

## Tigers on top

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occasion that Bangladesh managed a first innings lead in their 51 Test appearances.

Everything will now depend on whether the remaining batsmen, especially Zunaed and his overnight batting partner Aftab Ahmed, who accompanied him with 13 runs, can keep their composure what they did in the testing last session yesterday as it is believed that anything near to a 300-run target would be a real challenge for the visitors on a pitch which already exposed their batting in the first essay.

If the aggressive and accurate Shahadat was the hero in the first session then it was Zunaed who showed priceless temperament to make his second half-century in his third Test appearance. The tall left-hander was quick to learn from his first innings mistake by keeping away from sluggish effort and struck five boundaries in 158 balls.

Shahadat might have drawn inspiration from the presence of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed who went to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium after lunch to see the match. He stayed there from 1:00pm to 3:25pm.

On arrival at the stadium, the chief adviser was received by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali. Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and other BCB officials were also present.

South African new bowling sensation Dale Steyn once again found the Bangladesh top-order wanting with his staggering pace by removing Tamim Iqbal (2), Shahriar Nafees (16) and Habibur Bashar (2) with the scoreboard reading only 29 for three.

Captain Mohammad Ashraf

joined Zunaed to repair the damage, but Makhaya Ntini served the big blow by getting the edge of the Tigers skipper to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher to put end to the 56-run fourth wicket stand.

Like first innings Ashraf looked confident but could manage only 24 runs in 52 balls which featured a boundary and a six over deep square leg against spinner Johan Botha.

Earlier the morning indeed showed that they for the home team that they would finish on top.

The misery started for the South Africans when overnight batsman Ashwell Prince fell victim of run out in the second over of the day after they resumed the day on 76 for four and it was Shakib Al Hasan who ran from point to cover and threw the ball to wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, who made sure that the batsman's effort to go back to the crease was not good enough.

And then it was the story of Shahadat who claimed four more scalps to finish with figures of 6 for 27. But before that there was a dramatic dismissal effected by Bangladesh skipper Ashraf, who took a return catch off AB de Villiers to whom the ball reached on the second bounce.

It was however a perfect consolation for Ashraf as he dropped the same batsman off Mohammad Rafique on 30 runs at mid-off.

De Villiers, who top scored with 46, dismissal saw the tourists going for lunch on 158 for eight. And it took only 36 minutes for the home side to wrap up their opponents' innings after the lunch thanks to Shahadat, who claimed his second five-for in 14 Test matches.

## Dr Kamal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
these could not be ensured people are unlikely to get the power they deserve. It's the people who will control the state. Time has come to stamp out criminality, military and the influence of black money from the country to ensure basic rights of the people."

Dr Kamal said the historic incidents of 1952, 1954, 1966, 1969, 1971 and 1990 proved that nothing could defeat the people when they got united. "A mass upsurge is needed for meaningful change."

He said an unholy clique is still active in the country that wants simply an election counter to the expectation of the people. "We have to be aware of that unholy clique."

Emphasising the insipid quality of February 21 in the national life, the eminent jurist said like in 1952, crossing all the hurdles, unity will have to be forged for ensuring people's power.

Dr Kamal reminded the Election Commission that its constitutional duty is to protect the interests of the country's 15 crore people, not only the interests of the major political parties.

Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya said they will hold dialogue with Jono Sanghati Samity as part of his party's planned dialogue with the political parties, civil society and professional groups.

The discussion was addressed, among others by Advocate Zahurul Islam, Mofijul Islam Kamal, Abdur Rouf and Mostafa Mohsin Muntu.

## Special teams

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Mosaddique Hossain, chief veterinary officer at Central Veterinary Hospital, told The Daily Star last night.

Directed by the government to take steps to stop sales of sick chickens and non-compliance of hygiene instructions, Mosaddique formed the surveillance teams and ordered them to start working from today.

"The teams will stay at the markets as long as they remain open to keep watch whether traders maintain the hygiene instructions," he said.

The instructions include stopping sales of dead or sick chickens and use of machine while dressing slaughtered chickens, using gloves and masks, and disposing blood, feathers, skin and faeces in drums supplied by the Dhaka City Corporation.

Government officials said some unscrupulous traders are still selling sick chickens, which may spread bird flu among human beings. The poultry traders also use machine for dressing chickens after the inspection teams leave the markets, they added.

