

## Tigers' maiden Test series

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impression to the strong 15,000 crowd, who cheered every run and even a defensive shot on a gloomy wintry day.

Starting the day on 56, the Chittagong batsman and nephew of former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan completed his first hundred in style, hitting two consecutive boundaries off medium pacer Douglas Hondo and flicking the third one in the 100th over for a couple. He instantly punched his bat in the air as the Big Bowl exploded in appreciation of a batsman recognized for his talent.

Nafees, whose first fifty came in 135 balls and 207 minutes, took a further 174 deliveries and 200 minutes to record the tenth Test century by a Bangladeshi batsman.

Bangladesh had a few goose bumps when they lost three wickets

in the space of 20 runs as captain Habibul Bashar (2) and Mohammad Ashraful (5) followed Javed to the dressing room in successive overs.

A surprisingly subdued Bashar trying to play defensive looked like a fish out of water and drove pacesman Tinash Panyangara to Hamilton Masakadza at mid-wicket while Ashraful edged a sharp and rising leg-break by Cremer to Dion Ebrahim at first slip.

Frustrated Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu took the new ball after 113 overs and Panyangara struck in the second over after tea when he removed century maker Nafees. Having hit 18 boundaries in 355 balls, a tired shot put an end to his eight-hour knock when the opener chased a wide ball from the crease and nicked it to Taylor at first slip.

Panyangara had Aftab Ahmed

caught by wicketkeeper Taibu for five to reduce the home side to 206-5 and Bangladesh, who had put themselves out of contention with ultra-defensive batting, were under pressure again.

But when the visitors sensed something was going to happen under fading lights, Rajin Saleh and Khaled Mashud closed the door with an unbroken 79-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Rajin remained unbeaten on 56, hitting nine boundaries from 140 balls in just over three hours while wicketkeeper and vice-captain Mashud was 85 not out.

Taibu, for his 28 not out and 153 in Test, was adjudged man-of-the-match while Bangladesh's 18-year-old left-arm spinner Enamul Haque won the man-of-the-series award for taking 18 wickets.

## MPs for law

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The committee members discussed several allegations of violation of the lawmakers' privileges and observed that the House could not provide protection for the lawmakers due to inadequacy of the existing rules on their privileges.

They said the members of parliament do not have legal protection from the atrocities, harassment and misbehaviour of the law enforcers. Besides, the lawmakers are not entitled to get division facilities when they are in prison.

Even the lawmakers are being arrested under the section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) without warrant. After the arrest, magistrates inform the speaker about it.

"If the sub-committee recommends making it mandatory to take prior permission of the speaker to arrest any lawmaker, we will make it a law," the speaker told reporters after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We hope we will be able to enact a law to uphold the honour of the lawmakers as the present privilege rules are inadequate," he said.

About the law-enforcers' alleged misbehaviour with the lawmakers and providing division facilities for them in prison, the committee decided to ask the home secretary to be present at its meeting with all necessary documents.

AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who attended the meeting on behalf of the opposition leader, said he had also faced such misbehaviour when he was arrested by the army and handed over to the police during the Operation Clean Heart.

The AL deputy raised the question of violation of his privileges and submitted a notice.

Responding to the notice, the speaker said the existing privilege rules do not provide protection for the lawmakers from such incident. He made similar comment on another notice from AL lawmaker Mirza Azam who alleged that the law enforcers had violated his privileges by searching his house without warrant.

On the question of arrest under section 54, the speaker said the arrests are being made legally. There

is no legal instrument to stop such arrest of the lawmakers, he added.

After the meeting Sheikh Selim told reporters that they were agreed to increase the privileges of lawmakers to uphold their dignity.

The committee disposed of eight notices submitted by the AL lawmakers claiming violation of their privileges by the law enforcers by harassing them on the street, arresting them and searching their houses without warrant.

BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni submitted a notice raising the question of violation of his privileges. He sought protection from the House alleging that Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Anwar Hossain Manju threatened to kill him.

The committee disposed of the notice saying he (Moni) had submitted the notice about three years ago and it does not know the present status of his allegation.

**Allegations against newspapers**  
The parliamentary body discussed three other notices submitted by the BNP lawmakers accusing three national dailies of violating their privileges. The committee disposed of the notices "considering the freedom of the press," sources said.

