

## Kiwis crush Bangladesh in Champs Trophy

AFP, Colombo

Fast bowler Shane Bond grabbed four wickets in a sensational spell as New Zealand dismissed Bangladesh for their second-lowest total of 77 to post a 167-run win in an inconsequential match of the Champions Trophy tournament yesterday.

The 27-year-old Canterbury paceman (4-21) needed just five hostile overs to run through the fragile Bangladeshi top order to bowl his team to a consolation victory.

Defending champions New Zealand were already out of contention after losing their opening match to Australia, who qualified for the semifinals with two victories in a three-team group.

South Africa, Sri Lanka and India are the other teams in the penultimate round.

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## Verdict on case against Anup Chetia today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the case against Uffa leader Anup Chetia and his two associates on charge of possessing a satellite telephone set will be delivered today.

Abu Syed Diljar Hossain, Judge of the First Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Court, Dhaka, will give the judgement at 12:30 pm, court sources said.

The prosecution and the defence sides completed hearing arguments in the case on August 11.

The court recorded statements of 10 out of 11 prosecution witnesses.

Chetia along with his associates Babul Sharma and Laxmi prosad Goswami was arrested from a house at Adabar in Mohammadpur area of the city on December 21, 1997 for allegedly possessing currencies of 16 countries and a satellite telephone set.

Four cases against them were filed with Mohammadpur Police Station.

Meanwhile, three of the cases were disposed of and they were given various terms of imprisonment.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 24		5-54 pm
Sept 24	5-48 am	

Prayer Timings		
Sept 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-01	6-05
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Schroeder retains power with a small majority

Europe hails, Washington sulks at win of anti-Iraq war combine

AFP, Berlin

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's ruling Social Democrats won the closest national election in German post-war history at the weekend but saw power shift slightly to their junior coalition partner, the Greens.

After a night of twists and turns, Schroeder was left yesterday clinging to power with a small majority, thanks largely to the Greens, who recorded their highest ever score and with whom coalition talks will begin soon.

Europe hailed Schroeder's victory, but Washington sulks with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld saying the election campaign -- in which Schroeder opposed strikes on Iraq -- had



Gerhard Schroeder

poisoned US-German relations. EU leaders welcomed Schroeder's return and downplayed concerns that the narrowness of his victory could weaken Berlin's power as a motor of EU reform.

French President Jacques Chirac congratulated the chancellor, saying their two key EU states must remain the driving force of reform.

A British government spokesman said Prime Minister Tony Blair "welcomes the result and looks forward to continuing his very good working relationship with Chancellor Schroeder."

In Moscow President Vladimir Putin congratulated Schroeder by telephone.

Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the

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## Prof. Faiz takes over as DU VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor SMA Faiz took over as the 26th vice-chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

According to an order of the Education Ministry, DU chancellor President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed Faiz to the post of VC for a four-year term as per Article 11(2) of the Dhaka University Ordinance of 1973.

Acting vice-chancellor AFM Yusuf Haider handed over the charge of vice-chancellor to Prof. SMA Faiz of the Department of Soil, Water and Environment at the VC's office at about 3:00pm.

Senior teachers of the university including the immediate-past DU VC Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury, Treasurer Prof. Syed Rashidul Hasan, Dean of the Social Science Faculty Prof. Asaduzzaman and Dr. Aftab Ahmed of the Department of Political Science were present dur-

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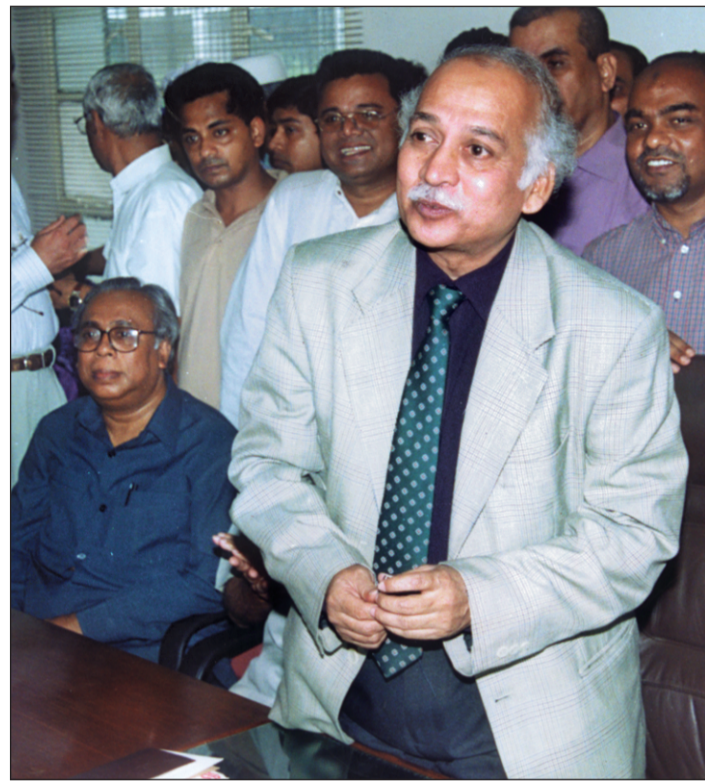


PHOTO: STAR

Professor SMA Faiz talks to the press at his office after taking over as the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday.

