

Dhoni denies Tigers

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Karthik, who showed poise and a lot of courage to score 58 not out off 60 balls.

But their innings could have been nipped in the bud when Karthik slipped in the middle of the crease but Aftab Ahmed's sharp throw from point was muffled by Abdur Razzak and the two worked their way through the chase.

Dhoni, who survived a close lbw decision by umpire Ashoka de Silva when he was on 10 off Abdur Razzak's first delivery, struck seven boundaries in his 106-ball essay.

"It was one of my best innings as it helped me win the game for my team," said Dhoni at the post-match press conference.

"It was quite tough out there but during that partnership everything worked for us as we got the odd boundary whenever we needed them."

He had to use a runner for most of his innings but thanked the man who did the donkey's work for him.

"Only option was to play at that moment, but I must thank Yuvraj (Singh) for running for me," said the longhaired wicketkeeper-batsman.

It was left-arm paceman Syed Rasel who got the breakthrough for Bangladesh when he had left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir lbw for 21.

Soon, Bangladesh's man of the day Shakib took a brilliant catch, again off Rasel, to get rid of the other opener Virender Sehwag who fell for 30 off just 21 balls.

India lost their way when Yuvraj (1) and Dravid (22) were out in quick succession and then Dinesh Mongia was dismissed for 17. That left the tourists struggling at 144 for five in the 29th over.

But skipper Habibul Bashar took the foot off the gas and that left Dhoni and Karthik with a lot of gaps to work with as both batted with utmost ease in the dying stages.

Apart from Rasel, Shakib took two wickets while Shahadat Hossain picked up one.

In the morning, opener Tamim Iqbal gave the hosts a good start when he played the Indian medium-pacers to score 45 off 53 balls that included half-dozen boundaries.

But it was the partnership between Javed and Shakib that gave Bangladesh the score that could have ensured a win. After both batsmen were dismissed,

Mohammad Ashraful (29) and Aftab Ahmed (16) batted slogged well to get their side to 250.

Part-time spinner Mongia was the best of a mediocre bowling effort taking three for 49 in 10 overs.

Off-spinner Ramesh Powar took two wickets.

Barapukuria

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underground in the mine.

The three-member probe body was formed by Petrobangla, parent organisation of the BCMCL, on April 27. It was asked to submit its report within seven days but it took 11 days to do the job.

The probe report recommended that Chinese developer of the mine CMC and the BCMCL should take measures to maintain a standard temperature and humidity in the mine. Otherwise, more accidents might occur, it warned.

It confirmed that during the April 26 incident, temperature was 40 to 42 degrees Celsius in the mine, and suggested steps to keep the temperature within 30 to 33 degrees Celsius.

The probe body noted that the mine authorities failed to maintain either ideal temperature or humidity in the mine.

Considering the high temperature in the mine, the report recommended curtailing working time of the 600 mine workers to less than seven hours a day. It also advised mandatory physical fitness certificate of all workers.

It said BCMCL failed to appoint a mining inspector as required under the Coal Mine Act, 1923 to monitor mining activities, and recommended appointing one.

The report suggested installing high-powered wireless equipment for intra-mine communication and forming an efficient rescue team of the BCMCL alongside CMC rescue team.

The probe body pointed out that the mine workers do not have life insurance coverage, and suggested introducing this for all of them.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdur Rashid Khan, chairman of Petrobangla, held several meetings with CMC officials at the mining site and returned to Dhaka yesterday.

Sarkozy, Chirac appear at slavery commemoration

AFP, Paris

Nicolas Sarkozy made his first public appearance as French president-elect yesterday, officiating alongside President Jacques Chirac at a ceremony in Paris to mark the end of the slave trade.

On France's annual day of commemoration for the abolition of slavery, the two men jointly inaugurated a bronze sculpture in the Luxembourg gardens representing a broken manacle.

Sarkozy, 52, beat the socialist Segolene Royal in Sunday's presidential election and takes over from Chirac, 74, on Wednesday.

Joined by several cabinet ministers and a small invited crowd, the two leaders heard Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour sing a tribute to the victims of slavery.

Sarkozy and Chirac then returned to the Elysee palace for a meeting with Saad Hariri, head of the anti-Syrian parliamentary opposition in Lebanon and son of the murdered politician Rafiq Hariri.

