



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus 32-page Star Campus



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII NO. 103

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2007

BAISHAKH 16, 1414 BS

RABIUS SANI 11, 1428 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 12.00

Gilchrist sets final alight

AFP, Bridgetown

Adam Gilchrist lived up to his billing as the most dangerous one-day international batsman in the game with a record-breaking 149 as Australia piled up 281 for four against Sri Lanka in the World Cup final at Kensington Oval here Saturday.

In reply, Sri Lanka managed to post 18-1 in five overs. The ever-dangerous Sanath Jayasuriya (4) and Kumar Sangakkara (6) were the unbeaten men at the crease. Upal Tharanga had fallen victim to a Gilchrist catch off the bowling of Nathan Bracken.

Gilchrist's effort was the highest individual innings in a final, surpassing the 140 not out made by Australia captain Ricky Ponting against India in Johannesburg four years ago.

In all, Gilchrist faced just 104 balls with eight sixes and 13 fours as Australia set a daunting target in

a match reduced to 38 overs a side because of rain.

Gilchrist, dropped on 31, and fellow left-hander Matthew Hayden's stand of 172 was a new first-wicket record for a World Cup final, surpassing the 129 shared by England's Mike Brearley and Geoff Boycott during West Indies' 92-run win at Lord's in 1979.

It was the perfect platform for Australia as they set about winning an unprecedented third straight World Cup and fourth in all, having come into this match on the back of a run of 28 unbeaten games at the tournament and 22 straight wins.

Normally economical left-arm quick Chaminda Vaas, controversially rested along with fellow 1996 World Cup winner and star off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran from Sri Lanka's seven-wicket defeat by Australia in Grenada on April 16, saw his new maximum eight overs cost 54 runs.

Lasith Malinga, who missed that

defeat with an ankle injury, took two for 49 in his eight overs after his first four overs with the new ball cost just six runs.

In Vaas's second over Gilchrist opened up. He flicked the bowler's eighth delivery for four over square leg and next ball the Western Australia gloveman drove him over long-on for six.

Vaas, after an expensive three-over spell costing 24 runs, was replaced by fellow quick Dilhara Fernando, retained despite conceding 45 runs in five overs during Tuesday's 81-run semi-final win against New Zealand.

Fernando, in his second over, dropped a low caught and bowled chance off Gilchrist's checked drive with the keeper on 31 and Australia 47 without loss.

In total Fernando conceded 74 runs in his eight overs.

Next ball Gilchrist struck him for four through mid-wicket to bring up Australia's fifty. The ball after

was lashed through long-on and Gilchrist immediately topped that with a six in the same area.

Gilchrist then completed a 43-ball fifty with two sixes and five fours.

Off-spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan wasn't let off the hook, Gilchrist driving the bowler over his head for two superb straight sixes as he passed his previous best score this tournament of 59 not out against Bangladesh.

The 35-year-old then saw Australia to 100 in just 102 balls by off-driving Fernando for six.

He then swept Murali for a six that soared over mid-wicket.

Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene brought back trump card Malinga in a bid to break the stand.

But his first ball back was smashed for six over long-off by Hayden.

Gilchrist then struck Malinga to

Hasina for quick polls

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, now in London, has sought general election as early as possible to establish an elected government to fight poverty and corruption—two potential enemies facing the country.

"Without an elected government, poverty and corruption cannot be eradicated," she said in an interview with David Front of Al Jazeera television on Friday.

Hasina admitted the presence of corruption in the country, but hastened to add that it can be curbed by an elected, transparent and accountable government. She observed that the country cannot run long without elections.

Asked if she fears harassment once she arrives in Bangladesh, the AL president said, "My people are with me."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

IMPACT OF RECENT FUEL PRICE HIKE

Inflation to cross 10pc

Essentials to be costlier by 3.16pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The average price level of essential commodities will get an additional increase of 3.16 per cent due to high fuel price, leading to annual inflation rate beyond 10 per cent within a year, says a study.

"Increase in the inflation will slow down the economic growth rate by nearly 1 percent in terms of GDP at constant prices," said the study titled 'Oil Price Increase: Assessing Impacts and Policy Recommendations' prepared by AK Enamul Haque and Sajjad Zahir of Economic Research Group.