## BTTB

**FROM PAGE 16**  
him in charge of BTTB. However, the defence felt that BTTB leadership had always been headed by cadre service holders and it should remain this way," said a competent source.

"The government will ultimately have to choose from the three candidates—Ashraf Alim, Shamsul Alam or Saleh Ahmed Haqim," said a source.

The present caretaker government has been following a policy of respecting seniority in promotions and appointments in BTTB. Sources said the government is trying its best to respect this norm.

Set to emerge as a public limited company anytime soon, the position of the BTTB chairman has become a very important one in the board's history.

The BTTB's last chairman BM Moudud Chowdhury retired after serving for only 44 days. The previous chairman Anwarul Azim, who retired in December, was made chairman on the basis of seniority in May.

Another source pointed out that the government may decide on the appointment within this week.

The BTTB runs the country's land phone system, the submarine cable and associated facilities and is one of the major earners of the government. The BTTB is also a major sector of corruption and irregularities.

## Hafizuddin fears

**FROM PAGE 16**  
BBC Bangla Service in conjunction with BBC World Service Trust organised the event moderated by Kamal Ahmed of BBC Bangla Service.

Responding to a query Hafizuddin said it would not be right for the two parties to boycott the upcoming parliamentary election if the two leaders are detained in jail. All including the government has to act accordingly so that none can take advantage and delay the elections, he said.

However, Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the Awami League chief would be victorious if the trial was conducted fairly and she would be released.

He said his party will win in the upcoming elections even if it held after three months and Hasina is in jail.

"But the release of Sheikh Hasina is a vital issue in our party as enormous emotions are involved with it," he said, adding, "We want Sheikh Hasina released and a date for holding the next election."

Shimul Biswas, also a BNP leader, urged the government to release the two leaders realising the public feeling and sentiment.

Manna demanded the government send Hasina abroad for better treatment amending the jail code. He said the caretaker government would have to shoulder all the responsibilities if anything happened to her.

The former adviser said it is the council of advisers not the jail authorities who should decide in this regard.

Shimul and Shamima observed that the government could give bail

to the two party chiefs and send them abroad for treatment.

On trial of war criminals under the present regime, they suggested the caretaker government initiate the process and introduce new ordinance if necessary to enable the next government finish the job.

On price hike of essentials, Hafizuddin blamed the government for being able to control the price hike. Panellists said the government should increase wages and salaries of all employees and officials and introduce rationing system for the extremely poor.

The panellists observed there are flaws in the fertiliser distribution system.

## BSF kills

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Hasan, operations officer 41 Rifles Battalion, confirmed the killing of the two cattle traders by the Indian border guards.

BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart protesting the killing and demanding return of the bodies.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: The BSF personnel of Sonamoti camp opened fire on a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders when they reached Hetagachhi border to enter India at about 4:00am, killing Afsar and Faruk on the spot and injuring another.

The bullet-hit, Fajir, somehow managed to return home and was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Officials of 20 Rifles Battalion protested the killing through a letter sent to the BSF and demanded return of the bodies.

## Try war criminals

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Rahman was assassinated in 1975.

They criticised successive governments for not taking any initiative to try the war criminals and rather giving privileges to those who acted against the country and the nation during the Liberation War.

Sector-3 Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafulah, Bir Uttam, said the trials of war criminals are going on in 31 countries of the world. "It is possible in Bangladesh, too, and the caretaker government should start the process," he said.

The Election Commission should bar the war criminals from contesting the national elections. The political parties also should not give nomination to war criminals, Shafulah added.

Sector-4 Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, Bir Uttam, asserted that the freedom fighters will continue to raise their demand for the trial of the war criminals until it is fulfilled.

Sector-5 Commander Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Bir Uttam, said freedom fighters should stay united for the cause of the nation.

"We may have political differences, but there should be no compromise on the trial of the war criminals, which is a must to free the country from polluted politics," he said.

Sector-8 Commander Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, former minister and civil administrator of Sylhet region during the Liberation War Dewan Farid Gazi, Lt Col (ret'd) Nurunabi Khan, Bir Bikram, Sector Commanders Forum Coordinator Maj Gen (ret'd) Masudur Rahman, Dr Sarwar Ali,

Dr MA Hasan and cultural activist MHamid also spoke at the session.