Restrictions

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interview with the BBC Bangla Service would be followed properly.

He said for security reasons the law enforcers are not letting everyone in the residence.

Jalil along with three other senior leaders, was kept waiting before being allowed to enter the Sudha Sadan Wednesday night.

However, restrictions were still in place for the journalists seeking to meet the AL president.

Talking about the security layers to face before going to see Hasina, an AL leader said the law enforcers allow the party leaders in only after being sure about their identities.

AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta, who too went to the Dhanmondi residence yesterday, thanked the government for not preventing leaders and workers from meeting the party chief.

"Yesterday [Wednesday], our leaders could not meet her but today it was possible after the chief adviser's interview with the BBC," Suranjit told reporters yesterday.

About many drawing comparisons between the security measures undertaken for Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, Jalil observed that it won't be fair to compare their leader [Hasina] with her [Khaleda].

"She [Khaleda] lives inside a cantonment and quite understandably, security is considered a major issue there. So, no comparison is acceptable between the two as long as she continues to be there," the AL leader observed calling on the government to take measures to shift Khaleda from his Moimul Road house.

The question of the government having the same attitude towards the two leaders comes, only if Khaleda moves to her Gulshan residence, that is, from a restricted area to a free one, Jalil noted.

AL leaders Syed Ashraful Islam, Abdul Mannan, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Rahmat Ali, Dr Dipu Moni, Yafez Osman, and Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury called on Hasina yesterday.

Judiciary

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The rules are Judicial Service Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service Pay Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service (Service Constitution, Composition, Recruitment, Suspension, Dismissal and Removal) Rules 2002, and Bangladesh Judicial Service (Posting, Promotion, Leave, Control, Discipline and other Service Condition) Rules 2001. The last two rules will be made effective from July 1.

Although the gazette notification of the two rules was published earlier, it said, "This rules will be effective through government gazette notification when the Supreme Court would suggest the time to make it effective."

The SC source said although the ordinance amending the CrPc has already been promulgated through a gazette notification, it will also come into effect later following completion of necessary process.

Meanwhile, the SC on Monday directed the government to complete the process for the implementation of separation of judiciary from the executive and inform the court of its execution by July 19.

In its three-point direction, the SC asked the government for the creation of and sanction for a certain number of courts for magistrates across the country along with manpower and logistic support, allotment of courtrooms and chambers for judges, and necessary budgetary allocations.

Earlier on April 16, the Appellate Division directed the government to amend the Judicial Service Pay Commission Order within three weeks and submit it to the court by May 7.

The court on Monday accepted the amendment to the Judicial Service Pay Commission Order and the three more orders regarding judicial service and civil procedure amendments.

In its three-point direction to the ministries of law, home, finance and housing, the court said required number of courtrooms have to be constructed for the replacement of judicial magistracy in every district.

The court also directed for creating posts of assistant officials and employees and giving appointment to the posts. Justices will have to be provided with other facilities along with chambers while sufficient fund is to be allocated for the purposes.

6 robbers killed

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Trying to snatch him, Mohsin's cohorts engaged in a gunfight with the police and retreated after half an hour, leaving behind six of their fatally injured associates.

The six were rushed to Barisal SBMCH where they were declared dead and the bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsies.

Sub-inspectors Farid and Abdul Alim, assistant sub-inspector Sarwar, constables Bhaboranjana, Sadek and Nafiz, who received minor injuries, were admitted to Banaripara Upazila Health Complex.

Doctors suggested sending seriously injured OC Abdul Hye Sarkar to Dhaka immediately for better treatment.

Aminul Islam, deputy inspector general of police of Barisal range, told the journalists that police and local people were on vigil round the clock after several robberies in Banaripara, Babuganj and Uzirpur upazilas of Barisal district in recent days.

Milon Molla was a listed robber and wanted in many cases and the others were members of an inter-district gang, he added.

Local people caught a gang member Mamun Sardar of Birmahol under Nalchitty upazila while he was trying to flee at Banna village under Uzirpur upazila and

US wants govt

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On Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's return home, the spokesmen said it's positive action that the government has allowed her back into Bangladesh.

"We encourage that development. What needs to happen in Bangladesh is that this caretaker government needs to move as quickly and effectively as it can to elections so that you continue the momentum of Bangladesh democracy," he said.

