

## Ton-up Hameed

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trademark cuts and drives through the off-side field.

But despite Javed's effort and a good start that saw the doughty right-hander putting on 48 runs for the first wicket with Mohammad Ashraful (12), Bangladesh never looked like challenging Pakistan's impressive total on a slow and low wicket.

It was a job well done by the Bangladeshi bowlers after a century partnership between Hameed and Inzamamul Haq for the third wicket set the holders in sight of the 300-run mark.

But the batting suffered yet another middle-order collapse against a quality attack led by Mohammad Sami, who finished with 2-30, and 'Rawalpindi Express' Shoaib Akhtar, who returned from injury to claim 3-30 off a shortened run-up.

Both Pakistan and Bangladesh will play in the second phase from Group A even if Hong Kong upset Pakistan in today's last group match at the same venue.

Javed, who had a cramp after reaching 30, had to bat with Ashraful as a runner and even a 17-minute break for rain did not improve his condition before he was eventually run out.

While Javed held one end up, wickets tumbled at regular intervals

at the other after Ashraful was smartly taken behind the wicket off Sami, who also had Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar lbw for 2.

Vice-captain Rajin Saleh soon followed his skipper and apart from Alok Kapali's run-a-ball 28 that included a six off Imran Farhat over extra-cover, no other Bangladeshi batsman could trouble the Pakistani attack.

Earlier, Pakistani opener Hameed made the most of a life to score 102 from 122 balls with ten fours after captain Inzamamul Haq elected to bat.

Dropped by Ashraful at long-off off Khaled Mahmud while on 62, the 22-year-old from Peshawar notched his second century against Bangladesh.

Man-of-the-match Hameed put on 86-run with Farhat for the first wicket and added 109 runs with Inzamam for the third wicket.

Inzamam played a typically aggressive 58 off 66 balls that featured four boundaries and two massive sixes against left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique.

While Rafique was taken for beating like the other experienced bowlers young left-arm spinner Razzak was again impressive with 2-37 after his dream debut against Hong Kong, where he finished with 3-17 in his 10 overs.

## Bar sends memo

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follow-up to the issue of three benches in the past although the Bar leaders met the chief justice on several occasions.

It added the Supreme Court benches are reconstituted frequently and abruptly in breach of a long-standing practice. "Unless this stops, people will start to question whether such changes are taking place for giving balls and stay orders in certain cases. This practice should stop to remove public mistrust."

The attorney general presents himself as a party to a case, but he frequently meets the chief justice as a lawyer and this should also stop, the resolution said.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Rakanuddin Mahmud later told journalists at the Supreme Court premises that the memorandum was submitted in the interest of the public, legal professionals and independence of the judiciary and to ensure freedom of the judges.

He said the Bar urged Chief Justice Syed JR Mudasir Husain to take actions in two weeks on the basis of the memorandum.

Rokan also hit back at comments made by Communications Minister and former Bar president Barrister

## HC stays

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during the July 8 hearing at the EC.

Mannan, who boycotted the prestige polls in the Ramna-Tejgaon constituency two and half an hour into the ballot, also sued four top government officials on July 6 for contempt of court for not providing army in each polling centre in line with the High Court directive.

The High Court on July 12 asked the four high government officials why they should not be charged with contempt of court for violating its orders. It asked them to appear before the High Court bench on July 24.

Mahbubur Rahman, who also stood for them in court, sought immunity for the four from court appearance and a stay order against the High Court directive the same day. He argued public interest would suffer if the four holding important public offices appear before it setting aside their official business.

Advocate Rahman yesterday, however, told the full bench of the Appellate Division that he was withdrawing his earlier submission on instruction from his clients, a move that the bench allowed.

Asked by reporters if the four government officials would now appear in court, he said, "Wait and see."

## UNFPA director arrives today

BSS, Dhaka

UNFPA Director for Asia and the Pacific Division Sultan A Aziz arrives in Dhaka today on a six-day official visit to Bangladesh.

During his stay, he is expected to meet the finance and planning minister, health and family welfare minister and senior government officials.

Sultan A Aziz will meet the press at 3:30pm on July 22 at Sonargaon Hotel.