Among the freedom fighters from Sylhet division, former lawmaker Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Bir Protik, Sirajul Haque, Sirajul Islam, Bir Protik, Ali Amjad, Haji Nurul Amin, Goura Prasad Roy, Badshah Mia, Hushiar Ali and Mashuk Uddin Ahmed also addressed the session chaired by district Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Subrata Chakravarty Jewel.

## Aug 21 attack

**FROM PAGE 16**  
small clues leading to vital information.

Asked whether actions will be taken against police officers for negligence in the investigation, the IGP said, "If you examine the statistics, you will see punitive actions have been taken against many senior police officials, once allegations against them were proven."

The IGP on February 18 said actions will be taken against those police personnel who will be found responsible for the flaws in the previous investigation of the grenade attack, although he added that nothing will be done until the present investigation is completed.

The grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city left 24 AL leaders and activists dead and scores injured.

During the immediate past regime of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government, investigation officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested Joj Miah who said wanted criminals Joy and Subrata Bain had orchestrated the grenade attacks.

Later, it was found that some of the CID officials, influenced by the then government, forced Joj Miah to sign on the statement.

The newly appointed investigation officials also revealed that now banned Harkat-ul Jihad Islami (Huji) was behind the attack.

## Baby burned

**FROM PAGE 16**  
4:30am and soon engulfed the tinshed house. The family was sleeping at the time.

The injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Moteleb dead.

The Fire Service and Civil Defence Department, however, said they were not aware of the incident.

## Only Jamaat

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Islami Oikya Jote expressed almost the same views as Jamaat on maintaining accounts of parties' election expenditures and collection of funds.

But the 13 other parties including Awami League and Jatiya Party, which took part in the reform talks, supported the EC's proposals to ensure accountability and transparency in collection and expenditure of election funds of parties.

Like Jamaat, Islami Oikya Jote proposed raising the ceiling of election expenditure of a candidate to Tk 25 lakh from Tk 5 lakh.

The 13 political parties however proposed that the EC take initiatives for reducing the polls expenditures.

The EC in its proposal said any individual can donate a maximum of Tk 5 lakh to a registered political party in a year and an organisation can donate Tk 25 lakh.

But Jamaat proposed raising the ceiling of donations from individuals and organisations to Tk 10 lakh from Tk 5 lakh and Tk 50 lakh from Tk 25 lakh respectively.

The EC however retained its proposals since the other parties accepted those.

## Money laundering

**FROM PAGE 1**  
In the draft, the central bank had proposed provisions allowing it to demand information from 16 types of organisations. The law ministry however believes this [authority to seek information] might end up being misapplied and hamper activities of the organisations.

In response to the ministry's opinion, the number of organisations was reduced to four. These are courier services, microcredit institutions, NGOs, and dealers and brokers of shares and securities.

The BB can fine these organisations up to Tk 5 lakh, cancel their licence and inform the authorities concerned in case of their violating the anti-money laundering ordinance.

Fahim "is a consensus builder," Mahmood said. "He would be good in a coalition and in papering over differences."

Fahim, a mild-mannered figure, served as the go-between for Musharraf and Bhutto during her eight years in exile. Fahim turned down the prime minister's post five years ago because Musharraf wanted him to cut ties to the Bhutto family.

The Pakistan People's Party once headed by assassinated ex-premier Benazir Bhutto won parliamentary elections this week following a yearlong political crisis that saw the imposition of emergency rule, the purging of the judiciary and the rounding up of hundreds of Musharraf's opponents.

Those challenges have been coupled with rising militant violence in Pakistan, especially in the northwest where al-Qaeda- and Taliban-linked militants operate. Musharraf has been a US ally in the war on terror, but his campaign against militants has further damaged his reputation among many Pakistanis who resent American influence.

## Mortars, rockets hit Iraq Green Zone

AP, Baghdad

Rockets or mortars hit the US-protected Green Zone early yesterday, just a day after powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr ordered his Mahdi Army militia to extend its cease-fire by another six months.

Nearly 10 blasts could be heard in the sprawling area along the Tigris River that houses the US and British embassies, the Iraqi government headquarters and thousands of American troops. It was not immediately clear whether there were casualties.

Maj. Brad Leighton, a US military spokesman, confirmed the Green Zone was hit by indirect fire from the military's term for a rocket or mortar attack but could not provide more details.