McCormack said: "We are in contact with those officials who are essentially running the government right now and encouraging them to move forward with the elections."

Mamun confesses

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yesterday rejected bail petition of Tarique Rahman in connection with the general diary (GD) filed with Kafur Police Station on March 8.

Tarique's lawyers also sought bail with a sessions judge's court in connection with two extortion cases filed with Gulshan Police Station on March 27 while a special court issued arrest warrants against two prosecution witnesses of a graft case against Harris Chowdhury.

In another case, Mamun was placed on a four-day remand. The case was filed against him for extorting Tk 5 crore from local agent of Chinese Harbin Power Engineering.

Heavily guarded by police, Mamun was brought to the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah at 2:30pm where he admitted his involvement in the extortion of Tk 4.89 crore from the construction firm owner.

He told the magistrate that he alone had extorted the money on different dates from Abu Shahed Saleh, owner of construction firm 'Aclrcn', an enterprise of Reza Construction and Al-Amin Construction.

Earlier on different dates, Mamun had made confessional statements to magistrates in connection with seven other extortion cases filed with Gulshan, Kafur, Shahbagh and Dhanmondi police stations.

In the case filed by Abu Shahed Saleh with Gulshan Police Station on May 5, he complained that Mamun had extorted Tk 4.89 crore from him on different dates in cash and cheques within the period between 2004 and 2006.

He could not dare to file any case against Mamun at that time fearing reprisal. As the situation has changed recently, he has lodged the case, he said in the FIR.

GD AGAINST TARIQUE

Judge (In Charge) Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court rejected Tarique's bail petition in connection with the GD filed against him for corruption.

Earlier on March 15, Tarique's lawyers sought bail against a rejection order of the lower court on March 8.

In the GD, police mentioned that during the BNP-led alliance government's rule, Tarique along with his friends and business partners made enormous amounts of money through rampant corruption.

According to the GD, Tarique amassed a huge amount of money illegally by charging 'commissions' from people and through appointing his accomplices at Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

Moreover, he siphoned off crores of taka through manipulating tenders using his or other family members' and business partners' influence. He was also involved in shady deals involving CNG-run auto rickshaws, power plants and electric poles -- which caused huge losses to the government, reads the GD.

EXTORTION CASES AGAINST TARIQUE

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 14 for the hearing on bail petitions in two extortion cases filed against Tarique after his lawyers sought

handed him over to police on Thursday morning.

Abul Kalam Azad, OC of Uzirpur Police Station, said Mamun confessed that he was a tokal (street urchin) at Sadanghat of Dhaka and recently Mohsin lured him in joining the gang.

Under interrogation, Mamun told the names of several members of his gang including Mohsin, Ruhul Amin, Mizan and Royal, said the OC.

Claiming Milon and Titu Molla as innocent, their family members said they do not know why police raided their house and who attacked the law enforcers.

They, however, admitted that some unknown people took shelter at an abandoned room on the courtyard of their house at night.

Panic is still prevailing in the area.

All industries

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"It is not a reasonable appeal to extend the time by one year or one and a half years. You should have done it two years ago," he told the delegation expressing his annoyance.

BTMA Chairman Abdul Hye led the delegation with the plea for time extension to set up ETP at the textile mills and factories.

The adviser told the delegation that the government would not allow the environment polluting factories to meet the needs of western consumers at the cost of the nation.

Referring to his earlier meetings with other trade bodies Karim said, "I failed to find anything positive, except appeal to extend the time at successive meetings."

He asked the factory owners to set up ETP within six months to neutralise the industrial wastes.

"Why are you so greedy? If ETP seems too costly for you and you cannot afford that, you better leave the business. You don't have any right to pollute the environment and force people to live in hazardous condition," the adviser told the textile mill and factory owners.

Ex-BNP MP in Kansat sued for extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prof Shahjahan Mia, a former BNP lawmaker from Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj who was criticised for his role in the Kansat tragedy in 2006, was sued again in an extortion and fraud case on Wednesday.

Nurul Huda, a teacher of Babupur Idrisia Madrasa, lodged the case with Shibganj Police Station accusing Shahjahan and four others in connection with extorting Tk 80,000 from him.

