

Of joy and pain

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but Bangladesh knows and plays cricket as a sport. The only country that has not invited Bangladesh to play a Test series is India, just because Bangladesh is not financially viable as a team. Now, India have to understand that cricket is a game and not a commercial apple!" wrote Tareq Mahmood in his article in the same daily.

The Daily Ittefaq had this heading: 'India tremble at Tigers' roar' while Inqilab said, "Tigers' claw hurt India".

British press also joined in with the Daily Telegraph pointing out that India were 'embarrassed' by Bangladesh while the Sun jibed: "Bangladesh put India in a mess".

Tigers were the toast of Trinidad with its leading newspapers paying tribute.

"Minnows might -- Bangladesh beat India", said the Trinidad Express while the Guardian carried, "Bangladesh whips India".

But the mood was reverse in India with their leading newspapers thrashing their cash-bloated superstars. Particular attention went to struggling opener Virender Sehawg, skipper Rahul Dravid and its Australian coach Greg Chappell who are just awaiting banishment if news channel Zee News is to be believed.

Soon after the loss, which also means that India are in danger of missing out on a Super Eights place, the channel started a poll 'Who's head will roll first' with the skipper, coach and Sehawg being the subjects. The primary results showed that participants were divided almost equally in their anger towards these three characters.

Another Indian television channel NDTV showed the infuriated public throwing stones at the home of Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Ranch in the morning after the loss.

"Dhoni die, die," protesters chanted, burning effigies of the long-maned player, who has scored 1,958 runs in 68 one-day international matches and is counted among India's most aggressive batsmen, an AFP reporter at the site reported.

"It seems Dhoni is banking more on modelling than wicketkeeping and batting," said Sohan Mahto, one of the protesters.

Similar protests were reported from the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, where irate fans were out on the streets after India's humiliating defeat, the Press Trust of India said.

The Times of India's front-page displayed two photographs of Indian batsman Virender Sehawg and Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq under the caption: "Mighty minnows put Asian powers on the mat."

"Campaign starts with collapse," screamed the headline in the Hindustan Times. "The World Cup finally began for India, but it might not last too long," wrote the newspaper's correspondent.

The Indian Express said: "Ban-

gladesh grabbed India by the collar, poked a finger in the eyes of some of the world's best batsmen, tore up the elaborate blue-print prepared by coach Greg Chappell and punched an embarrassing dent on the face of the world's richest cricketing outfit."

Legendary Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar was made to eat his words. Several hours before the match, Gavaskar predicted a massive Indian win but then said, "Let's give credit where it is due -- I think Bangladesh were brilliant out there," during a review programme on ESPN channel.

"The spinners were outstanding and the way the batsmen responded ... I will not take any thing away from them."

"Tigers 1; Lambs 0," it was how Cricinfo gave it's match verdict.

The Tribune said it was a 'Blue Blackout' and at the same time, Kolkata-based Anandabazar Patrika mentioned that 'one Bengali's fight against eleven Bengalis was futile' with reference to Sourav Ganguly's valiant 66.

Whether this was a Blue Blackout or a massacre, quoting from Mahmood in Prothom Alo, this was 'a protest for considering cricket as a product, and not a sport'.

IAJUDDIN, CA, HASINA, KHALEDA GREET CRICKET TEAM

UNB says: President Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have congratulated the national cricket team on their clinching a memorable victory against India in the World Cup match at Port-of-Spain Saturday night.

In a message of felicitation, the president said that the Bangladesh cricket team would be able to "build on the good start they made with the win in their first match in the ICC World Cup."

The chief adviser praised the Bangladeshi players' consistency, determination and all round performance in the field as contributing factors for the victory.

Hasina, now in the USA, in a message of felicitation said that this victory would lead to more successes in future. "It brought happiness for the whole nation."

Khaleda Zia in a message said: "I congratulate the players, coach and all concerned on their clinching a grand victory." The trend of victory of the national team would be sustained on the international arena of cricket, she added.

Wife, brother

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recovered a lot and the physicians are scheduled to check him at the hospital again today.

Tarique is scheduled to be produced before a court today.

HC ASKS GOVT TO EXPLAIN

Why detention of Abbas, Quader, Mohiuddin Chy not illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court Sunday issued rules upon the government to explain why detentions of former minister Mirza Abbas, ex-state minister Obaidul Quader and Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury should not be declared illegal.

The court issued the rules after brief hearings on separate habeas corpus petitions filed by close relatives of the detainees challenging the government action.

Army-led joint forces during their ongoing drive against corruption suspects had arrested numbers of bigwigs including the three. They were detained under the Special Powers Act 1974 and later sent to jail on 30-day detentions each.

Barristers Rokanuddin Mahmud and Abdul Baset Majumder represented the petitioners and pleaded for bail.