It however urged the media to report on the parliamentary proceedings carefully. The committee decided that the speaker in the upcoming parliament session would urge the media "not to distort House proceedings" while reporting.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to the prime minister, has raised allegation against The Daily Star, BNP lawmaker Abu Hena against the daily Protham Alo and Abdul Gani against the daily Jugantar of distorting the parliamentary proceedings and violation of lawmakers' privileges.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu also attended the meeting.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury represented the prime minister at the meeting while Whip Rezaul Bari Dina was present on behalf of Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee.

## ACC wants

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them into the ACC. It wants to send them back to the government and appoint new directors, sources said. ACC Commissioner Prof Maniruzzaman Miah yesterday told reporters that the five were on deputation at the Bac, not at the commission. "We would now seek fresh appointment on deputation for the commission," he said.

About the allegation that the officials were hampering the ACC activities, Miah said, "We asked the government to withdraw them, that does not mean that we have allegations against all of them."

Asked about the difficulties that hamper the commission's functioning, Miah said, "Various difficulties are hindering the proper functioning of the commission." But he would not elaborate on the obstacles.

Miah, who is in charge of administration and establishment of the ACC, has prepared a draft organogram proposing around 950 staff. At first he proposed 900 staff for the commission but later added 50 more revising the draft.

The draft will be finalised in consultation with ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and the other member, Maniruddin Ahmed, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Division has sent back the draft rules of ACC on the screening of the ex-Bac staff. The ACC had placed it for the president's approval in December last year.

Sources said the Cabinet Division has asked the ACC to amend the draft that has some shortcomings. The ACC chairman on Saturday told reporters that the commission will review the rules and send those to the Cabinet Division with necessary amendments.

## 2 robbers

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however managed to flee.

On information, police reached the spot at about 11:50pm, recovered the bodies and sent them to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for autopsy. They also recovered a .32 revolver, two bullets and three bombs from the scene.

According to Bagerhat police superintendent, Abu 'dakat' was accused in 14 criminal cases including several for murder. He was sentenced to 57 years of rigorous imprisonment in three robbery with murder cases.

People of Bagerhat, fishermen and bawalis of the Sundarbans and owners of shrimp enclosures of the district have heaved a sigh of relief at the death of the two notorious criminals.

Hunt for other members of 'Abu Bahini' and their arms and ammunition is going on, the police superintendent said.

## 11 more cops

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departmental action will be taken after the investigation.

Other sources claimed the 11 policemen were on the highway without a command certificate (CC) permitting them to realise money from cattle trucks going to Dhaka.

Sources said DIG Abdul Aziz Sarker found three uniformed policemen standing on the highway while he was crossing the area on Saturday. He asked them why they were there and to show the CC.

As they failed, the DIG at once went to the police outpost and asked the in-charge, Sub-Inspector (SI) Tofazzal Hossain, why the uniformed policemen were on the highway without a CC.

As the SI failed to give a reasonable reply, the DIG ordered the Jhenidha SP to take departmental action.

Following the orders, all 11 of the policemen including the SI were closed to the police line.

SI Tofazzal was replaced by SI Abdul Hakim, sent from Jhenidha Sadar police station, the sources said.

The other closed policemen are Constable Samsul Islam, Sahajjan Ali, Mustafa Kamal, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Hannan, Bazul Rahman, Jahidul Islam, Aref Rabhani, Nuruzzaman and Md Shajahan.

## PDB promises

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have been requested to contact local PDB office over phone. The zone-wise phone numbers are:

Chittagong: 659005-6, Comilla: 65043, Mymensingh: 54916 and 54890, Rajshahi: 771982, Sylhet: 717021, Rangpur: 65217 and 65415, Khulna: 723745 and Barisal: 71343.

In case of an emergency, they can also contact the central control room at Wapda building and the phone numbers are 9553100, member (transmission) 9663868 (res), Superintendent Engineer (commercial directory) 8623335 (res), superintendent engineer (consumer affairs) 8121682 (res).

## Saber

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Saber was deputy minister for Local Government, Rural development and Co-operatives, he added.

The contractor soon got the ball rolling as it had been asked to complete the project works within 30 months. But when the four-party coalition came into power it purposefully delayed the construction works, he alleged.

The complainant served a legal notice upon Mirza Abbas on October 6 last year for withdrawal of his statement within seven days. But the minister did not withdraw it, he said.

Advocate Sahara Khatun, Montazuddin Mehed and Samiul Karim Alamgir moved the petition for Saber.

