenure of the previous government.
TDS: Over 1200 officials have been transferred, or made OSD, or sacked. There is a sharp rise in appointments on contract basis while a vacuum has been created in the administration.
7. Release of political prisoners and persons detained without trial.
Govt: The process has been initiated and orders for release of 4195 detainees have been issued.
TDS: Positive progress.
8. Removing irregularities and chaos at Chittagong and Mongla ports and at airports.
Govt: Process initiated to amend dock workers laws. No strike was observed at ports in 100 days.
TDS: Port safety still remains a concern for the International Maritime Organisation. Passenger harassment at Zia International Airport remains the same.
9. Unearthing the actual reason behind the 1996 share market scam, punishment to those responsible and restoration of public trust in the share market.
Govt: SEC is conducting an internal investigation into the scam.
TDS: SEC primarily reported that it had already unearthed a number of 'insider traders' and cases in this connection are under trail. Public confidence on share market is still low.
10. Judicial inquiry into the sensational incidents of bomb explosions.
Govt: A judicial committee has been formed.
TDS: No report has been published in this regard.
11. Formation of citizen's committees at the grassroots level to maintain law and order.
Govt: District administrations have been asked to maintain law and order.
TDS: No action has been taken.
12. Investigation into all allegations of corruption and trail of corrupt persons.
Govt: Nineteen cases have been filed and 68 allegations are being investigated.
TDS: Positive progress.
13. Sending special teams abroad to increase export quota for ready made garments.
Govt: A team was sent to the US in this regard.
TDS: The mission failed. It is noteworthy that Bangladesh businessmen have been demanding quota-free access.
14. Holding international seminar on arsenic contamination of groundwater.
Govt: Done.
TDS: Positive.
15. International seminar on computer for the youth.
Govt: Done.
TDS: Positive.
16. Setting up of cyber clubs at district towns.
Govt: Project pro-forma outlined for computer facilities at university level.
TDS: No step taken in this regard. The step described in the government assessment is irrelevant.
17. Setting up of 'language laboratories' in six divisional cities.
Govt: A project for 'English language course for nurses' under the Bureau of Manpower has been implemented.
TDS: No progress in this regard. There is no connection between English course for nurses and 'language laboratories' in divisional cities.
18. New initiatives for English education at government education institutions.
Govt: English language course initiated at four colleges in the city. More such courses will be undertaken in other institutions in future.
TDS: Too insufficient for any rating.
19. Setting up of motor driving schools at district towns.
Govt: A project for setting up such school in 17 districts is being considered by the Planning Commission.
TDS: Slight progress.
20. Special bus services in the capital for working women.
Govt: Six such buses have been introduced in the city.
TDS: Positive progress.
21. 'Advanced drivers institution' for bus-truck drivers.
Govt: Foundation laid in Bogra for one such institution. The project is under consideration.
TDS: Slight progress.
22. Research centre on accidents to avert accidents.
Govt: A project is under consideration.
TDS: Slight progress.
23. Sending teams abroad to increase manpower export.
Govt: Teams sent to Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Malaysia and schedules have been set for more visits.
TDS: So far no country has committed to take more manpower from Bangladesh.
24. Observing 30 Years of Independence amid fanfare.
Govt: Observed.
TDS: Observed without glamour.
Not included in the report
25. Steps to reduce traffic jam.
TDS: Steps have been taken from January 1 and traffic system in the city has improved.
1. Safety Act, slight improvement in traffic jam, initiation of a process for release of political prisoners held without trial, detection of the previous government's 'illegal' orders in the administration and introduction of bus service in the city for working women.
A one-member investigation commission formed with former Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury found a total of 107 'illegal' orders regarding promotion, posting, appointment and retrenchment, given during the tenure of the previous government.
On the other hand, the biggest failure of the 100-day programme has been in the area of law and order and bringing terrorists to book.
Terrorism, killing, toll collection, tender snatching, violence at educational institutions, 'capture' of bus and launch terminals continued in the last three months. The month of December witnessed a record number of deaths in mass beating. Extortionists allegedly belonging to the ruling party have 'recaptured' all terminals and markets from their political opponents.
However, at the same time, arrest of a ruling party MP on charge of tender snatching slightly improved the government's image.
Though the government has taken a move to repeal the Public Safety Act, enacted by the previous government, it has clearly said that the other black law - Special Powers Act - will not be repealed soon.
The government claims that the situation at ports has improved as there has been no strike in the 100 days. A move has been taken to amend port labour laws partially. International maritime organisations still consider Chittagong and Mongla ports 'unsafe'.
The government did not have any specific focus on setting up cyber clubs and motor driving schools at district level, stopping terrorism at educational institutions and initiating new English language course at government educational institutions. No action has been taken but the government report marked those as 'positively progressing'.
At least two of the promises were unnecessary. Though the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) conducted its investigation into the 1996 share market scam and is pursuing a number of cases, the government has formed two commissions to reinvestigate the scam.
In the other instance, the government promised the business community steps for ensuring Bangladeshis garments' quota-free access to the US market. Accordingly, a team was sent to the US, but it failed to achieve anything.
As promised, the government formed a judicial committee to probe incidents of bomb explosions. But no further progress has been reported.
The programmes not implemented at all are: observation of a 'thanks giving day' to thank the voters, holding of a national convention on violation of human rights and terrorism during the AL rule, formation of citizens' committees on law and order, etc.