## Youths abducted by Bangla Bhai men remain missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

No trace of the two youths of Belgharia village in Rajinagar upazila of Naogaon was found till yesterday since Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) cadres abducted them on Monday.

Sources said some 10 JMJB cadres including Khalil, Babu, Anar, Aftab and Bismit and Alauddin abducted Sadhan Chandra, 16, son of Ram Mongol Chandra and Pradip Kumar, 15, son of Shayamal Kumar from their houses in Belgharia village.

They took the youths to the house of one Jamir Ali of the same village and tortured them throughout the night and the next day went into hiding, sources said.

Meanwhile, Ram Mongol Chandra told journalists that some local miscreants involved with JMJB had long been demanding Tk 80,000 as toll from him and threatened to abduct and kill his son if he refused to comply.

He said he is afraid they might have killed his son as he did not give in to their demand.

The family members of Pradip Kumar said JMJB cadres had been demanding toll also from Pradip and threatened him with eviction from home in case of refusal.

Families of the abducted lodged complaints with the Rajinagar Police Station on Thursday.

Acting Officer-in-Charge Mojibul Haque of Rajinagar police said they were investigating the matter.

## Listed criminal

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A close aide of notorious ICS cadre Shibir Nasir, now in jail, Delwar and his group planned to kill former Jamaat leader of Satkania Ahmadul Haq Chowdhury alias Ahmadya, also a top cadre, on the instruction of a local political leader, sources said.

Incumbent Union Parishad Chairman Ahmad joined BNP Thursday. Local political analysts believe Ahmad, key political figure of the Jamaat in Satkania and southern Chittagong, has quit due to a row with the Jamaat lawmaker of the constituency.

The sources said Delwar and his group held a secret meeting Friday to plan the killing of Ahmad, who might be behind the ICS cadre's arrest.

Delwar was earlier arrested with an AK-56 rifle and ammunition on October 3, 2001 but secured his bail.

He was a charge-sheeted accused of eight murders in Bohaddarhat on July 12, 2000 and also an accused of four criminal charges including the killing of Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Abul Kashem four years back.

## Fischer lauds

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stability and fight against terrorism.

On the international issues, particularly the burning one of Iraq, the German foreign minister said he was optimistic following the UN Resolution 1546 on the Iraq situation.

Fischer noted that the Iraq situation remained "complicated" and the international community should remain engaged in ensuring democracy in Iraq.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting with the prime minister, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury said the German minister termed Bangladesh the largest democracy with Muslim majority in the world.

Fischer appreciated Bangladesh's vibrant civil society and independent press.

The German Foreign Minister billed economic, trade and other relations between the two countries "excellent and impressive" and observed that there was scope for further development.

Welcoming Fischer, Khaleda expressed the hope that his visit would further consolidate the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

"Bangladesh is a moderate Muslim country where people of all religions are equal," the prime minister told the visiting dignitary during the discussion.

She listed her government's development programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, increasing literacy, particularly of girls, and generating employment.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and German Ambassador Andre in Dhaka Dietrich Andreas were present during the meeting.

## Dhaka non-committal

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the UNSC that we will get the support of our friends," hoped Fischer, in the last day of his two-day Bangladesh tour.

"The UN is the central body of the multilateral system...for strong multilateralism we need an efficient UN system. Therefore, we need to move forward with UN reforms," he said, explaining discussions on UN issues in the hour-long meeting with Morshed at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Morshed in his opening remarks said: "Bangladesh would be a very willing partner in any reforms of the UN for the greater good of the world."

Dhaka will take part in the reforms not out of compulsion but of a strong conviction to contribute for the advancement of the UN system.

On Iraq, the German foreign minister said, "It was not a wise decision to go to Iraq," but was optimistic about a multilateral approach in reconstructing the southwest Asian area.

"We were unanimous in reaching the UNSC resolution 1546 on Iraq, and I think it's an excellent resolution," Fischer said, adding, "We have to move forward and cannot leave Iraq alone."

"What we need to do now is a substantial transfer of real sovereignty to the Iraqi government...it would have been better if it was one year ago, but that's the past."

Fischer stressed the importance of elections in the roadmap to hand over real sovereignty to the Iraqi people and said Germany would play its part by training Iraqi police, providing aid and debt relief to move forward with reconstruction.