## Iraq to shut borders during election

### 3 GIs killed in fighting; Shia party office attack claims 2

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Iraq said yesterday it would shut its land borders and bar traffic from getting close to voting centres over the Jan. 30 polls as insurgents targeted a Shia party office with a suicide bomb killing two Iraqis while three GIs were killed in separate incidents.

A statement from Iraq's election commission said land borders would be closed and strict restrictions declared on all vehicle traffic from Jan. 29-31, a set of extraordinary measures aimed at preventing a bloodbath on election day.

A suicide car bomber attacked a Baghdad office used by a major Shia party in the latest insurgent attack apparently aimed at stoking sectarian strife killing two other people.

"A suicide bomber tried to drive into the Jadrifay office of SCIRI," Haitham al-Husseini, a spokesman for the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told AFP.

Earlier three US soldiers were killed late Monday in restive Iraqi Sunni province Al-Anbar, the US military said in a statement yesterday.

"A soldier assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force died yesterday bringing to three the number of soldiers who died while conducting security and stability operations in the Al-Anbar Province," the statement said.

Officials said a candidate in the party list of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a secular Shia who is leading a separate slate, was killed in the city of Basra yesterday.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah Naqib yesterday warned the country risked sliding into civil war if the Sunni Muslim minority boycotts the January 30 general elections.

"Failing to take part in the

elections is tantamount to treason and will lead to a civil war and the division of the country," the minister told reporters.

"All Iraqis should take part in the elections as best they can. It is not crucial that they should vote, the important thing is that everyone participates," he said.

Naqib himself is a member of the Sunni Arab minority, which has threatened to boycott the polls.

Some argue that elections are impossible amid relentless nationwide violence, others intend to boycott the vote in protest at the presence of foreign troops, while extremists oppose the very idea of a democratic system for Iraq and seek to create chaos.

The polls have divided Iraq, with most of the 60 percent Shia majority insisting the vote goes ahead to cement their political dominance after decades of oppression under Saddam Hussein, while many Sunni Arabs say the election should be delayed because of widespread violence.

A raging insurgency in Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland means that many Sunnis who want to vote say they are too afraid to do so. Several leading Sunni Arab parties say they will boycott the polls because the results will not be fair.

Sunni Arabs dominated the ruling class under Saddam, but many now fear losing influence, and the insurgency in Iraq is dominated by Sunnis.

Last month, a suicide car bomb at the SCIRI headquarters in Baghdad killed several people, and nearly 70 were killed in twin suicide bombings in the Shia holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala. Insurgents have also attacked representatives of Iraq's most revered Shia cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

## Dhaka-Delhi water talks

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last two days on sharing the water of the Ganges and Teesta rivers between the two co-riparian neighbours.

"The attempts to make progress on some pending issues regarding the Teesta were unsuccessful," said Tauhidul Anwar Khan, member of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), while talking to reporters later.

"The two sides still hold differences over some points," he added.

An interim agreement on the Teesta water was proposed until an agreement like the one on sharing the Ganges water could be reached. A full treaty would not however be possible before a joint technical survey of water level of the Teesta is conducted, sources pointed out.

The JTG met took up technical issues including water flows of the common rivers, navigability and impact on agriculture and ecology.

Tauhidul said despite differences on various issues, the two sides agreed on some points: Teesta waters would be shared from Gazoldoba, the annual water-sharing period would be between October 1 and April 30, and the need for the rivers to have their own share to prevent them from drying up.

The JTG would submit its report containing both sides' perceptions for the joint Committee of Experts (JCE), which will then decide to meet upon mutual consensus, later to be followed by JRC meeting.

Both the sides reiterated that the issues were technically difficult. "We are trying to further discuss the pending issues," Tauhidul said.

On the Ganges water shortfall, he said that in accordance with the indicative schedule of the treaty, Bangladesh was supposed to get 67, 516 cusec of water between January 1 and January 10, but it received only 56, 582 cusec.

According to article 2 of the treaty, India, as the upper riparian country, was supposed to make "all possible efforts" to ensure that Bangladesh received its due share of the Ganges water.

The due share was indicated on the basis of the water flow at the Farakka in the light of statistical observations made over 40 years from 1949 to 1988.

"If our due share was protected on the Indian side, we would get the water we were supposed to," said Tauhidul.

M C Goyal, representative of the four-member Indian side on the joint technical group on the Teesta waters, refuted Dhaka's claim, saying India had made all possible efforts to provide Bangladesh its due share of water.

The water received by Bangladesh was in proportion to the flow received on the Indian side of the Farakka dam, he said, adding the figure is only

indicative.