Mohiuddin's fate

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Bangladesh of the progress on the matter at the start of the US working week, which is on Monday, effectively Tuesday Bangladeshi time, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at a foreign ministry press briefing yesterday.

"We will work in accordance with the directives from the law ministry," Iftekhar said, adding that the US and Bangladesh law ministries are cooperating.

Also sentenced to life in prison for aiding and abetting the killings of four other national leaders on November 3, 1975, Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin Ahmed was arrested by officials of the Bureau of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement from his Los Angeles residence on Tuesday.

The foreign adviser said although Bangladesh and USA have no extradition treaty, Mohiuddin's deportation would not be a problem, as Dhaka and Washington have close cooperation in various fields.

The adviser said the ministries of foreign affairs and law are working on the matter.

To a question, Additional Foreign Secretary Tuhid Hossain said five or six killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are also hiding abroad, but the government has no specific information about their whereabouts.

Mohiuddin left the country soon after Awami League (AL) came to power in 1996. He was tried in absentia and two years later, along with some other ex-army personnel, was convicted of assassination of the country's founding father.

Mohiuddin has been sought by the Bangladesh government since a trial court on November 8, 1998, handed down death sentence to him and 14 other former and dismissed army men for the killings.

The verdict came 23 years after Bangabandhu was brutally murdered along with 26 others, including his wife, three sons, two daughters-in-law, brother, close relatives, political associates and security men in a pre-dawn attack on August 15, 1975.

The High Court on April 30, 2001 upheld the punishment of 12. Of them, only four -- Lt Col Syed Feroq Rehman, Lt Col Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col Mohiuddin and Maj Bazul Huda -- are behind bars.

EU to continue

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members of the troika.

Currently, Germany holds the EU presidency while the Netherlands is set to be the next chair.

"We're democracies and we are friendly with Bangladesh because we share values that are common to all democracies," said Mayke, adding that they will continue to support the government.

Iftekhar said he explained to the delegation that their [administration's] intention is to build a model government and take the reforms on a trajectory that they sustain over time.

Mayke said at the meeting they sought to take stock of Bangla-EU relations regarding specific development cooperation projects.

"It was an intensive working session where we went through all cooperation projects including the ones in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Dhaka," said Iftekhar.

He said they have discussed ways to widen cooperation between the government and the EU that currently provides the country \$250-million a year in development funds.

The trio also talked about immigration and visa matters with the adviser.

Earlier in the day, the foreign adviser spoke at the weekly press briefing. Asked about Indian media reports that an Indo-Bangla train service is set to start on April 14, he said the government is in talks with India over possible rail links.

Once both the countries are prepared for the service, there would be the question of logistics, said Foreign Secretary Tuhid Hossain.

He however said that Bangladesh has agreed in principle to the plan.

CG accountable

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Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

The chief adviser said his government wants real democracy... peaceful atmosphere and social stability, which are the prerequisites for free, fair and credible elections.

He said the government and the people want honest and competent persons to participate in election to strengthen the foundation of democracy. "Today, it is the expectation of all that competent, honest and dedicated people hold the reins of democracy."

"Peaceful atmosphere and social stability are not only the preconditions for fair election, but also for socioeconomic development. There is no alternative to it."

Fakhruddin reminded the officials of the republic that everybody hopes that they will give impartial and honest advice to the government and discharge their duties neutrally guided by conscience and wisdom rising above fear and intimidation.

"It is the expectation of all that government officials will remain free from favouritism and complacency," he said and urged the field level officials to build a bridge between the people and the government through their performance.

About the rising prices of commodities, the chief adviser said it is his government's objective and also a challenge to keep the prices of essentials at tolerable level.

The government can achieve the target through proper coordination between the public and private sectors, he said and called for taking it as a strategy of government actions.

"We want to bring dynamism in the business activities," Fakhruddin said adding that all concerned should ensure that no honest and genuine businessmen face any trouble.

He mentioned some steps of the government in controlling

market prices, including introduction of OMS, releasing one lakh ton food under the food-for-work programme and the decision to purchase one lakh tonnes of wheat for which tender has been invited.

The government has also decided to reduce the L/C margin for businessmen to ensure adequate supply of goods in the market, he said.

He also mentioned the government move to open the sealed warehouses to increase supply of food grains in the market.

The chief adviser urged the law enforcers to be careful so that no innocent people are harassed while maintaining law and order in the country.

About the recovery of government khas lands grabbed by unscrupulous people, he urged the concerned departments to make all-out efforts to recover such grabbed lands.

He also asked the government officials to be careful so that no people, particularly the poor and helpless, are harassed unnecessarily during the eviction drives, as the government wants people's welfare.

Fakhruddin urged the concerned authorities to publicise the objective of the government before any eviction drive, so that people can very well understand the need of the government action.

