



PHOTO: AFP

Al-Shahriar readies to cut a Jacques Kallis delivery during his fighting fifty in Bangladesh's second innings in the first Test against S Africa yesterday.

## Bangladesh push Test into fourth day

INTERNET, East London

Dogged stuff from Bangladesh's middle order staved off defeat until Monday at least.

Forced to follow on on a sunny but windy early summer's day at Buffalo Park, it seemed fairly likely that they would be beaten inside three days.

But Test-best efforts from Al Sahariar (71) and Sanwar Hossain (49), followed by grim defence from Khaled Mashud and Alok Kapali

prevented that.

However the south east Asian side still need another 150 runs to avoid an innings defeat with five wickets in hand.

In the morning sessions, it took South Africa 50 minutes to wrap up the first innings after Bangladesh had resumed at 153 for seven.

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini took two of the three wickets on Sunday to finish with five for 19, his best effort in an innings.

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## Ireland votes 'yes' for EU expansion

AFP, Dublin

Irish voters gave a ringing endorsement to EU plans to expand into the once-communist east, to the relief of European leaders who had feared Ireland could once again reject a key treaty and derail the historic push.

Public broadcaster RTE reported that 62.8 per cent of the electorate had approved the Nice Treaty in Saturday's second make-or-break referendum, paving the way for 10 candidate countries to join the European Union in 2004.

"Yesterday's positive decision by the Irish people is an emphatic Yes to enlargement and a warm Irish welcome to our fellow Europeans from central and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean islands," Prime Minister Bertie Ahern declared.

Irish voters had made a "historic decision about the destiny of Europe and Ireland's continuing role in it," he

said.

The official result was due around 1600 GMT but RTE's count -- based on returns from all 42 constituencies -- was considered authoritative. RTE said it appeared the treaty had been approved in every constituency, compared to just two which voted in favour in last year's bombshell referendum.

"Europe's rendezvous with history cannot be further delayed or postponed," said European Parliament speaker Pat Cox, himself an Irishman.

Candidate countries in eastern Europe and the Mediterranean breathed a sigh of relief but the European Commission said while the vote was an important step on the road to enlargement, it was not yet a done deal.

"The final whistle has not been blown. There is work to be done on all sides to complete the negotiations

and then to secure an accession treaty and then to get it ratified by all the countries concerned," said Commission spokesman Jonathan Faul.

Ireland, one of the smallest EU member states with 3.9 million people, shocked the rest of Europe in June 2001 when it rejected the Nice Treaty in a first referendum.

The treaty -- a complicated set of reforms to EU decision-making -- has to be ratified by all 15 EU member states by the end of this year, so a second Irish rebuff would have stalled enlargement and triggered a political crisis within the bloc.

"Ireland is giving a green light to enlargement," said a delighted European Commission President Romano Prodi, who had repeatedly warned that Brussels had no "plan B" if the treaty was defeated in

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## Most women seeking jobs abroad end up as sex workers

### Study on trafficking reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A research on women trafficking reveals that most of the women migrating to the Middle East or to India for jobs ultimately end up as sex workers.

Most of the women migrate as domestic maids and many of their masters actually use them as a source of income by employing them in prostitution.

The research was done by the Action Against Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) and presented at a seminar at the BRAC Inn yesterday.

ATSEC carried out the research for 18 months and interviewed 496 women after they had returned to Bangladesh between October 1999 and March 2001. Two hundred and eight of them had gone to the Middle East, 70 to Kolkata, 190 to Mumbai or Uttar Pradesh and 28 to Malaysia. They also interviewed traffickers, manpower agents, local leaders and family members of the women.

The research team wanted to find out what the women were promised before departure and what kind of work they really had to do abroad. It found that 82.2 per cent of the

women were promised jobs as domestic help, the rest went to work as cleaners in schools and hospitals.

But the reality was different. "A majority in both categories admitted that sex work was an integral part of their job", Therese Blanchet, head of the research team, said.

Ten per cent even stated that sex work was their only occupation. Blanchet mentioned different types of sex works. In several households, the local employers used the maids as a source of income. In India, the women ended up working in bars where they sold sexual services.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry Women and Children Affairs Ferdous Ara Begum was present as chief guest of the seminar while Emranul Haq Chowdhury, coordinator of ATSEC Bangladesh Chapter chaired it.