Asked if he thought the new interim administration in Iraq is a puppet government, Fischer said, "That is not the right description, it is exactly the opposite."

Adding that in a tense political situation in the Middle East, "Every-one has the same interest: a collapsed Iraq is a breeding ground for terrorists which does not benefit anyone."

The UNSC passed the Anglo-US proposed resolution after much corrections made along German and French recommendations.

The resolution endorsed holding democratic elections by January 2005

and laid out the role of UN in political transition and the status of a multinational force in the re-construction of Iraq.

Morshed told the media on Friday that despite the passing of the UN resolution and an interest of Iraqi interim government leader Iyad Allawi in Bangladeshi troops, local opinion and parliamentary deliberation would receive primacy in the consideration.

Fischer also said Bangladesh was an important international example as the third largest Muslim-majority nation with religious tolerance, free society, freedom of the press and substantial regional contribution to the war on terror.

He said at a time when Muslim countries were increasingly threatened by terrorism, "A strong presence of civil society and NGOs (in Bangladesh) are very good examples."

Stressing the need to improve corruption and human rights, Fischer, however, said they were "not relevant to our partnership."

"I think we understand the problems; we understand how sensitive the situation is."

"We will do what we can...we will improve our relations and contribute to our friends," said Fischer.

He also appreciated Bangladesh's contribution to international peace-keeping and to regional forums such as Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

Fischer expressed condolences to the flood-affected people in Bangladesh and offered emergency aid.

AFP adds: China said it backed a larger role for Germany at the United Nations, while India and Germany agreed to support each other's bids for permanent seats.

For new countries to be taken onto the UN Security Council the support of two thirds of the UN's more than 190 countries will be required.

Fischer arrived in Dhaka from India on Friday night as part of his five-nation Asia tour. He left Dhaka at 7:05pm yesterday evening aboard a German Aircorbus for Sri Lanka from where he will fly to Pakistan in the last leg of his trip.

## Power sector

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as the lowest bidder in March as it quoted \$83 million to set up the plant. However soon after its selection, it hiked the price to \$85 million. Besides, a number of irregularities were found in its proposal.

The second lowest bidder, Canada's Lavalin, however, objected to the manner in which the tender was being handled and said Sumitomo grossly breached the bid terms. The Canadian government officially protested against procedural violation in the bid with the Bangladesh High Commission in Canada for 'unfair' handling of the project. "We wish to ensure that our companies can compete on equal terms with those from other countries."

In the face of protest from a country like Canada, the PMO last month formed a committee with experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), which found seven flaws in Sumitomo's tender.

According to rules, when the top bid is found flawed, the second lowest bidder is invited for negotiations. "But lobbyists of a certain 'bhaban' do not want the project to go to any other company," said an industry insider.

A top PDB official admits the power sector growth is being hindered due to decisions taken on the basis of political considerations and lobbying by vested interest groups. He adds the repeated retendering testifies to such mishandling.

"But the reality is we are now set for a huge load shedding next year. Power generation is already suffering from a poor gas supply. And gas supply is suffering because of a lack of investment there. And now with two or three major power projects going for tender, we believe the level of load shedding will hit a maximum 1,000

megawatts next year," he says.

Petrobanga officials, on the other hand, say the government is going to spend Tk 1,000 crore this fiscal year on infrastructure development to improve gas supply next year. They added tenders for these infrastructure projects are being designed in a way so as to make sure that incompetent companies backed by powerful political lobbies get the job.

State Minister for Power Division Iqbal Hasan Mahmud however says both projects have some 'transparency' problems.

"The accusation of political interference in the Sirajganj project is not true. Both the Sirajganj and Fenchuganj projects are being retendered on the question of transparency," Mahmud points out.

But he adds power sector investment around the world is at a low ebb. "We held four rounds of tender for Sirajganj and got only one bid. Our main focus was to fix the tariff," he says.

On the question of lobbying of a certain 'bhaban' the state minister adds, "There is no involvement of any bhaban in the power sector."

He acknowledged the impending load shedding due to lack of new power projects next year but points out, "The level will not be that high (1000 megawatt shortfall) if the Tongi, Siddhirganj and Barapukuria coal mine projects start operating on schedule."