He directed the government officials to visit the subordinate offices to inquire if people are getting service and also about the progress of implementation of various development projects, "This will increase the momentum of the government activities as well as ensure accountability," he said.

Divisional Commissioner Aziz Hasan gave the welcome speech at the meeting.

The chief adviser's opening speech was followed by a closed-door second session.

Prof Taher Murder

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murder was completed in May last year.

According to the charge sheet, Mohiuddin masterminded the murder in apprehension of damages to his career by Prof Taher, a senior teacher of Geology and Mining department of RU, who detected 'plagiarism and piracy' in 10 out of total 11 research papers submitted by Mohiuddin with his promotion petition.

Mohiuddin then hired Salehi for murdering Taher and in return, he promised Salehi to ensure good results in Masters, MPhil, PhD and appointment as a teacher at the university. Mohiuddin also persuaded Salam, Nazmul and Jahangir with personal computers and jobs at the university, the charge sheet also said.

Prof Mohiuddin and Salehi, both are now freed on bail from the High Court (HC). Salehi went into hiding after obtaining the bail.

Prof Taher was killed on February 1 in 2005 and his body was found in a sewer pit behind his home on RU campus on February 3.

Prof Mohiuddin, Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul were arrested within a week of the murder.

The three arrested accused killers and five among 48 witnesses provided judicial confessions and statements confirming Mohiuddin and Salehi's involvement in the murder, which was executed by Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul.

Jamaat loyalty

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student of the department having two first classes, joined the department after successfully facing viva voce for third time on October 23, 2005.

The incident occurred during the second time viva voce on June 8, 2005.

"A day before my interview, two Jamaat backed teachers-- Assistant Proctor Prof Dr Ahmed Fazle Hasan Chowdhury, also the then president of Chittagong University Teachers Association, and Assistant Professor Ashiqur Rahman-- told me that if I want to be a teacher I have to give an undertaking," Ashrafuzzaman told The Daily Star last evening.

He said he handed over the undertaking to Ashiqur Rahman in front of Miskin Shah Mazar near Chittagong College on the night.

He said the Jamaat-BNP backed teachers protested his appointment in a syndicate meeting later.

When contacted yesterday night, Prof Fazle Hasan refuted the charges and said he had no link with the matter.

Ban on indoor

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political parties will have to be held before the election," the adviser told reporters at the Secretariat.

He said the politicians want early election so that cases could not be filed against them.

The law adviser was also critical about the politicians and traditional politics saying they (politicians) brought difficulties for themselves on their own.

He said indoor politics should bring reforms in the political parties and assisting holding a free election.

"I have seen in the newspapers that a few political parties are thinking about bringing changes in top leadership. This should be the main agenda of indoor politics," said Mainul.

As the people want a free and fair election free from black money, they should help the caretaker government to hold a dream election, said the adviser.

But Mainul regretted that the politicians do not practise it. He also advocated for changes in political thoughts and views in this regard.

EC moves again

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In accordance with the electoral rolls rules, a person intending to be a voter will have to reside in Bangladesh, they pointed out.

Besides, once the expatriates are listed in the voter roll, the EC will have to make arrangements for their vote casting, which the EC Secretariat officials said will be a tough task.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council in the UK met the EC yesterday and placed the demand for ensuring their voting rights.

Emerging from the meeting with the chief election commissioner and the two election commissioners, delegation chief Mohammad Monchab said they have reiterated their longstanding demand.

"We requested the Election Commission to include expatriates in the voter list before the next parliamentary elections," Monchab said. Over 80 lakh Bangladeshis now live abroad and they remit a huge amount of foreign currency every year, he noted.

The EC assured the delegation that it is considering the matter.

A delegation of the 11-party alliance also met the EC yesterday afternoon and asked it to give a tentative timeframe for holding the next parliamentary elections.

The seven-member delegation asked the EC to start now the task for preparing the voter list.

"The Election Commission told us that it is trying to complete the task for electoral reforms as soon as possible," Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers' Party--a component of the 11-party alliance, told reporters after the meeting.

Supreme Judicial

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Council against him," Law Adviser Mainul Hossain told reporters at his office yesterday.

Referring to cancellation of certificates of 2,350 people for tampering with their mark sheets, he said, "That the decision came after 18 years is not supportable either."

He added that the government plans to act against the Chittagong University (CU) authorities for delay in revoking the certificates.

He, however, said Faizee's case is different in this regard.

The CU syndicate on March 3 cancelled LLB certificates of Faizee and 70 others for doctoring mark sheets.

The embattled judge has not attended his court since the day after his certificate was cancelled. Later, he was taken off the cause list amid a growing clamour for his resignation.

Recently, the law adviser told The Daily Star that he thinks there is no room for Faizee to continue as a judge.