The other accused are BNP Shibganj upazila unit Vice-president Ashraf Ali, its Secretary Ashraf Alamed Rashid, Shibganj Municipality Chairman Shamim Kabir Helim and superintendent of the madrasa Enamul Haque.

With this, Shahjahan currently has four cases filed against him.

In the case, Huda claimed that Shahjahan demanded Tk 2 lakh from him for enrolling his (Huda's) name on the madrasa's monthly payment order (MPO). Huda said he paid Tk 80,000 to Shahjahan at Ashraf Alamed's office in presence of the other accused.

Later, the ex-lawmaker insisted on getting the rest of the money and threatened to cancel the MPO, the complainant said.

Rejoinder

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by the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC).

It stated that around 25 clinics were established at the BSMMU in its time while hospital beds were increased from 750 to 1200, university departments from 31 to 37, courses from 47 to 54 and a cardiac centre was opened with four departments of cardiology, cardiac surgery, vascular surgery and cardiac anaesthesia.

The allegation that BSMMU Hospital which was established as a centre of excellence turns ordinary is not acceptable, it said.

"Teachers, doctors, nurses and other staffs have been appointed as per rules and regulations of the University. There is no basic difference between the qualities of manpower appointed in our time with those of the then Awami League government's time," said the rejoinder.

PROUREPLY

Prof Hadi did not show any evidence of updating the FCPS, MD and MS courses. He even dissolved the University Curriculum Committee. Then how is it possible to update and modernise the courses?

BMDC approval is not mandatory prior to starting a new programme such as Residency Programme, according to the deputy registrar of BMDC.

Recruitment of the teaching staff and officials was mostly politicised and 3,600 people were recruited during the last couple of years against only 1,600 posts. Violating the university rules, he along with his aides extended the time of retirement for their favourite teaching staff and officials.

He talked of establishing 25 clinics in his period. But most of those clinics had been operating before his taking the charge. Such as Stone Clinic under the Urology Department has been operating for the last eight to ten years. And it does not imply that it makes the BSMMU 'a centre of excellence.'

We did not compare the activities of BSMMU during the period of BNP-Jamaat alliance government with those during the Awami League rule. The report just showed how the activities of the administration in last five years crippled the medical university.

Nowhere in the rejoinder did Dr Hadi refute the points made in our report. We stand by our report.

EC yet to fix

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would be asked to gather at specific places for preparing the voter list," EC Secretary Humayun Kabir told the reporters at the EC conference room yesterday.

"We will settle on a methodology after getting advice from all concerned," he said.

The EC would sit with the editors of national dailies and senior journalists on May 17 and seek their opinions on the draft proposals for electoral reforms, Kabir added.

Replying to a question, the EC secretary observed that the voter list would be more acceptable and flawless if it is prepared by the army. "As they have trained manpower with computer skill, chances of duplication in the new voter list will reduce," he said.

Kabir also said that the electoral roll ordinance of 1982 as well as the electoral rules would be amended for preparing the new voter list.

Replying to another question, the EC secretary said that the controversial 302 upazila election officers would sit for examinations on May 18.

On Tuesday, President Iajuddin Ahmed invited CEC ATM Shamsul Huda and two other election commissioners to lunch at Bangabhaban and asked them to make arrangements for holding the general elections in the "shortest possible time."

The chief adviser in an address to the nation on April 12 said that the stalled polls would be held before the end of 2008.

On May 1, the EC said that they would start a pilot project regarding the new voter list within next three weeks.

NUCLEAR STANDOFF

World powers talk Iran defiance

AFP, Vienna

The United States warned Wednesday about the danger of Iran possibly withdrawing from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the world's basic agreement against the spread of nuclear weapons.

"Disturbingly, since Iran's multiple and ongoing violations of its NPT obligations have come to light, its leaders have hinted that they too are considering withdrawal" as North Korea did from the treaty in 2003, US special representative Christopher Ford told a conference of 130 nations on improving the global pact.

Ford said "withdrawal from the treaty cannot be seen as excusing prior violations or ending international efforts to take any appropriate measures to address violations committed prior to withdrawal."

He said UN-given equipment could be taken back from a state pulling out of the NPT and the state could automatically be referred to the UN Security Council, which could impose sanctions.