However, at nominal (current) prices, the gross domestic expenditure will increase by 3 per cent or about Tk 13,221 crore, it said.

"Two-digit inflation in the coming months as a result of fuel price increase is almost a fait accompli. This will have the most adverse effects on the productive sectors of the economy -- agriculture and the small and medium industrial and other enterprises."

In this context, tightening credit will not succeed in reducing the increase in inflation. Rather policies need to be framed for targeted assistance to the affected productive sectors and the poor, and to undertake measures to promote investment, since the latter will be negatively affected by the current pattern of inflation, the study said.

The latter calls for, if anything, expansionary credit policy, and not a contractionary policy, it recom-

mended.

The study also said that to minimise the impact on output in the agricultural and industrial sector, the government may develop schemes to help producers through subsidised supply of diesel for irrigation purposes in the agriculture and either a subsidised fuel price for industries or readjustment of VAT for small and medium sized producers.

Regarding high fuel price effect on rural economy, it said rural economy will be hard hit due to increase in fuel prices and since a large number of poor people live in rural areas, this requires that government must come up with strategies to protect the interest of these

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

GILLY ON FIRE... Australia's Adam Gilchrist, who smashed 149 off 104 balls, salutes the crowd after completing his century against Sri Lanka in the World Cup final at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown yesterday.

Emergency might stay past 120 days

Ban on politics likely to be prolonged

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ongoing state of emergency might be prolonged past 120 days and the possibility of lifting the ban on indoor politics soon is slim, in light of the prevailing situation.

The council of advisers to the military backed caretaker government, on several occasions, informally discussed lifting the ban on indoor politics. But the advisers believe the situation has yet to come into existence for either lifting the state of emergency or the ban on indoor politics, highly placed sources in the government said.

President Iajuddin Ahmed on January 11 had declared the state of emergency suspending the January 22 parliamentary election and the government banned all sorts of outdoor political activities a couple of days after. The government on March 7 also banned indoor politics.

According to the constitution a proclamation of emergency (a) may be revoked by a subsequent proclamation, (b) shall be laid before the parliament; (c) shall cease to operate at the expiration of one hundred and twenty days,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Reforms a must but parties themselves should decide on it

Leaders of BNP, AL tell BBC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agreeing in principle to the need for bringing reforms to the two major parties, leaders of Awami League (AL) and BNP yesterday emphasised on systematic reforms instead of focusing on individuals, and said only the two parties should decide whether Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina should continue to hold the top positions.

Speaking at BBC Bangladesh 'Sanglap' in Bangladesh-China

Friendship Conference Centre in the capital, BNP Chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, and AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor made the observations.

"I think opinions of the leaders and activists are necessary before bringing reforms to any political party," said Hannan replying to a question on whether reforms would be successful keeping the current two chiefs of the parties.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khaleda yet to move freely

Says Hannan Shah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Restriction on the movement of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia still exists, claimed Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah yesterday.

"She is yet to move freely like a free citizen," said the adviser to the BNP chief while talking to reporters at his residence.

Explaining this, Hannan Shah said, "Some BNP leaders and former lawmakers tried to meet her (Khaleda) yesterday but security personnel did not allow them to enter her house."

Meanwhile, BNP Vice President and former agriculture minister MK Anwar yesterday said that regardless of its past mistakes, their party is now united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

SIRAJGANJ 450MW PLANT

No headway yet

Project likely to go to 3rd re-tender

SHARIEF KHAN

Although some reputed companies are involved in the ongoing tendering process of the Sirajganj 450 megawatt power project, the power ministry is considering a third re-tender, thus delaying its implementation by at least another six months.

While the government has put high emphasis on strengthening the power sector, the decision for re-tendering is being considered in the light of appointing an Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultant to ensure transparency and competence.

The ministry raised the idea of cancelling the ongoing tender at a discussion with the ADB, which has

already agreed to provide a consultant for the Sirajganj and the Meghnaghat-3 power projects.