Goyal claimed that at some points Bangladesh received more water than the figures indicated in the treaty schedule.

The JTG met for the third time. The JCE in September last had asked it to submit a fresh report elaborating the present status of discussions, and seeking necessary guidelines from the JRC to quickly resolve the highly technical issues.

The JCE has been working for the last seven years to thrash out a water-sharing formula for seven common rivers, especially the Teesta. Fifty-four rivers flow through both Bangladesh and India.

The pending issues include the terms of water sharing, where Dhaka wants to keep a certain percentage of water reserved in the dry-season to keep the Teesta healthy, and sharing there equally.

India wants a lower percentage reserved and the rest to be shared on the basis of the size of the Teesta's catchment area. The catchment area of the river in India is larger than that in Bangladesh, sources say.

Water experts said construction of Gazoldoba barrage by India in the upstream of the Teesta at Dalia reduced its water flow to Bangladesh. Moreover, flash floods in the downstream are also due to alleged operation of the Gazoldoba barrage at will.

## Agriculture seeks

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system in the Barendra Area in North Bengal.

In a bid to make up the losses induced by reduction of aman cultivation due to the flood and post-flood situations, a proposal for a subsidy of 18,000 tonnes of Triple Super Phosphate and 52,000 tonnes of Murate of Potash has been sent to the finance ministry, he said.

Bangladesh is losing 80,000 hectares of cultivable land to urbanisation, roads and housing every year, which poses a threat to

the production of food grains and other crops for the country's increasing population, MK Anwar said.

MK Anwar said the government has initiated the process of setting up 11 soil testing laboratories to ensure balanced use of manure and crop cultivation according to the nature of soil.

Besides supplying soil-testing kits in 460 upazilas, the government is training the field level agriculture officers and farmers in the use of natural manure, manure management and organic systems in agriculture.

Referring to the increasing rice production every year, he said a total of 261.90 lakh tonnes of rice were produced last fiscal year compared to 251.90 and 243 lakh tonnes in 2002-2003 and 2001-2002 fiscal years respectively.

He urged private sector entrepreneurs to come up with investments in agriculture.

State Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that, according to the agreement with the World Trade Organisation, the government has the scope to give subsidies up to as much as Tk 5,000 crore, but there is only Tk 600 crore subsidy for the agriculture sector.

Lack of agro-processing industries and preservation systems also discourages farmers and hampers better production of vegetables and other crops, he said.

Mirza Fakhrul said the BADC has the capacity to preserve only 11 thousand tonnes of potato seeds whereas there is a need for 47 lakh tonnes.

BADC and Directorate of Agriculture Extension have plans to double the seed production and formulate a seed act, he added.

Secretary to the Agriculture Ministry BMM Mozharul Haque was also present at the press conference.

## Fire guts 5 jute godowns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A fire gutted five godowns of Uttara Jute Traders with jute reportedly worth over Tk 4 crore in Daulatpur Rally Gate in the city yesterday.

The fire broke out at 4:10pm and burnt 7,000 bales of export quality jute and 15,000 maunds raw jute that were stacked at the godowns.

Firefighters from the city's six units rushed to the spot and doused the fire at 7:00pm.

The origin of the fire could not be known immediately.

## Zia's anniversary

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In a message on the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed paid glowing tributes to the memory of Zia.

He said Ziaur Rahman, who became leader of the country during a serious crisis in 1975, restored democracy and ensured freedom of press.

"He then formed Bangladesh National Party (BNP) for uniting the countrymen, giving priority to national interest," the president said.

BNP has drawn up elaborate programmes, marking the birth anniversary of the late leader.

The programmes include hoisting of party flag on the party offices, placing wreaths and offering feteha at the major of Ziaur Rahman, and illumination of the party offices.

A discussion meeting was held at Mohanagar Natya Mancha yesterday with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

Party leaders KM Obaidur Rahman, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Tariqul Islam and Mirza Abbas, among others, spoke at the function.

They urged the party leaders and activists to march forward imbued with Zia's political philosophy, honesty and patriotism, and complete his unfinished tasks to lead the country towards prosperity and progress.

## Free edn for girls

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process and complete the ongoing development projects.

The prime minister resented that the Awami League did not turn up in parliament in the last three years rather enforced hartals one after another. She alleged they killed people by setting fire to passenger buses to create panic among people before hartal.

