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Tigers' first feast in 5 yrs

Bangladesh down Zimbabwe, end 47-match losing streak

CRICINFO
An agonising five year wait for Bangladesh ended when they won their first one day international since 1999, after eking out an eight-run victory over Zimbabwe in a nail-biting finish at the Harare Sport Club yesterday.
Having been put in on a pitch that did have some moisture, the Tigers recovered from a stuttering start to post a competitive 238 for seven. After the home side had got off to a flier, Bangladesh bowlers gradually dried up the runs and put the Zimbabwean batsmen under pressure. With 13 runs to defend in the final over, Tareq Aziz bowled Stuart Matsikenyeri and Doug Hondo with consecutive deliveries, to prompt unfettered scenes of joy in the Bangladeshi dressing-room, not to mention among their fans all over the country.
Bangladesh had not won a match

of any description since beating Pakistan in a World Cup fixture in May 1999, but now, after their first two matches against Zimbabwe were washed out in Bulawayo, they have a golden opportunity to steal a series victory as well. That prospect is sure to be enhanced by the Zimbabwean weather, which has been inclement to say the least over the past few weeks.
It was with the rain in mind that Heath Streak chose to bowl first, imagining that the damp pitch would dry out over the course of the day and make batting easier in the afternoon. But Bangladesh exceeded Streak's expectations with solid performances all down their batting card. The backbone of their innings was provided by a third-wicket partnership of 114 between Rajin Saleh and Habibur Bashar, before Mohammad Ashraful creamed a 31-ball half-century to



Bangladesh batsman Rajin Saleh plays the ball down the leg side on way to his composed 57 against Zimbabwe yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

BNP says defection won't hurt party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The ruling BNP has said defection of one or two lawmakers will not affect the party or the government.
"This will not at all affect either the government or the party because leaders and activists of those constituencies are very much with the mainstream party (BNP)," said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan last night.
Bhuiyan was talking to The Daily Star last night about the resignation of retired army major Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury
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Dhaka hurries to heal China's wounds

Ambassador to China recalled for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh has hurried into frantic diplomatic efforts to mend apparent strains in ties with China over allowing a Taiwanese trade liaison office to operate in Dhaka, sources said yesterday.
Bangladesh's Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman has been recalled to Dhaka to brief the higher authorities on the Chinese stance on

the latest issue. He will be thoroughly briefed on Dhaka's position in the latest context.
The foreign ministry however declined to comment on the issue.
Furious at the opening of an unofficial Taiwanese trade office in Dhaka, China recently warned Bangladesh that such permission would definitely push the bilateral relations between the two countries into jeopardy.
The Asian giant also asked the government to shut down the office immediately as a proof of Bangladesh's 'claimed' stance on "one-China policy", the sources said.
The foreign ministry is now looking into various government statements of China and Bangladesh over bilateral matters and the Taiwan issue so that Dhaka
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AL sees signs of govt's failure in BNP MPs' quit