These three schemes -- Tongi 100 MW, Siddhirganj 200 MW and Barapukuria 250 MW projects -- are more than three years old. The state minister says work for these projects is well on schedule and the biggest of them, Barapukuria project, is likely to come into operation in next March or April.

## Diesel-run vehicles

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some political leaders who apparently have stakes in letting the extra and illegal rickshaws continue plying on the city streets, meeting sources said.

Babar also expressed the apprehension that the traffic in the city's northern area might fall into a dangerous situation with the opening of Mohakhali Flyover due to space constraints.

Representatives of the local government ministry, Dhaka City Corporation, police, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), present in the meeting, pointed at inadequate roads, indiscriminate parking and excessive number of vehicles as the prime obstacles to a smooth city traffic.

They said, though the metropolis needs a road network covering at least 25 percent of its area, it actually has only an eight-percent network. They also observed that construction firms are wont to keep their

building materials by the roadside. This practice too causes traffic congestion in the city.

They were of the view that almost everyone, particularly the rickshaw-pullers and drivers of trucks, three-wheelers and buses, violates the traffic rules and thus further intensify the jams.

Responding to a query on how many three-wheelers presently ply the city roads, the communications minister said the number was supposed to be 15,000, but it seems the actual number is much more than that. He asked the BRTA authorities to inform him the exact number of three-wheelers immediately.

Sources said the meeting decided to form a co-ordination body with representations of all authorities and service providers concerned.

The meeting was also informed that the home ministry has taken several steps to smoothen the traffic. These include introduction of more electronic signalling devices and setting up close-circuit cameras.

## Bangabandhu Parishad protests distortion of history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Parishad yesterday protested the insertion of the name of former president Ziaur Rahman as the first proclaimer of independence into the reprint of 'Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddho: Dailipatra'.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, the parishad leaders alleged that the government has distorted the history of the liberation war only to please the anti-liberation forces.

General Secretary of the Parishad Dr SA Malek said Zia made the proclamation of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 27.

Zia never claimed himself as the proclaimer of independence, he added.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said there is a clear difference between 'proclamation' and 'announcement'.

Presided over by Bangabandhu Parishad President Justice K M Sobhan, the press conference was also attended by former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, DUTA General Secretary Prof M Akhtaruzzaman, Dr Samsul Huda Harun and Prof Hossain Mansur.

## Workers

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now work abroad and around 2.5 lakh a year go abroad for jobs but there is no comprehensive policy guidelines for this sector.

"We face a lot of problems in exploring new market for overseas employment and maintaining the existing job market without a proper policy," said Dalil Uddin Mondal, expatriate welfare and overseas employment secretary.

The sub-committee will send it to the prime minister, who may permit its publication through a gazette notification or keep it for cabinet approval.

"Though we have completed about three decades of manpower export in its formal shape, we hardly ever tried to bring this extremely vital sector into a cohesive discipline. Such lapses have slowed down its real growth and have deprived our nation as a whole of its true multiplier effect in overall economic development," State Minister for Expatriate Welfare Mohammad Quamrul Islam said in the preface to the draft policy.

The policy would also make registration of names with the government set-up data bank mandatory for every person willing to go abroad for job. The data bank would help selection of suitable workers and trace their whereabouts in case of any untoward incidents abroad.

Bangladesh International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) is cooperating in framing the policy.

## Bodies of 7

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and informed Ramna Police Station.

Police guess the infants were dumped after their mothers had abortions, probably at some clandestine clinic, when they were six to seven months into unwanted pregnancy. They suspect some local clinics, midwives and doctors to be behind the act which tantamount to murder.

A police team posted near the spot at the southeastern corner of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) was away at the time of dumping to take shelter from the rain under a shed, a local shopkeeper said.

Police recovered the bodies at around 11:30am and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman of Ramna Police Station filed a general diary in this connection.

Meanwhile, informed by locals, Mohamadpur police recovered the body of a newborn girl from a dustbin near Shankar bus stand. The infant was wrapped in a crimson cloth. Police sent it to the DMCH for autopsy.

Police sources said some unscrupulous doctors and midwives throughout the city have been conducting secretive abortions of unwanted pregnancies for a long time exacting exorbitant fees.

## Mirza Azam

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decker BRTC bus was burnt to death as miscreants set the bus afire in front of Hotel Sheraton on June 4, the day before the Awami League enforced hartal.

An accused in the case in his confessional statement to the magistrate named Azam, Nanok and Khokan as the masterminds of the heinous act.

## Cry for food

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The Daily Star yesterday saw hundreds of distress people wading through floodwaters towards the upazila headquarters in the hope of relief materials, but returning to their makeshift shelters with broken heart at the end of the day.

Amena, 60, after loosing home to raging torrents went to Gonsaibari upazila for relief for the third day in a row, but returned empty-handed.

Julekha, a mother of three, also went there for relief materials for survival, but was disconsolate with grief without finding anything to eat.

"We heard there will be plenty of relief goods on Saturday afternoon, but found nothing," she said. Many other victims had the same tale to tell.

The food-hit people hoped there would be some relief materials during the visit of Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid.

"He disappointed us like the ruling party leaders," said a victim. Iqbal Alim, 65, who took refuge on the embankment with six others of his family, had not even a polythene sheeting above his head.

"All family members are starving as there is nothing to cook," he said.

Jamila, who lost her husband about nine months ago, clung to her husband's house until floodwaters threatened to carry her away.

She hired a boat to ferry her to higher ground, but was unable to pay the boatman who seized her house in huff.

The situation of flooded Kazipur and Ratamkandi is also same.

## AL calls hartal

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arrested him.

"Rab men killed Sumon as part of their plan to eliminate witnesses to Ahsanullah Master killing", AL General-Secretary Abdul Jalil said yesterday emerging from a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC).

Jalil said flood affected districts will be kept outside the purview of the 6:00am to 6:00pm shutdown.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting held at its Dhanmondi office.

AL in protest at the killing will also hold a rally in Tongi on July 21 where Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will address as the chief guest. AL demanded judicial inquiry into the killing of Sumon.

The AL general secretary told newsmen Sumon was killed also to cause panic among the voters of Gazipur-2 constituency that is going to by-poll on August 1.

Jalil said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia must bear responsibility for the killing as the Rapid Action Battalion operates directly under her command.

"Sumon was killed under direct instruction of the prime minister," he alleged.

The ALCWC meeting also observed that the government has been trying to shield the killers of Ahsanullah Master right from the beginning, as they belong to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations.

## Spate of kidnappings

FROM PAGE 12

leadership, including Yasser Arafat, who has been criticised by militants for blocking reform and turning a blind eye to corruption.

The crisis appeared to be racing toward a breaking point, with one Palestinian official predicting the government meeting could be the last for Ahmed Qureia's government. A security panel headed by Arafat declared the state of emergency after midnight.

The French Foreign Ministry said the French citizens had been in Gaza for several days working on an electricity project set up by an association of Evry-Palestine. Evry is a poor suburb of Paris largely inhabited by Middle Eastern immigrants.

The four were kidnapped while drinking coffee at a cafe in Khan Younis and held them at the offices of the Red Crescent Society there.

Arafat bowed to international pressure yesterday, cutting the eight separate security services to three after a spate of kidnappings in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Palestinian police chief General Ghazi Jabali, who was kidnapped for four hours Friday by dissident militants accusing him of corruption, has been replaced, General Saed Elajez announced, saying he was the successor.

PALESTINIAN PM RESIGNS  
"Qorei submitted his resignation, but Arafat told him to withdraw it when he announced his revamp of the security services," an MP who is close to Qorei said.

The two Palestinian security officials who offered to resign were the head of the Palestinian intelligence service, Maj Gen Amin al Hindi, and the head of Preventive Security in the Gaza Strip, Rashid Abu Shbak -- both well known figures in the Palestinian hierarchy.

A Palestinian official said the Palestinian government would meet early Saturday to discuss the resignations, and the situation in Gaza. That official said it could be Qureia's last meeting.

The apparent challenge to Qureia comes as Arafat attempts to

fend off criticism from some Palestinian officials, unhappy about the pace of government reform and the persistence of corruption in the Palestinian Authority.

Qureia replaced Mahmoud Abbas in September 2003, but for most of his time in office has languished in Arafat's shadow. Abbas resigned after four months complaining he was hamstrung by Arafat.

The spate of Gaza kidnappings began around midday Friday