Sources said as the current tender for the Sirajganj project has only passed the bidder selection level, the ADB consultant could easily take over to ensure transparency.

"This will be frustrating for the bidders each of which spent \$20,000 to buy bidding documents," said an official, adding, "This is a waste of time."

The government has so far made no significant progress in any new power tender. There has been no meaningful reshuffling of manpower in the power ministry, Power Cell and the Power Development

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

KM Hasan sees no risk of 'losing democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice KM Hasan, who opted not to become the caretaker government chief last October, yesterday said the country does not run the risk of losing democracy as its people are by nature pro-democracy.

"What's going on now is transitory and part of a historical process. Things have been like this in the past too, and every time democracy came out victorious," he told journalists when asked for comments on different measures taken by the interim government.

Earlier, he spoke at a roundtable on Review of Family Courts Ordinance, 1985. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a non-profit legal aid group, organised the discussion at Cirdap

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Ministries asked to ready guidelines for VoIP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Council of Advisers yesterday assigned three ministries to come up with a specific and comprehensive guideline for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) operations in the country, which is currently restricted under government rules.

The cabinet meeting also took stock of the caretaker government's performance in the past three months by reviewing a cabinet division report, which stated that the government has fully implemented 32 of the 81 decisions taken by the current government since taking charge on January 12.

Besides, 40 are in the process of being implemented and the government has been informed on the state of nine decisions.

The meeting also decided that the Buddha Purnima public holiday will be on May 2, according to the lunar calendar, and signed and ratified the UN convention on

Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim yesterday informed reporters of the decision after the council of advisers' weekly meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

The caretaker cabinet asked the science and information communication technology ministry, post and telecommunications ministry and the information ministry to report back at the earliest on specific guidelines for VoIP operations, said Fahim.

"A specific policy is required because of the large numbers of illegal and unlicensed operators," he said, adding that the cabinet asked the three ministries to decide which authority should provide the VoIP licences and sketch out specific criteria for providing licences.

The cabinet also discussed how VoIP operations are run in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Dhaka signs accord with Yangon for direct road link

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Myanmar yesterday signed an agreement on direct road link between the two countries, aiming to promote trade and tourism between them and beyond their frontiers.

Under the deal, a 25-kilometre road from Gundhum in Cox's Bazar to Baulibazar in Myanmar will be constructed with funding from Bangladesh government.

Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman and Myanmar deputy minister for communications inked the agreement.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Khairuzzaman and senior officials of the two countries were present at the signing ceremony.

The trans-border road will also connect Bangladesh with China

and Thailand.

Dhaka and Yangon took an initiative in 2003 to establish direct communication between the two countries by a road and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to this end during a visit of the Myanmar prime minister to Dhaka in 2004.

Later, a technical and finance taskforce was formed to expedite the process.

On Friday, Foreign Affairs adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury had a meeting with Acting Prime Minister of Myanmar Lt Gen Thein Sein at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The discussed the bilateral issues including road link between the two countries, repatriation of Rohingya refugees, border trade, contract farming, demarcation of maritime boundary, simplification of visa regime and establishment of joint commission.

Bitopi/Leo Burnett/djuice/April 07

djuice

2 f&f numbers now on ur djuice. talk @ 90 paisa/min during peak hours to activate f&f, send the numbers to 2888

djuice 2 djuice* call only @ tk 17/min during peak hours (6 am-12 am), send sms to djuice friends only @ 50 paisa, the djuice number series are: 01717, 017102-05, 01722-23 & 017190-94

200 free SMS* with every new djuice connection! send free sms to only djuice numbers till june 30. activate ur connection between april 17 to may 31 to get free sms. to check how many free sms u have used up, simply dial *577*3#

80 paisa/min* only to any operator from 12 am till 6 am!

618-9

* offer valid till may 31, 2007
 • call only @ 30 paisa/min & sms @ 10 paisa from 1 am till 6 am until further notice (any djuice or gp number)
 • enjoy 20 second pulse from the very first minute
 • get tk 50 free talktime with every new connection (validity: 5 days)
 • conditions apply
 • VAT & charges applicable
 • to know more call 11 or visit www.djuice.com