It was the fourth time this week that US outposts in Baghdad appeared to be the targets of rocket or mortar attacks. At least six people have been killed.

The flurry of attacks followed a substantial lull in such violence as security has increased in the capital over the last half-year.

Earlier in the week, the US military blamed Iranian-backed Shiite militias that have broken away from al-Sadr's bloc for the rocket attacks. Iran denies that it sponsors extremists in Iraq.

As the US praised al-Sadr for extending his cease-fire, it also pledged to pursue the breakaway militia.

"Those who dishonor the Sadr pledge are regrettably tarnishing both the name and the honor of the movement," it said.

The Al-Sadr cease-fire was extended until the 15th of Shaban, a reference to the Islamic month before Ramadan, which would mean mid-August.

Along with an increase in US troop levels and a move by Sunni fighters to turn against their former al-Qaida in Iraq allies, the cease-fire has been credited with reducing war deaths among Iraqis by nearly 70 percent in six months,

## Gen Moeen

**FROM PAGE 1**  
agenda, talks on a more formal bilateral mechanism to institutionalise the security relationship will also figure prominently.

Gen Moeen will be given a ceremonial guard of honour when he arrives at defence ministry headquarters at South Block in New Delhi.

Later Indian Army Chief Gen Deepak Kapoor will present him with six horses. The animals, priced at \$850,000, will be used to begin the military's equestrian sports, such as show jumping. The horses will be trucked in to the Bangladesh border and handed over to the authorities here.

The two sides are also likely to discuss the Dhaka-Kolkata rail link that has been stalled for over a year now due to disputes over security measures on the border. Border security will also come up in meetings.

Indo-Bangla relations have warmed up over the last year since the caretaker government took charge in January in 2007. Indian assistance in post-Sidr rehabilitation and reconstruction and greater trade have also boosted confidence between the countries.

BCC mayor Awlad Hossain Dilu, and Barisal metropolitan Police Commissioner Khan Sayed Hassan, among others, were present during the culling.

The sources said Tk 80 would be given to the owners as compensation for each culled fowl.

At least 1269 domestic fowls were culled at 132 houses at Sarbamongola village of Baliadangi upazila yesterday, reported our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Besides, 329 eggs were destroyed.

Deputy Director of Livestock Directorate Bimol Chandra said they collected samples of some dead domestic chickens from the house of Abul Kalam at Sarbamongola village a few days back and sent to the regional research centre in Jyppurhat and BLRI at Savar.

They received the report on Friday evening which confirmed that the fowls were infected with avian influenza.

District and upazila livestock officials with the help of local administration culled the fowls.

according to figures compiled by The Associated Press.

Extending it has several advantages for al-Sadr, who launched two major uprisings against coalition forces in 2004.

It enables al-Sadr to present himself as a shrewd political figure interested in reducing violence for all Iraqis and perhaps as a more popular alternative to the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, the country's largest Shiite party and a U.S. partner. It also makes al-Sadr a player that the US must handle respectfully while he keeps the peace.

Al-Sadr's announcement came two years to the day since the bombing of a revered Shiite mosque in Samarra that unleashed Mahdi Army fury. Most Iraqis are now loathe to return to the worst days of sectarian violence when the monthly body count sometimes topped 3,000.

Separately, the head of the Iraqi Journalists Union was shot and wounded Saturday. Union chief Shihab al-Timimi was attacked by gunmen as he was being driven to an art gallery in Waziriya, near central Baghdad, police and union officials said. He had just left the nearby union headquarters.

AP Television News footage showed him with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the chest and bandaged shoulders and arms. Al-Timimi, who is in his mid-70s, was elected president of the union in 2004.

A boat carrying 11 Shiites to the holy city of Karbala overturned in the Tigris river and six people drowned, police said. The pilgrims were headed to Karbala for Arbaceen, which marks the 40th day following the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, one Shiism's major figures who is buried there.

## 26,000 more

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Sources said the fowls were culled at different poultry farms and houses in a one-kilometre area stretching from Thana Council to Islam Para in the city after a test report confirmed that those were infected with bird flu.

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## Opponents vow

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Local media reported Saturday that Musharraf and the United States were pushing the PPP and their partner, the Pakistan Muslim League-N led by former premier Nawaz Sharif, to work with the president rather than try to remove him.

PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar told AFP that Bhutto's widow and party leader Asif Ali Zardari had met the US envoy in Islamabad.