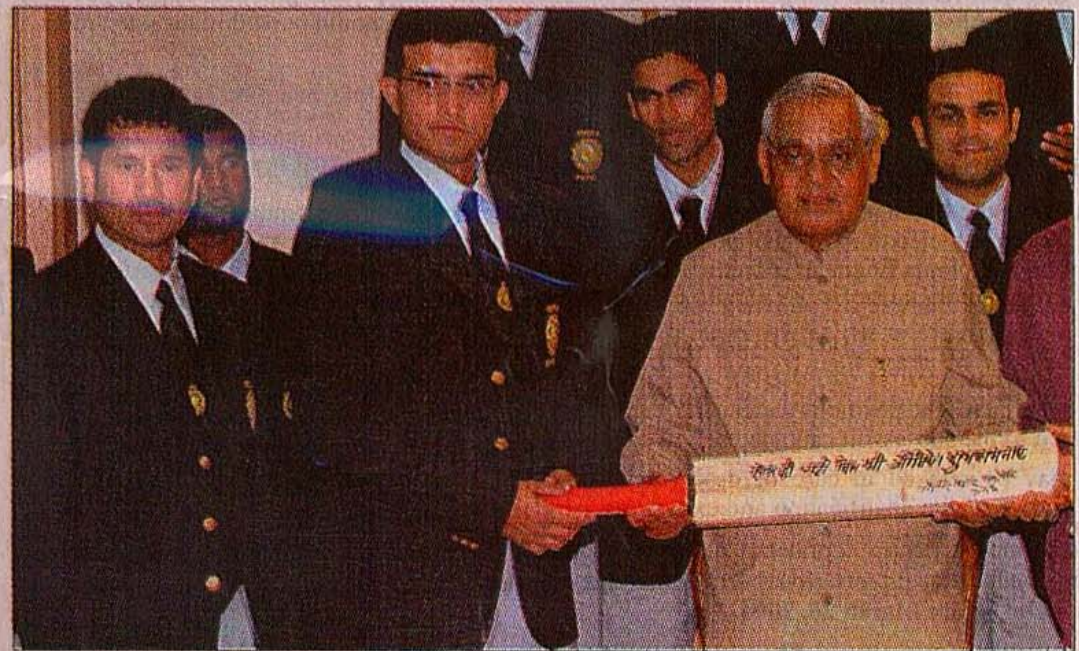
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The resignations of two lawmakers from the Jatiya Sangsad and the BNP justified the Awami League (AL) demand for snap polls for the government's failure to deliver, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said.
He along with the main opposition party's Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury were giving instant reaction to the press on the resignations of former army major MA Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury at AL chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence yesterday.
"The Awami League has long been pointing out the failures of the alliance government in running the country. Our observations have been justified by the resignation of
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MCCI asks opposition not to call hartal for next 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has urged the opposition political parties not to call hartal in the next six months to create an atmosphere for dialogue.
"We urge all parties to defer all hartal calls for six months during which period the government must start political dialogues aiming at removal of the causes which are creating political tensions," the chamber said in an editorial of the March edition of the Chamber News, a monthly publication.
"We feel that it always falls upon the government in office to minimise the scope for political ten-

BB refutes allegation of IMF's control thru' advisor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday brushed aside an allegation that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was dictating it through an IMF official recently installed as advisor to its governor.
The central bank on March 1 appointed Shahbuddin M Hossain, an international monetary expert of IMF, as the governor's advisor for one year.
"This is nothing new," said BB Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda, "we have all along been appointing IMF experts as advisors to the governor or to Bangladesh Bank, some for short terms and some for long ones."
Political programmes that overlook such losses to the economy and sufferings of people cannot have popular support. MCCI urged the opposition parties to find alternative ways to resolve political differences.
Although the Awami League made a unilateral and unconditional announcement that the party would never call general strikes and the BNP complimented the decision
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Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (R) presents a bat with a goodwill message written on it to Indian Cricket team's captain Sourav Ganguly (C) his teammate Sachin Tendulkar (L) looks on in New Delhi yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

India start historic cricket tour

Vajpayee urges players to bowl over Pakistan
AGENCIES, Lahore
The Indian cricket team yesterday arrived in Pakistan for a historic five-week tour - its first Test series there after a break of nearly 15 years.
A special flight carrying the Indians touched down at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International airport at 1347 (0847 GMT). Hundreds of policemen were deployed at the airport and at the team hotel to provide security cover.
Ahead of their departure from Delhi, the India cricketers were urged to bowl over their opponents both on and off the field.
"Play the game in the spirit of the
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Maj Mannan, Mahi quit BNP to join B Chy

Former president launches alternative platform at rally in Muktagong today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two lawmakers yesterday resigned from parliament and the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and joined the alternative political stream of former president Badruddoza Chowdhury in protest at what they said was a serious failure of the coalition government.
Retired army major Abdul Mannan, elected for Dhaka-10 constituency (Ramna-Tejgaon), and
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Mahi B Chowdhury, left, claps as former president Badruddoza Chowdhury, middle, greets retired army major Abdul Mannan on his joining the alternative political platform yesterday. Mahi and Mannan resigned from parliament and the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party. PHOTO: STAR

BNP renegades to contest by-polls to their vacant seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two lawmakers who resigned from parliament and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday to join the alternative political stream said they would contest by-polls to
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Delhi offers diplomatic solution to battery row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi has proposed diplomatic solution of the issue of Indian anti-dumping duty on Bangladesh's battery, a bitter trade row presently under preliminary consultation in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
"I understand the missions of India and Bangladesh to the WTO in Geneva are having preliminary
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India suggests joint border patrol to curb crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Shashank, in a meeting with Home Minister Ataf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday, proposed joint patrolling along and across the Bangladesh-India border to arrest crimes and criminals.
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