The conference in Vienna on the 189-nation NPT is considering ways to fix the landmark treaty, which came into effect in 1970 and which many complain has a flaw since it allows states to peacefully develop technology that can also be used to make atom bombs.

North Korea developed nuclear weapons after withdrawing from the NPT.

The United States charges that Iran is secretly developing the atomic bomb.

Although Tehran says its nuclear programme is a peaceful effort to generate electricity, it is under UN sanctions for defying a Security Council call for it to stop enriching uranium, which can be used as raw material for the bomb.

Iran has said it will honour NPT safeguards and not withdraw from the treaty, although officials have hinted a pullout could happen if the crisis escalated.

Meanwhile, senior officials from the UN Security Council permanent member nations plus Germany held talks here yesterday ahead of negotiations with Iran about its contested nuclear programme.

The meeting was the second time in a week that envoys from Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany have discussed the Iranian nuclear issue ahead of a new UN deadline of May 23 for Tehran to halt its uranium enrichment programme.

One diplomat said the six nations were set to begin work on a

third UN Security Council resolution against Iran that would expand sanctions already imposed.

The new round of UN sanctions could come after a meeting in Vienna of the UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to review Iranian compliance.

The UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency had in February 2006 found Iran in violation of NPT safeguards for hiding sensitive nuclear work.

A Western diplomat told AFP the United States had brought up the withdrawal issue Wednesday to make sure Iran could not block this being part of the official record when the conference's conclusions are drawn on its closing day Friday.

The two-week meeting, which opened April 30 has already been crippled by procedural wrangling. It is the first of a series of conferences to prepare for an overall review of the NPT in 2010.

French ambassador Jean-Francois Dobelle on Wednesday said "it may be considered that Iran is failing to comply with any of the conditions laid down in Article IV (of the NPT) for entitlement to exercise its right to nuclear energy."

Other speakers stressed the obligations of nuclear weapons states to give security guarantees to nations that forego developing atomic weapons.

"What is also required is for such states not to feel threatened by nuclear weapons," said South African ambassador Abdul Samad Minty.

"The granting of legally binding security assurances" would fulfill "the undertaking which should be given to the states that have voluntarily given up the nuclear-weapons option by becoming parties to the treaty," Minty said.

South Korean ambassador Dong-hee Chang said that since there was disagreement on such guarantees, called negative security assurances, states should strive to set up regional nuclear weapons free zones.

Meanwhile, former chief UN nuclear inspector Hans Blix told AFP here that world powers should agree to nuclear talks with Iran without imposing preconditions about Tehran's atomic work.

"You have carrots and sticks. In most cases, carrots are more effective than sticks," said Blix, who in 2002 headed a UN team tasked with conducting inspections for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Blair resigns

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allegedly orchestrated by Brown. Blair was forced to say he would step down by September this year.

Brown, 56, who shared an office with Blair when they were first elected to parliament in 1983 and who jointly reformed Labour, is a virtual certainty to become his successor.

Senior cabinet-level colleagues, including Home Secretary John Reid and the much-fancied Environment Secretary David Miliband, have ruled out standing, leaving only two token challengers from the left wing of the party.

Under the British system, the leader of the biggest party in parliament automatically becomes prime minister.

Blair is expected to endorse Brown publicly as his successor for the first time, although observers believe he could delay this until Friday.

The pair's relationship has soured over the years, particularly over Brown's perception that Blair repeatedly reneged on a 1994 deal to hand over the reins of power to him after two terms of office.

Blair will remain in office as Labour leader and prime minister

as well as a lawmaker during the campaign to succeed him.

He is due at the Group of Eight meeting in Germany and the European leaders summit in June and is expected to travel widely, including to France, the United States and Africa.

Speculation is mounting as to his future plans, which could include a possible international role such as president of the European Union, or making money on the lucrative lecture circuit, or simply writing his memoirs.

Blair's agent confirmed that Blair will stay on as a member of parliament, unless he is offered a "mammoth" international job after his resignation.

"He's not going to leave to go swanning around the United States doing lecture tours and things. That will come later," John Burton told reporters outside Trimdon Labour club.

Former Labour leader Neil Kinnock paid tribute to Blair as he prepared to make his announcement.

"The one word that has to be associated with Tony is 'winner'," he told BBC radio.

Police asked to place

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