"Co-chairman Zardari has met the US envoy twice and I do not think there is any pressure on us," he told AFP. "They want to know what is going to be the shape of things."

A spokesman for Sharif's party told AFP that pressure from "certain quarters" -- which he did not name -- would not be helpful to democracy.

"There are a lot of conspiracies and a lot of pressure but such tactics are against Pakistan's interest and against the nation's verdict which it gave on February 18," Siddiqui Farooq said.

Supporters of key US ally President Pervez Musharraf vowed not to obstruct the coalition.

The two biggest parties to emerge after Monday's parliamentary election have been weighing their choice for premier after agreeing to form a coalition.

Pro-Musharraf party leaders met in Islamabad on Saturday for the first time since their electoral defeat.

"We will play a constructive, positive, vibrant and active role in opposition and will not obstruct the working of the new government," said Mushahid Hussain, secretary general of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q.

## Demand for poll date

**FROM PAGE 1**  
on January 12 announced an immediate initiation of steps for holding dialogues with the political parties. But later the government said it will begin its talks only after the EC's is wrapped up.

Under the circumstances, the possibility of forging an understanding between the government and the political parties through the talks is diminishing fast, as the EC's deadline to the government for deciding the fate of the state of emergency and for countrywide lifting of the restrictions on indoor politics is coming near.

The EC at a meeting with the chief adviser on February 4 set the end of March as the deadline for lifting the restrictions on indoor politics countrywide, so the political parties may resume their activities for bringing necessary organisational reforms for being eligible for registration with the commission.

The EC also asked the government to decide by early next month whether the state of emergency will be lifted or relaxed to create an environment conducive to holding the long due polls to four city corporations and seven municipalities in April.

But it is still not clear how the government will respond to the EC's requests, which is triggering a public confusion prompting many to wonder whether the disconnect is similar to an early non-cooperation of the same military backed caretaker government with the commission, on the matter of lifting the ban on indoor politics.

CEC ATM Shamsul Huda on April 4 of last year, at a meeting with the then law adviser, asked the interim government to immediately lift the restrictions on indoor politics to facilitate the EC's plan for holding electoral reform talks with the parties.

The government took until September 10 to respond to the EC's urgent request, with relaxing of the ban on a limited scale only in the capital. Taking whatever it could gain, the EC began the first round of talks on September 12.

The commission however could not complete the first round of talks by November of last year in line with its electoral roadmap announced on July 15 of the same year, due to the hanging BNP issue.

The failure also delayed bringing of amendments to electoral laws by February of this year, as stipulated in the roadmap.

Meanwhile, the political parties are planning to raise some crucial issues at the second round of talks including the issues of lifting the state of emergency and of expediting the process of voter listing.

On the second day of the talks with EC tomorrow, Awami League and the Communist Party of Bangladesh are scheduled to sit with the commission.

Since its reconstitution on February 4 of last year, the EC initiated a massive campaign for reforming the electoral law. On April 5 it announced a set of electoral reform proposals.

During the second round of

talks both sides will discuss some of the reform proposals that had not been settled in the first round.

Once the proposals are finalised, the EC will send those to the caretaker government for making them into laws for holding the stalled ninth parliamentary election.

When the proposals will be made into laws, the political parties intending to contest the next parliamentary polls will have to be registered with the EC, as the proposed reform makes it mandatory for the parties to get registered with the commission in order to be eligible to contest the polls.

According to the EC's electoral roadmap, the political parties' registrations must be completed by June of this year through meeting a set of proposed criteria, for which most of the political parties will have to hold their national councils and elect new leadership after amending their constitutions.

And for the parties to be able to hold their national councils, restrictions on indoor politics must be lifted countrywide allowing them to resume their political activities.

UNB adds: Awami League (AL) is expected to place its demands for announcement of election schedule and lifting the ban on indoor politics across the country at the second round of talks with the Election Commission's scheduled for tomorrow.

"Issues like the release of Sheikh Hasina and his treatment may also come up at the discussion," Acting AL General secretary Syed Ashraf Islam told reporters after a meeting of its working committee yesterday.

The meeting was held at the AL president's office in Dhahamondi in indoor politics to facilitate the EC's plan for holding electoral reform talks with the parties.

The Election Commission is going to open its second round of dialogue with the political parties today. On the first day, the commission will sit with Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh.