

England set stiff target

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added 61 runs in the last 10 and 41 in the last five.

Opens Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden got Australia off to a brisk start after Vaughan won the toss and elected to field on a grey, windy day in front of a less than half-full crowd.

Vaughan replaced Gough after three expensive overs costing 18 runs with star all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

The change almost brought a wicket when Flintoff's sixth ball was cut by Gilchrist (18), to gully where Marcus Trescothick dropped the two-handed catch.

But Trescothick, now at slip, caught a driving Hayden (17) off fast bowler Stephen Harmison before Gilchrist pulled and cut the Durham paceman for four.

However the wicketkeeper fell for 37 when a cut off Gough was bowled by Trescothick in the floating slip position.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting and Martyn moved the score on to 114 for two at the half-way stage.

But one ball later Ponting, on 29, saw a lofted drive off left-arm spinner Ashley Giles well-caught above his head by Gough, on the long-on boundary.

And two balls later Giles, on his Warwickshire home ground, almost had another wicket when he dropped a sharp caught and bowled chance following a fiercely struck drive by Martyn, then on 24.

Vaughan though broke the stand when he bowled Yorkshire team-mate Lehmann for a 42-ball 38 after the left-hander missed an extravagant pull.

Martyn and Lehmann had put on a near risk-free 75 in just 82 balls to leave Australia well-placed at 189 for four in the 39th over.

But five balls later they saw dangerous Andrew Symonds run out for nought by Vaughan, sprinting in from cover to whip the balls off at the striker's end after the batsman set off after surviving Harmison's lbw appeal.

Australia, however, were still on course for a total well in excess of

250.

But Vaughan then removed Martyn with the aid of Trescothick's third catch of the innings, a well-judged effort on the mid-wicket rope off a chipped drive. Martyn faced 91 balls with six fours, Australia 210 for six in the 43rd over.

Fast bowler Brett Lee drove Gough for a superb straight six but was clean bowled next ball. And Gough then bowled Jason Gillespie before Michael Kasprowicz survived the hattrick.

Clarke's fine innings, featuring five fours, ended when he was bowled by Flintoff in the last over.

WB urges govt

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have nothing to do in this case."

Bangladesh received the DSC-I worth \$300 million in 2003 and the DSC-II involving \$200 million last month. Negotiations are on for the DSC-III worth some \$350 million.

Sources said for getting the DSC-III Bangladesh would have to improve governance and public administration, boost the energy sector, state-owned enterprises and banking sector and implement reform conditions for the growth sector.

The WB released the DSC-I and DSC-II on the government's fulfilling the different time-bound conditions.

"Specific guidelines approved by the World Bank board are there for getting the DSC and the government is pledge-bound to follow them," Sadiq added.

He added the WB board would review the progress of implementation of the reform programmes in June or July next year before approving the DSC-III.

"We have reviewed the progress made on the DSC-I and II programmes. Bangladesh's macro-economic indicators are quite sound, but more reforms and investment are needed in infrastructure, port, state-owned enterprises and the banking sector," Sadiq said.

Jail Killing Case verdict

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Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation, were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The prosecution strongly opposed the last-minute submission of the two petitions and all defendants except for Taheruddin resented the deferral. Some of them termed it part of a conspiracy to push the verdict into new track.

The court turned down the other petition of Taheruddin's lawyer that called on the court to visit Bangabhaban to identify the room where Taheruddin had allegedly been conspiring with former president and alleged mastermind of the killings Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed.

The accused-on-bail -- Shah Moazzem, KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Taheruddin and Khairuzzaman -- and those in custody -- Faruk Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Bazul Huda -- were in the dock yesterday.

HEARING ON PETITION

With the judge taking his seat at 10:48am, he was handed the two petitions Sharfuddin filed for Taheruddin on September 4, which were to be decided before the deliverance of the verdict.

Presenting his submission, Sharfuddin appealed to court to grant the petitions filed under the Criminal Procedure Code.

"Saifuddin Ahmed is an important witness as he probed the case as the second investigation officer. He should appear in court for deposition," the lawyer said.

Prosecution and other defence counsels opposed the petitions, saying they were not applicable when everything was set for the verdict to be delivered. The delayed submission is aimed at protracting the case, they argued.

The arguments went on for nearly two hours as counsels for and against the petitions defended their own stance.

Sohel Mollick, counsel for Shariar Rashid, said the petition is not justifiable as the witness (Saifuddin) would not be able to appear before court.

"He is paralysed and unable to move," he pointed out.

Standing in the dock, Manzoor, Shah Moazzem and Obaidur Rahman expressed their resentment and shouted at Taheruddin's lawyer over the submission.

"Why is such a fresh submission now when all is set for the verdict?" asked Moazzem, who stood with permission from court to oppose the submission.

"I don't know whether I will be able to hear the judgement," he said in disappointment.

Opposing the petition, senior defence counsel Mahbubur Rahman said: "The trial has taken an unusually long time and I am afraid speculations and rumours will arise if it is delayed further."

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hassan and Additional PP Golam Mostafa Khan said the prosecution did not hand the submission as

it thought it was not necessary and a spot visit was also needless.

Hearing the arguments, the judge rejected the petition for a visit to Bangabhaban and granted the other.

BEEFED-UP SECURITY

About 700 undercover and uniformed policemen guarded the court building, high-rises in the court area and Chawk Bazar, Bakshilbazar and Chankharpool crossings and roads to and from Dhaka Central Jail.

The security men include members of Special Branch, Detective Branch, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, National Security Intelligence, Criminal Investigation Department, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Armed Police Battalion and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles.

They allowed the vehicles of only the accused and their relatives, law enforcers and journalists and let other people go to the court area after checks by metal detector. They also closed all shops close to the court.

An archway metal detector was set up at the main entrance and Rab, the dog squad and police guarded the court as part of the beefed-up security measures.

DATE CONFUSION

While issuing the order, Judge Motiur Rahman said in the open courtroom that Saifuddin would be summoned to appear before court on October 31.

But talking to reporters later, the PP said the date is September 29, saying the judge mistakenly thought it was the month of October.

"As the prosecution pointed it out, he (the judge) immediately changed the date in front of the accused, their lawyers and the prosecution to September 29," he said.

ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED

The accused on bail began arriving at the court set up beside Dhaka Central Jail at 9:50am. Three accused in custody were taken to the courtroom from Dhaka Central Jail on a heavily guarded prison van at 10:29am. Their relatives accompanied them inside the courtroom on arrival.

When all were waiting for the judge to enter the courtroom, Faruq lit a cigarette. He went to the dock holding the glowing cigarette minutes before the judge entered.

Tata chief

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The visit was slated for September 6. But it was deferred following the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally.

Reportedly, Tata has sought uninterrupted gas supply at a reasonable price for at least 20 units to set up three industrial units -- a power plant, a steel mill and a fertiliser factory in Bangladesh with an investment of \$2 billion, sources said.

The group proposes to export steel and power to India. In case of fertiliser, it plans to export only after meeting the domestic demand.

Tata Group is India's largest private sector group with over 80 companies in various sectors.

Nobel Peace Prize winner picked

Tips include UN nuke watchdog, its chief

REUTERS, Oslo

The Norwegian Nobel Committee picked the winner of the 2004 Peace Prize from a record field of 194 candidates yesterday with the UN nuclear watchdog and its head, Mohamed ElBaradei, tipped as favorites.

But the winner of what many consider the world's top accolade will not be announced until next month.

Other contenders include former Czech President Vaclav Havel, South African anti-AIDS campaigner Zackie Achmat and his Treatment Action Campaign, the European Union and Pope John Paul after a year with few big breakthroughs toward peace.

"We had a meeting, we did reach a conclusion and (it) will be announced on October 8," Geir Lundestad, director of the Nobel Institute who attends the meetings as secretary, told Reuters after talks by the secretive five-member panel in Oslo.

His cautious wording does not give away the number of laureates. The 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.35 million) prize, first awarded in 1901, can be split up to three ways.

And it leaves open the possibility that the committee decided not to make any award -- something that has not happened since 1976. The panel would usually schedule another meeting before the October 8 announcement date if it were deadlocked.

Several experts said campaigners against the spread of weapons of mass destruction could be honored in 2004, perhaps the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Egyptian-born director general ElBaradei.

"I think the most likely winner is ElBaradei," said Espen Barth Eide, a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

A prize to the IAEA and ElBaradei would be topical because of IAEA efforts to get Iran to freeze uranium enrichment activities and its work in North Korea and Iraq, he said.

A drawback for ElBaradei could be that the 2004 prize went to Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi. The committee might not want to shine its critical spotlight on Tehran again.

MBBS exams paper leaked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The second paper medicine exams of the MBBS final year examinations scheduled for September 20 were postponed due to question leaks.

The leaked question papers reached Barisal by fax from Dhaka on Saturday, a couple of days before the examinations, and were secretly sold to the examinees for only Tk 2000, sources said.

Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) authorities on Monday morning before start of the exam opened the sealed question packs that were preserved at Barisal Treasury. They found those to be the same as the leaked ones.

They immediately informed the Dhaka University authorities, who are responsible for administering the examinations, of the question leaks.

D. Abdul Berek, principal of SBMC, has admitted to the leakage and said Dhaka University had postponed the second paper medicine exams. Other medical colleges under Dhaka University too postponed the exams.

Top outlaw

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According to Rahman, there were 37 warrants of arrest out against Mrinal, to evade which he fled the country along with his family, after Operation Clean Heart had been launched early 2003, and took shelter in Nadia.

The SP said Mrinal was directly involved in the killing of journalists Nahr Ali and Shukur Hossain of Dainik Anirvan, a Khulna-based daily.

Rahman also suspects his hand in the murder of Khan Alamgir Kabir alias Alam, NBCP second-in-command and Jubo League Dumuria upazila secretary. Alam, also chairman of Gutudia UP, was shot dead by assailants at Swarnaprag in Chobish Pargana district of West Bengal on September 7 last.

Mrinal formed his outfit after the split of Biplobi Communist Party in 1999. He used to control 13 out of the 14 union parishad chairmen in Dumuria upazilla and all of Batighata upazila of Khulna district as their godfather, Rahman said.

Police believe the slain terror had an income of no less than one crore taka a month from occupied shrimp enclosures, tender bungling, toll-collection and extortion. He could successfully escape arrest by getting advance information from his informants in police department and political parties, they added.

Police estimate NBCP cadres, numbering some 5,000, have more than 200 firearms including several AK-47 rifles, sub-machineguns, carbines and Chinese rifles in their possession.

50-km opposition human shield

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their arms interlocked in a symbolic gesture of 'rejecting the present government'.

It will also demand the master-minds behind the August 21 carnage be brought to justice. Besides, the opposition leadership will urge the people to unite against the religious extremists and anti-liberation forces.

Government has beefed up security in the run-up to the event while the opposition has taken all over preparations to ensure a huge gathering. Different socio-cultural and professional organisations and various wings of the opposition parties will also participate in the programme.

The human-chain is a part of the three-week long synchronised demonstrations that will end in rallies by the opposition parties on October 3.

After today's programme, the opposition leadership will sit to develop further strategies to gear up the oust-government movement.

"We will discuss the next course of actions and common programmes

will be announced simultaneously from the rallies on October 3", said an opposition leader.

He hinted that the parties might issue an ultimatum to the government for its quit from the October 3 rallies.

Meanwhile, top AL leaders in 15 separate teams will begin a four-day tour across the country from September 25 to mobilise people in the oust-government movement.

They will go out on district and upazila-level mass-contact tour projecting their one-point demand and to urge people to join the October 3 rally.

Today's human chain will span Gazipur intersection, via Tongi, Airport, Kuril, Rampura, Mouchak, Malibag intersection, Kakrail, Bijoynagar intersection, Paltan, Zero Point, Gulistan roundabout, Rajuk Avenue, Hotel Purbani, Shapla roundabout, Ittefaq intersection, Tikatuli, Jatrabari intersection, Jurain, Postagola, Munshikhola, Pagla, Fatulla, Panchabati, Chashara intersection, to end at Narayanganj terminal.

Annan takes fresh swipe

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submit to it," Annan said in a speech that drew applause from the presidents and ministers on hand.

"In Iraq, we see civilians massacred in cold blood while relief workers, journalists and other non-combatants are taken hostage and put to death in the most barbarous fashion," he said.

"At the same time, we have seen Iraqi prisoners disgracefully abused," he said, drawing a parallel between the Iraq bloodshed and the prisoner scandal in a way destined to irk Bush, who was to due to speak after Annan.

Annan has laboured for a year to heal the deep divisions over the war that brought down Saddam Hussein, and his wide-ranging address referred to the catastrophe in Sudan, the Middle East conflict and Russia's hostage tragedy.

But the UN chief, who just last week called the war "illegal," also dropped repeated hints about what he has called Bush's unilateral decision to invade Iraq against the grain of international opinion.

"It is the law, including Security Council resolutions, which offers the best foundation for resolving prolonged conflicts -- in the Middle East, in Iraq and around the world," he said.

"All states -- strong and weak, big and small -- need a framework of fair rules," the UN chief said.