On farmers' welfare, the prime minister dismissed Awami League's claim that they are the farmers' government. She mentioned that her government has given Tk 600 crore in farm subsidy while Awami League government gave Tk 100 crore.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated a housing scheme named Rita Housing Project for poor and landless people at Sultanpur near the meeting venue. She handed over ownership documents to ten poor families.

The housing project on 4.11 acres of land will accommodate 100 families in ten tin-shed barracks, ten families in each. The project complex which has a pond of 1.56-acre area and ten tube-wells involved around Tk 1.20 crore. Each family will get around 300-sq-ft area.

The complex will have a graveyard and community center. The land was donated by former minister Harunor Rashid Khan Monno MP.

Later, the prime minister distributed 30 cows among 15 families, two cows each, for poverty reduction under a Tk 50-lakh project of risk reduction in facing natural calamity in 13 unions of Haripurup upazila.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and Afroza Khan Rita, daughter of Harunor Rashid Khan Monno, also addressed the meeting.

## ADP suffers on judicial

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delegation that also included its research fellows Dr Ananya Raihan and Dr Uttam Kumar Deb. Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, NBR Chairman Kharuzaman Chowdhury and Planning Secretary Fazlur Rahman aided the finance minister in the meeting held at the finance ministry.

They exchanged views on reasons for slow implementation of development projects, tax evasions, corruption among the government officials, and inadequate release of up-to-date data from the government on economic condition.

"Hundreds of development projects have stalled due to court's injunctions," Saifur told the reporters after the meeting. Asked about the actual number of the projects, the minister said, "The number would be in hundreds, in my own district (Sylhet), there are many projects that have long been stagnant for the cases in the court."

While at the meeting Saifur said a decision was taken by the government to buy scanning equipment to check tax evasion, but the decision could not yet be implemented even after three years due to legal tangles.

Dr Debapriya said slow implementation of development projects remain the major concern. He then referred to the power and health sectors where, he said, even the big projects are not implemented properly.

"Though the country is faced with acute shortage of power, there is no investment in power sector to generate new power," Debapriya said.

He said similar situation prevails in the health sector where the rate of implementation is very low.

Acknowledging the poor performance in ADP implementation, Saifur said the government has to work out

## 18 Bangladeshi

**FROM PAGE 1**  
upazila of Rangpur, Abbas Ali of Patia Mathkhola in Kishoreganj, Shamsul Islam of Talipara in Thakurgaon, Tofaluddin of Tofitbag village in Nabiganj of Habiganj, Abdun Noor of Tatikona village in Biswanath and Maolana Abdul Wahab of Balinga village in Bianbazur of Sylhet, Abdul Shukur of Baksunagar in Bayejid Bostamati and M Lokman Sowdagar of Nimtoli village under Bandar Police Station of Chittagong, M Shahidul Haq of Horinamari in Polashbari of Gaibandha.

M Sadek of Sadar upazila in Feni, M Yusuf Ali of Salamitila village in Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar, Ali Ahmed of Hazrat Alipara village in Peka of Cox's Bazar, Ibrahim Khalil of Charfashion in Bhola, Nurul Karim of Dharmapur village in Laxmipur and Ali Ashraf Patwari of Khilgaon, M Nuruddin Bhuiyan of Sutrapur and Dost Mohammad of DC Roy Road in Dhaka.

In separate messages, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan and Religious Affairs Secretary Rafiqul Islam expressed deep sorrow at the death of the pilgrims, according to a PID handout.

different internal conflicts, which are a major bar to proper implementation of the development projects.

He said those who fail to get work order through the tender usually go to the court and file an appeal against the tender process, and the court order stays of the project work until the case is disposed of.

An official of the ministry said the court has stayed even appointment of primary school teachers while another said interference either political or in the form of a court order gets in the way of every government purchase.

Asked about the reasons for poor ADP implementation performance even after regulation of the procurement, Saifur said, "We are facing at least seven cases now against the regulation and some ministries are also against it."

"Government efforts are not in line with the moderate expansionary policy that is necessary to face the effects of last year's devastating flood," Debapriya observed.

Referring to the downsizing of export earning, growth and foreign remittance targets in the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP), the CPD official said, "We can earn more than the targets that have been fixed in the PRSP."

Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry officials said that the IMF set the targets and they do not agree with the figures.

CPD officials at the meeting also expressed dissatisfaction over the poor quality of data provided by the government on country's economic situation. They described it as a major problem in analysing the economic situation accurately and timely both for the government policymakers and others.

The finance minister assured them of taking steps to strengthen the activities of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.