Most of the women were sent by their husbands or by their families. The research said as their families provided them money to go abroad, the women remained obligated and could not come back empty-handed. This is why the women sell

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## Army deployment clear proof of govt's failure: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the deployment of army is a "clear proof" that the government has completely failed to rule the country.

"A failed government has no moral right to cling to power," she said while welcoming more than 100 leaders and workers of Magura District Jatiya Party, who joined the Awami League, at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Hasina said the one-year rule of the BNP-Jamaat government made public life miserable in the wake of "unabated price-hike, unchecked criminal activities and unbridled corruption."

"After coming to power through a rigged election, the government had let loose its armed cadres against the Awami League workers and the common people for last one year. The public life is disrupted by incidents of murder, violence, rape, hijack and corruption," she alleged.

The opposition leader said that although the government declared war against criminal acts and corruption, it has actually "spread criminality and corruption" to all sectors. She said the development projects taken up by her government were first suspended by the

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PHOTO: STAR

A view of the Fantasy Kingdom, the indoor amusement park at the Twin Tower Concord in the city's Shantinagar area.

## Into the realm of dream

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Take the elevator straight up to the top floor of the Twin Tower Concord at Shantinagar in the city and you will enter a dreamland, the Fantasy Kingdom of Prince Ashu and Princess Lia.

Time comes to a standstill, age hardly matters and petty problems of urban life become a distant reality as you lose your way in the maze of colours and the excitement of the first indoor amusement park in the country.

"My daughter has taken Prince Ashu and Princess Lia for her friends," said Shegufta Begum of three-year Umaima, who stood a

few paces away before the statue of the princess, awe written all over her face.

Then, there are Bobo, Zuzu Zipper and Bangasaur, the Bangladeshi dinosaur.

"The children simply love them," said Momtaz Shireen, whose five-year-old boy was on the Bangasaur nearby.

Another favourite for the children is the water shooting, and so is the adventure caravan.

Boys and girls, aged between nine and 12, love the video games lined up at one corner of the park.

"This place is really cool," commented Samia Yusuf, a student of class six. "Next time I come, it will

surely be for the whole day."

Parents do not need to worry about their toddlers as the park has a soft playground. The ground is padded with soft materials to make sure the tiny tots do not get hurt in case of a fall.

When you are tired and need to be refreshed just hit the snack corner inside the park. On offer is a wide range of fast food and drink.

The authorities have plans to add more fun and excitement to the park, inaugurated last Thursday. More games are on the way to join the adventure caravan, battery car, bungee run ride, water shooting gun, kiddie rides, animal

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## Rickshaw strike in city on Oct 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rickshawpullers and owners will enforce a dawn-to-dusk strike in the city on October 26 if their seven-point demand is not met by October 25.

This was announced at a press conference in the city yesterday by Bangladesh Rickshaw and Van Owners Federation.

President of the federation Ali Akber, vice-president Arzoo Ahmed and general secretary M A Taher were present at the conference.

The demands include issuance of licence to 55,000 rickshaws and vans, simplification of process to get licence, training for rickshawpullers and an end to harassment of the rickshawpullers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh

Rickshaw and Van Owner-Labour Action Committee at a meeting yesterday decided to go for a day-long strike in the city on October 27.

The speakers at the meeting urged the government to stop harassment of rickshawpullers.

They also demanded of the authorities concerned to issue licence to 55,000 rickshaws and vans.

## BSF abducts Bangladeshi boy from C'nawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted a Bangladeshi teenage boy from frontier Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district on Saturday, BDR official said yesterday.

Abdur Rahim, 15, son of Abdus Samad of Kaliganj village in Shibganj, was abducted by BSF personnel while working in a field near pillar no. 177 at village Kironganj of the upazila, they said.

BDR officials of Rajshahi Sector said a BSF patrol party entered Bangladesh territory and abducted Rahim.

BDR personnel of Kironganj BOP sent a letter to BSF protesting the incident.

## Alleged dacoit beaten to death in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban

An alleged dacoit was killed and two others were injured in mob beating at a village in Lama upazila Saturday evening.

Police said a gang of dacoits entered one Abdus Salam's house at Kangrah Jeeri village at about 7 pm. As the inmates of the house cried for help, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught three of the gang.

They beat the dacoits mercilessly, resulting in the death of Nurul Azim, 35 on the spot. The two others -- Farid, 32, and Alam, 30 -- were admitted to local hospital under police protection.

A case was lodged with Lama thana in this connection.