Bush failed to win Security Council backing for the war and, if Annan's criticisms were less blunt than those he offered last year, his position remained at odds with Bush's defence of the war in the fight against terror.

Bush, who was to address the UN General Assembly less than one hour after Annan, has already indicated he will defend the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a sweeping global campaign to fight terror in the name of freedom.

"Never in the history of the United Nations have we faced so many opportunities to create a safer world by building a better world," the US president said on Saturday, in a preview of his own address.

"For the sake of our common

security, and for the sake of our common values, the international community must rise to this historic moment. And the United States is prepared to lead," Bush said.

The UN Secretary General made an impassioned plea to bring about the rule of law across the globe and told world leaders to respect international law at home and abroad.

In a grim summary of the bloodshed in the Middle East, Sudan and Iraq, he opened the annual debate at the United Nations with an appeal for humankind to protect innocent civilians around the world.

5 killed

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while her daughter Sumaiya and neighbour Rabeya were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

At Agargaon, one-and-a-half-year-old Shahana, daughter of tea stall owner Hanif, died when a microbus hit her at around 9:30am yesterday.

Playing near the stall, she went on the road and met the tragic death, said a witness.

In another incident, a truck crushed three day labourers under the wheels and injured two others when they were sleeping by the side of a road at Kamapara in Uttara sector 10 at around 10:00pm on Monday.

Witnesses said Chand Miah, Akbar Ali and Milon Miah, all 30, died instantly while Sanwar, 20, and Samiruddin, 21, were undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

"The driver lost control on the steering and crashed on a roadside house after hitting the victims," said Abul Hossain, an witness to the accident.

The dead and the injured came with a group of 15 day labourers from Khaduli, Ullahpara, Sirajganj on Monday in search of work.

Police could not arrest the driver, nor could they seize the truck.

HR body during govt tenure

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on clarifying what he meant by 'as soon as possible' Moudud evaded a direct reply saying, "Please consult the dictionary to know this."

The minister said there is a wrong notion that the human rights body would be adversarial to the government but it is not true. "The human rights commission will be supplementary to the government, which will play its role in protecting rights of marginalised people," he added.

Speaking at the press conference, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Jorgen Lissner said people of Bangladesh are convinced that a national human rights commission is needed here to protect human rights.

Referring to the finance minister's comment on his reported remarks on human rights commission, Lissner said a leading national daily misquoted him on Monday.

The finance minister had termed Lissner's remarks diplomatic.

Lissner, also resident representative of United Nations Development Programme, yesterday said donors did not invent Article 77 of Bangladesh's constitution (concerning human rights), so the government should not deviate from it.

Regarding donors' intervention in Bangladesh's internal matters, he said, "We are the people of the same world. So, what is wrong if we propose anything for the good of Bangladesh people."

"People of Bangladesh get into Airbus while travelling abroad but Airbus is not made in Bangladesh. Then why people put their trust on Airbus," he remarked.

Presenting the key findings of the three-day conference, Prof Brian Burdakin, former special adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said it is clear from repeated statements of the government and the opposition that both support establishment of a national human rights commission.

"Theoretically, court is accessible to all but the reality is different. A national human rights commission would play a vital role in protecting human rights of marginalised people," he said.

"The origin of your religion (Islam) is Middle-East and laws of my

country largely came from the United Kingdom. So, it is no matter where the origin is but we have to look into whether things are good or bad," Burdakin observed.

He also said Bangladesh has ratified all major international human rights treaties but ratification without implementation is meaningless.

Earlier, speaking at the concluding session of the conference as chief guest, the law minister said misuse and overuse of Special Powers Act (SPA) have greatly reduced.

"Currently only 143 people are behind bars under the SPA but previously the number of people arrested under the SPA was not less than 10,000 and sometimes the number was 40,000," Moudud said.

He also said the government has directed the police force to make minimum possible use of the SPA. Police do not have enough logistic support to tackle crime properly, he mentioned.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lorraine Barker said Bangladesh is lagging behind compared to its neighbouring countries in the field of human rights.

Lissner and Burdakin also addressed the concluding session.

Floods swamp

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metric tons of rice for the flood-affected people but relief operations are yet to start.

Our Jessore correspondent reports that the flood situation in bordering Sharsha and Chongachha upazilas remained unchanged yesterday. The floodwaters have submerged 90 percent areas in Sharsha Upazila, leaving scores of houses under water.

The raging floodwaters have swamped all low-lands and crop-fields and damaged crops.