"I believe the only option for him now is to stand down or else legal measures will be taken against him according to the constitution," he added.

According to the constitution, the president can remove a judge of the Supreme Court or the HC only if a Supreme Judicial Council reports that "in its opinion the judge has ceased to be capable of properly performing the functions of his office or has been guilty of gross misconduct".

Tk 1.31cr

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Mostofa also visited the spot.

Police arrested the night guards-- Mojibar Rahman, Shaheb Ali and Sultan Miah-- suspecting their involvement, sources said.

They are now being interrogated at Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

"We are investigating the matter," Sazzad Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sherpur Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday hoped that they will be able to recover the money soon.

Amini gets bail

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directed them to surrender before the lower court within three weeks.

The HC also directed the lower court to deal with the matter on merit in accordance with the law. As per direction of the HC, Amini and others appeared before the court and sought bail, the lawyers added.

Opposing the bail petition, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hassan argued that the charges brought against them were serious.

Upon hearing both sides, the court passed the bail order and ordered them to furnish bail bonds.

On February 19, Hafez Mufti Sanaulah filed a case accusing Amini and others of looting his shop on May 6, 2005.

SALAHUDDIN'S BAIL REJECTED

The same court rejected the bail petition of detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed from Demra in connection with an arms case filed with Shyampur Police Station.

The court passed the order

Faizee was appointed an HC judge in the lawyers' quota in 2004.

Legal experts note that he now lacks the minimum qualifications to be an HC judge since he has lost his eligibility as a lawyer following cancellation of his LLB certificate. So, the president can remove him simply through an order, they added.

Move on to make

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transferring companies, professionals including lawyers, accountants and auditors, post offices, real estate developers, shares and securities dealers and brokers, sub-registrar's offices, NGOs, cooperative banks and associations, and charity organisations would be compelled to provide any financial information the central bank asks for, according to the draft proposal.

At the meeting the finance ministry will also seek amendments to the Bank Company Act 1991 to bring changes in the definition of defaulted loan, and will seek to double the existing required amount of capital for commercial banks.

The draft proposes increasing the required capital for commercial banks to Tk 200 crore from the existing Tk 100 crore.

The proposal also redefines defaulted loan and brings down the overdue period of repayment to three months from the current six months.

The proposal seeks to cut short the tenure of board members of any bank. It proposes a Tk 20 lakh fine against any bank for breaching the act; the highest fine for such offences is Tk 2,000 now.

The draft also proposes to keep the size of a bank's board within 13 members. If members of any family have 10 percent share of a bank, two from the family would be its board members, but if the share is less than 10 percent, one member of the family would be the bank's board member.

None would be allowed to be a member of the board of directors of a bank for more than six years in two terms, according to the draft amendment.

following a criminal appeal against the rejection order of the lower court on February 12.

On February 4, the security forces seized the weapons and foreign currencies along with nine diplomatic passports and eight other Bangladeshi passports, 23 mobile phone sets, videocassettes, compact disks, and a shotgun licence when they raided Salahuddin's house at Kadamtola in Shyampur to arrest him.

PINTU'S BAIL REJECTED

Another Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in a murder case filed with Lalbagh Police Station on December 29 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rafiqul Islam passed the order after his lawyers submitted a bail petition and made submissions on it.

Anisur Rahman, a former ward commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation filed the case for killing his son Mohammad Ali on December 28 last year.

8 US troops killed

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The bombing struck the well-known Shalal market the Shia stronghold of Sadr City in the northeast of the Iraqi capital.

An Iraqi policeman and one civilian were killed and five policemen wounded when a roadside bomb struck a police patrol near the renowned Al-Mustansiriyyah University in eastern Baghdad on Sunday, security officials said.

Another civilian was killed and one was wounded in a mortar attack in central Baghdad's Al-Fadhil district.

Iraqi security forces are repeatedly targeted by insurgents opposed to the US-backed government, while Al-Mustansiriyyah University has been hit several times, including by a female suicide bomber who killed 40 people in February.

Insurgents continue to carry out attacks in Baghdad despite the presence of 90,000 US and Iraqi troops on the streets, as part of Operation Fardh al-Qanoon (Imposing Law) launched February 14 to quell sectarian violence.

US commanders say roadside bombs remain their biggest headache and have launched special operations to find car bomb factories hidden in the rural areas surrounding Baghdad.

They also want that insurgents have modified their tactics by adding gas bombs to their arsenal and striking soft targets in the belt of small towns around the capital that are outside the ambit of the security plan.

On Friday, insurgents detonated three trucks filled with toxic chlorine gas in Anbar province, west of Baghdad, putting at least 350 Iraqi civilians in hospital and killing two policemen, the US military reported,

Dhaniram then removed Joyce and Kevin Pietersen in the same over.