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Tigers complete historic series double

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh completed one of the greatest fightbacks in the history of one-day cricket when they won the fifth and deciding one-day match against Zimbabwe by eight wickets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The roaring victory presented Bangladesh their first series triumph in the abridged version of the game as they overturned a 2-0 deficit to eventually seal it 3-2. The win came

on the heels of their first Test series victory (1-0) against the same opponents.

Probably in a grand adios to the premier venue of the country, the Tigers chased Zimbabwe's modest 198 with exactly 17 overs to spare and at the cost of only two wickets.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar had a wish to successfully chase at least one game of the series and even he could not believe his own eyes the way in which Aftab Ahmed and Mohammad Rafique

went about the final act.

The pair simply bulldozed the Zimbabwe attack in a magnificent second wicket stand of 150 in front of a packed to the rafters Big Bowl. The partnership was only the second best for any wicket behind a 170-run opening stand between Mehrab Hossain and Shahriar Hossain.

Aftab exhibited the best of his batting with a superb 81 not out while crowd favourite Rafique, the makeshift opener, was his entertain-

ing self, smashing 72 off 66 balls.

Although Bangladesh lost in-form opener Nafees Iqbal in the third over, his Chittagong mate Aftab sent the crowd wild with delight with an array of exquisite shots to all parts.

The young right-hander, who was sadly run out in the previous match, clobbered 24 runs in one prodigal over off Elton Chigumbura. He smashed the first ball of the eighth over for a six to bring up

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AL MPs besiege speaker's room, show black flags

Boycott JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

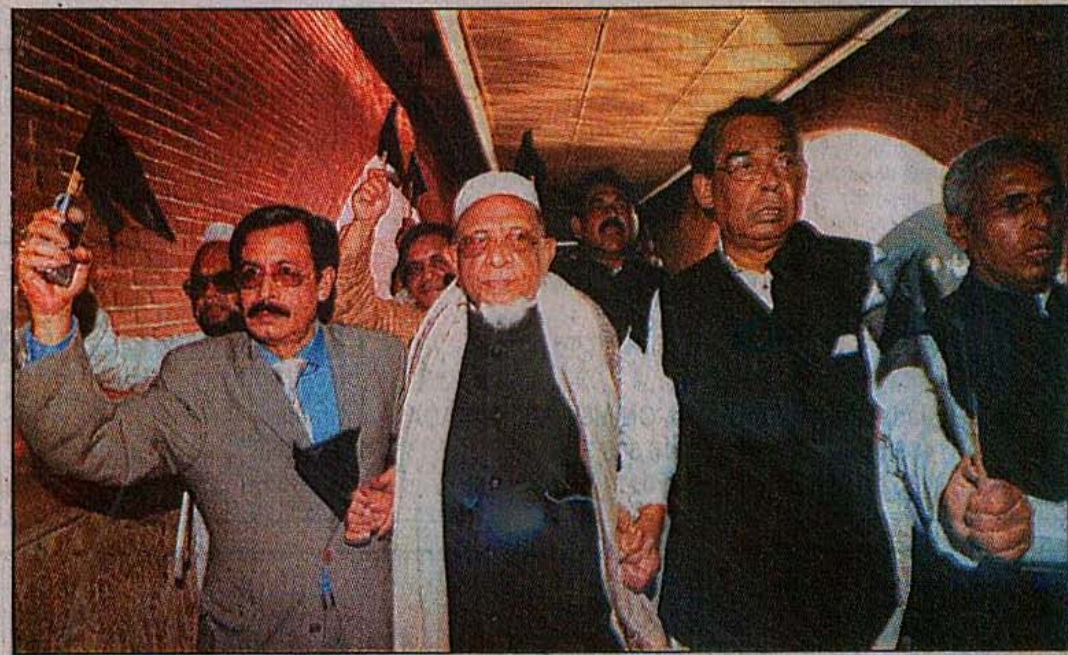
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday adopted an obituary reference on the main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmaker Shah AMS Kibria amid a boycott by the AL deputies and protests by the opposition parties in and outside the House.

The AL boycotted the first sitting of the year as the speaker turned down its demand for adjournment of yesterday's sitting deferring the presidential address. The other opposition parties who joined the House also protested it on the floor.