The Kopotakkha in Jessore district also inundated 50 percent areas of Keshobpur Upazila, 30 percent of Monirampur and 20 percent of Jhikorgachha Upazila.

The government has opened 15 flood shelter centres in Keshobpur Upazila and closed nine schools in the affected areas.

Sources said senior leaders of the parties will be on 27 key points of the route.

Earlier on March 30 this year, the main opposition AL formed a 22-kilometre human chain in Dhaka, from Pallabi to English Road, demanding the government's resignation for its 'absolute failure to deliver'.

Business community of the country as well as commoners lauded the programme, first of its kind in the anti-government movement, as an alternative to hartal and strikes.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraf Huda told The Daily Star that about 2500 to 3000 police will be posted at different strategic points to avert untoward incident during today's programme.

"Our prime objective is to ensure security of the participants and also to make sure the participants do not create any disturbance," Huda said.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said, "The no-trust human chain will take the oust-government movement one step ahead."

Hasina may seek treatment in US for hearing problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Awami League (AL) Chief Sheikh Hasina may visit the USA in the first week of next month for treatment as her hearing problem caused by the shock from bangs of grenade blasts is worsening.

Following the August 21 grisly grenade attack that she narrowly escaped, Hasina suffered some ailments inside her ears as blood inside the right ear of her got clotted due to the high sounding blasts.

During the two-week visit, the opposition leader will also meet her expatriate son and daughter in the USA.

"Besides the mental shock, the Awami League chief is suffering from acute hearing problem

caused by the bangs of grenade blasts. Her hearing problem has been worsening and she needs better treatment," Hasina's political secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

AL rally

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Affairs Secretary Ivy Rahman, killed.

Addressing the rally, AL presidium member Toifal Ahmed said they were not surprised at the behaviour of the ministers and BNP MPs in parliament as "everything is possible for them to save the killers."

He said the killers had tried to make the nation leaderless in 1975 by killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and again they went for such an operation on August 21.

Toifal said: "No one is safe under the BNP-Jamaat alliance government... this oppressive government must be toppled by a vigorous movement to establish the rule of law and restore peace in the country."

He urged the people to be united against the "misrule" of the alliance government.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil alleged that the alliance government was trying to save the perpetrators of the August 21 attack to facilitate fresh attacks in future.

"People of this country and conscience of the world think that without international probe into the grenade attack, the perpetrators would not be unearthed. They know very well that the government is trying to divert public attention by conspiracy," he said.

Jalil said his party rejected the probe committee formed with the intelligence agencies, saying "none can expect proper investigation from those who failed to ensure security on August 21."

Motia Chowdhury said the prime minister and the state minister for home must answer to the people as to why the fingerprints from the recovered grenades were not taken.

AL presidium member Zillur Rahman MP also addressed the rally.

Chaired by Dhaka City AL acting president Omar Ali, the rally was also addressed by Abdul Mannan, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Prof Nazma Rahman.

5 held

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Pankaj later demanded a ransom of Tk 30 lakh. But, Ridoy, owner of a cloth shop in Islampur, negotiated his son's release for Tk 13 lakh. The kidnappers asked him to hand over the money at a hotel in Mawa of Munshiganj.

Khilgaon police raided Hotel Akash in Mawa and arrested Pankaj, Shadhan Sirkar, 18, and Ujjal Sheikh, 18, at dawn yesterday and following information extracted from them nabbed Pabitra and Sumon.

Later Palash and Ajit, associates of the arrestees, left Sourav at a place near his house.

AL terms

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"Observation in the column is solely of its writer and it did not even refer that Sheikh Hasina said the armed forces were involved," Saber said.

The statement asked the BSS to immediately withdraw the news item carried by different dailies. Otherwise, it said the AL would take legal actions against the agency.

Ex-general defeats

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In past elections, early counting has proved a reliable guide to final results and pre-election polls as well as an independent survey of Monday's vote also forecast a Yudhoyono victory.

Given the custom among Indonesians from the main island of Java -- home to Yudhoyono -- to act with caution and to follow strict etiquette, he would probably prefer nearly all the vote to be counted or a nod from election commission officials before he announces victory.

Perhaps for similar reasons, supporters of SBY -- as he is popularly known -- have yet to celebrate openly.

However, his vice presidential candidate, wealthy businessman and non-Javanese Jusuf Kalla, was less cautious. "It clearly is apparent that it is going for SBY. We are definitely confident that (the end result) won't be far from this."

Indonesia's financial markets did not wait to welcome the win on expectations the business