## DU to go by its Shaheed Minar rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) has decided to go in accordance with the government to enforce the rules that require prior permission from the DU authorities for using the Central Shaheed Minar.

The DU authorities reached this decision when debate arose over letting any organisation or individual hold any programme at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The DU authorities, in a press release yesterday, said they would comply with the syndicate decision held during the tenure of former vice-chancellor Prof. Azad Chowdhury in February 1998.

The press release mentioned that the syndicate then decided that prior permission regarding the usage of the Shaheed Minar had to be taken from the VC.

Cabinet committee on law and order decided Sunday to enforce the existing rules.

The press release informed that

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## Donors echo AL concern over law and order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) and western diplomats based in Dhaka have expressed their common concern over the prevailing law and order in the country and shared the view that improvement of the situation is a must for development.

During a two-hour meeting between AL leaders and representatives of donor countries yesterday, both the sides emphasised a much more effective role of the parliament and the need for improvement in governance, meeting sources said.

The meeting at the Dhanmondi residence of AL leader and former finance minister SAMS Kibria took place just a week after the mid-term review meeting between the government and the donors in Dhaka on September 16. Donors had also expressed their concern on law and order at that meeting with Finance

Minister M Saifur Rahman.

At yesterday's meeting, Kibria briefed envoys of UK, USA, European Union, Canada, France, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Australia about AL's viewpoints on various development issues as well as on governance, law and order, corruption and functioning of the parliament. The envoys who attended the meeting included Australian High Commissioner Robert Flynn, French Ambassador Michael Lummaux, US Deputy Mission Chief Christopher W Webster, Swedish Ambassador Borje Mattsson, Charge-de-Affairs of Switzerland Jurg Casserini and some other western diplomats. From the AL side, Kibria was aided by party chief Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AL lawmaker Qazi Zafarullah and two ex-high commis-

sioners AH Mahmud Ali and Mostafa Mohammad Farooq.

Meeting sources later told The Daily Star the AL leaders explained that mere presence of opposition lawmakers in the parliament sessions would not make the House effective and functional up to people's expectations. They described their experience in the latest four-day autumn session of the parliament when Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina's microphone was switched off time and again.

The AL viewed that neutrality of the Speaker as per the rules of procedure and giving scopes for discussion on important national and international issues are prerequisites for making the parliament functional. Expressing deep dismay over non-formation of parliamentary standing committees yet, the AL

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## Khasru refutes Moudud claim on ad hoc appointment of judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former law minister and AL leader Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday refuted Moudud Ahmed's claim that the constitution does not allow appointment of more than one ad hoc judge to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, an issue which is seen as vital to dispose of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

"In 1981, two High Court Division judges were appointed to the Appellate Division on an ad hoc basis in a case between Bengal Waterways Ltd. and Rahimuddin Chowdhury," Khasru told reporters at a press briefing at Awami League's election office. "This instance is reported on page 47 of the Dhaka Law Reports (AD). Justice A b d u r

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## Nepal troops kill 76 Maoists

AFP, REUTERS, Kathmandu

At least 76 Maoist rebels have been killed in continuing security operations in Nepal, the defence ministry said yesterday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said 55 rebels fighting for a one-party communist republic were killed on Sunday in separate battles in Rukum, a Maoist stronghold in west Nepal, when troops raided guerrilla hideouts.

Another 14 rebels were gunned down in neighbouring Rolpa, another rebel stronghold, on the same day, ministry spokesman Shiva Kumar Thapa said in a statement.

The rebels were killed in the east of the poverty-ravaged kingdom where the Maoist revolt to topple the constitutional monarchy began in 1996.

There was no independent confirmation of the government figures. The latest government offensive came two weeks after the rebels raided two security posts, killing at least 109 soldiers. Officials said more than 250 rebels were killed during and after the attack.

State-run radio said a junior army officer was also killed in the clashes while several others were injured, but the defence ministry did not confirm this.

The rebels have been fighting for a communist republic in Nepal since 1996 and the insurgency has so far claimed over 4,800 lives. The rebels have also vowed to block a general election, due to begin on November 13.

The army was sent in to fight the rebels for the first time in November last year and since then there have been regular violent clashes.

## Seven-year RI, Tk 50,000 in fines for adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet in its regular weekly meeting last night suggested a maximum of seven years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 50,000 for adulterating food and other consumer items.

It agreed in principle an amendment to the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute Ordinance, 1995, cabinet sources said. The existing law provides for a fine of only Tk 500 without any provision for imprisonment.

The meeting, however, sent the ordinance back to the law ministry for further revision.

Chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office also directed the ministries concerned to expedite some government programmes such as Food for Work, VGD, VGF and Test Relief.

## Israeli army halts Arafat HQ demolition

REUTERS, Ramallah

Israeli troops dug in around Yasser Arafat's West Bank headquarters yesterday after halting demolition of his presidential complex following international censure, even from the United States.