The AL lawmakers wearing black badges and holding black flags staged a one and a half-hour sit-in before the speaker's chamber. The slogan shouting main opposition deputies blasted the speaker's decision during the sit-in.

The unprecedented demonstration kept Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar confined at his office for an hour and he could not conduct the House

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Senior AL lawmakers carrying black flags enter the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday in protest against the speaker's refusal of their demand for adjourning the sitting after the adoption of an obituary reference on slain lawmaker Shah AMS Kibria.

SAARC SUMMIT Agenda meet starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The agenda-setting process for the 13th Saarc Summit begins today with the Saarc Programming Committee meeting at Hotel Sheraton.

The government has assured of 'sufficient security measures' for the participants and said ongoing spells of hartal would not affect the summit.

Meantime, all educational institutions in Dhaka will remain closed from February 5 to 7 for the summit, according to a government announcement.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Summit will be held on February 6-7.

The two-day 26th session of the

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HABIGANJ GRENADE ATTACK

Cops watch a section of political activists

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK from Habiganj

Preliminary investigations by the law enforcing agencies point the finger at a section of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami activists to be the prime suspects in the January 27 grenade blasts that killed SAMS Kibria and four others in Habiganj.

A joint investigation team comprising members of different detective agencies, Rapid Action Battalion and the police on Sunday night picked up two persons on suspicion of having links to the Habiganj carnage.

Former president of Habiganj unit Chhatra Shibir Nurunnabi Uzzal was held from his house at Habiganj while Durga ward Chhatra Dal President Jamal alias Kala Jamal from Shubidbazar at Sylhet.

Intelligence sources said that the two were not arrested formally, they were detained and interrogated on suspicion. Both of them fit the description of suspects given by witnesses.

Jamaat leaders of Habiganj, meanwhile, were putting pressure on the investigators to release the Shibir leader, added the sources.

A police source said the detainees could get released any time as the pressure on them (police) to free the two was mounting.

Police said that not only the two, they would pick whoever they suspect of having connection with the carnage. They would keep constant watch on the suspects.

Investigators said that Uzzal and Jamal had denied their involvement in the carnage.

An investigation source said the investigators basing on the eyewitness accounts are scouring the areas

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Fresh hartal on Feb 3, 5, 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its allies will enforce another spell of countrywide hartal on February 3, 5 and 6 in protest against the killing of lawmaker and former minister Shah AMS Kibria and four AL activists in the January

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Interpol men arrive, no decision yet on US conditions for FBI help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Interpol officials arrived in Dhaka yesterday while the government was yet to decide on the US demand for full accessibility to evidence and witnesses in case of FBI assistance in the investigations into Habiganj carnage.

The Interpol (international police organisation) officials -- Japanese Hiroshi Sumi and US citizen Marc Beauchemin -- came as an advanced team to assess the expertise and logistics required for proper investigations into the 'grenade incidents including the blasts in Habiganj that left former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four

others dead.

"The Interpol will mainly provide assistance in elaborate investigation into the August 21 attack on an Awami League (AL) rally, grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet and the attack in Habiganj," said a top Criminal Investigation Department official seeking anonymity.

"The Interpol would continue to assist until the investigation came to a successful end," Inspector General of Police Ashraful Huda told a private TV Channel yesterday.

Sumi and Marc had a one and a half hours long meeting with the

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PM says Kibria killers must be punished

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the killers of former finance minister and Awami League (AL) leader Shah AMS Kibria must be tracked down and severely punished.

Speaking on the condolence motion in parliament on Kibria's death, she said the government has already sought foreign assistance to investigate the dastardly attack, track down the real culprits and bring them to justice to stop recurrence of such nefarious acts.

"There will be no obstruction or dearth from the government to uncover the painful incident and bring the perpetrators to justice", the prime minister said and sought cooperation of all quarters, including the AL, to dig out the heinous crime.

Paying tributes to slain Kibria, Khaleda said he was a successful diplomat and a successful bureaucrat who worked with the late president Ziaur Rahman as foreign secretary.

She said the country has lost a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6


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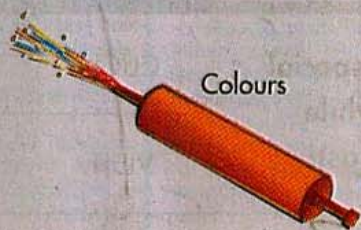
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