Troops stood guard in the levelled compound yesterday morning where only one main building remains standing, sheltering the Palestinian president and up to 250 others.

Tanks continued to point their barrels at the building but the bulldozers which reduced most of the compound to rubble were pulled

back Sunday and barbed wire now surrounds the complex.

Israel besieged the compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah Thursday after suicide bombings killed seven people. It says it wants 50 suspected militants inside to surrender but the Palestinians say the real aim is to oust Arafat from power.

Washington said Sunday the siege was "not helpful" to peacemaking. It hopes to avoid a surge in violence that could complicate its plans for possible war on Iraq and would again dent hopes of ending

two years of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It was not clear whether the demolition work had halted entirely. Asked Sunday evening if they had left for good, a senior army commander said: "No."

"I will be here until all the wanted people leave," he said, making clear the siege was far from over. Israel has said it means Arafat no harm in the army operation, which it calls "A Matter of Time."

Arafat looks more isolated politically and at his lowest ebb since he returned to the region from exile in

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## HC quashes Saipem graft case against Mosharraf

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court has quashed the much-talked about corruption case against Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain involving Italian construction firm Saipem.

The past Awami League government initially instituted a case against nine government officials, including former Petrobangla Chairman Lutful Matin, accusing them of providing US\$6 million in kickbacks to Saipem.

The charges were brought

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## 14 killed in road accidents across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 14 persons were killed and 75 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent from Bandarban reports: Six people were killed and 40 others injured in a fatal road accident on the Bandarban-Keranihat Highway yesterday noon.

The dead were identified as Mobarak Ali, 56, Sultan Ali, 40, Motiur Rahman, 25, Tozammel, 37, Mofiz, 50, and Abdus Sattar, 33.

The accident occurred when a bus with tourists from Bogra skidded off the road at Raicha, about five kilometres from Bandarban town as the bus driver lost control over the

vehicle. Three of the victims died on the spot and three others succumbed to their injuries at the Bandarban Sadar hospital.

Of the injured, seven were shifted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition while the rest were being treated at the Bandarban Sadar Hospital.

Witnesses said army personnel from the nearby army camp rushed to the spot immediately after the accident and took part in rescue operation. Police and fire service personnel also reached the spot soon.

High officials of Bandarban district visited the spot.

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## Joint cell to interrogate "Nine-shooter" today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notorious criminal 'Ziku' Babul alias 'Nine-shooter Liton' will be interrogated by a joint interrogation cell (JIC) today.

The JIC will interrogate him at the Kotwali police station in the city. Detective Branch police interrogated him yesterday, Kotwali thana OC ABM Sultan Ahmed told this correspondent last night.

"By interrogating Babul we gathered names of some persons who used the 'nine-shooter' rifle. We will catch them shortly", the OC said.

Sources said former Awami League lawmaker Haji Selim might be interrogated because during interrogation Babul said he was Selim's bodyguard. But permission from high-ups is needed for that, they said.

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## DMP drive against illegal rickshaws from Sept 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will launch an intensive drive against unlicensed rickshaws to strictly maintain traffic rules from September 28.

The DMP will launch another drive against irregularities of taxicab drivers from Saturday to ease troubles of passengers and force taxicab drivers to follow metering.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Traffic (south) Abu Musa Mohammad Fakrul Islam Khan announced the special drives at a discussion meeting yesterday with businessmen and journalists.

The DMP has no alternative to the ban on unlicensed rickshaws, as the situation did not improve that much even after making some streets off-limits to rickshaws, Musa said.

"A traffic infrastructure is a must to overcome the present situation," Musa said.

A DMP estimate says that there

are about two lakh unlicensed rickshaws, some of them will be licensed on the condition that pullers must be owners of the vehicles.

A meeting with different associations of rickshaws will be held today in this regard.

"If we fail to free some designated streets of rickshaws the Tk 900 crore Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) will be withdrawn," Musa cautioned.

Three mobile teams will be deployed in the city to take action against irregularities of the taxicab drivers.

Musa said the DMP is also thinking of introducing separate colours for rickshaws in separate areas and of limiting their movement to their own zone.

Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan, DC traffic (north), Zillur Rahman, director of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, M Alam, deputy secretary of the

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## Navy patrol ship on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A patrol ship of Bangladesh Navy at the BNS Flotilla base in Chittagong caught fire yesterday morning, leaving 10 navy personnel injured, sources said.

Of them, Lieutenant Commander Nazmul Hasan was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital here and the others were admitted to navy hospital.

Immediately after the incident, navy chief Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba along with some high officials flew to Chittagong and visited the spot.

Sources said the patrol ship -- BNS Jamuna -- caught fire while undergoing repair at around 9:30 am. A massive damage could be averted as all sorts of combustible substances and fuel were removed from the ship before the repair work began.

The fire continued throughout the day and fire fighting units from outside joined those of the navy to tame the blaze.

A probe committee was formed to investigate the accident. It is scheduled to submit its report in 15 days.