

Shakib scripts historic win

Congratulations pour in; Tk 1.5 crore bonus declared

AGENCIES, St George's/Dhaka

Bangladesh stand-in captain Shakib Al Hasan led from the front with an unbeaten 96 as his side beat the West Indies in the second and final Test at the National Stadium in Grenada on Monday and he declared the 2-0 series win was the biggest thing for the cricket-crazy nation in nine years.

Shakib hit the winning runs in style with a six to seal a first ever series win away from home -- admittedly against a weakened and inexperienced West Indies side after the senior players boycotted the series over a pay dispute -- and the first time they have won two successive Tests.

The victory achieved at dawn in Bangladesh time was greeted with joy. President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message thanked the Tigers for achieving the first-ever overseas series triumph and hoped that the cricketers would bring more success in future. Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia also congratulated the team terming the success a result of hard work and dedication. Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid also felicitated the members of the national team.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board announced a fat purse of Taka 1.5 crore as bonus, 20 lakh more than the promised amount, for winning the Test series.

Back to the exciting match that kept the sleepless millions at home glued to TV sets, Shakib and Rokibul Hasan made 65 -- both career bests -- to set things up for the Tigers, as they successfully chased 215 for victory to win by four wickets and claim only their second ever series win.

"In our nine years, this is the biggest thing that has happened to Bangladesh cricket," said Shakib, who also hit 13 fours in his 97-ball innings in a little over 2-1/2 hours to make him a shoe-in for the man-of-the-match award.

"This series victory will give a boost to our confidence, and will help to take us to the next level, and with God's help, we shall go forward." There was not too much pressure on us

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Bangladesh stand-in captain Shakib Al Hasan holds the DigiTel Trophy during the presentation ceremony in Grenada Monday.

Mansur Ali wanted by US too

KAILASH SARKAR

Detained Indian national and Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Moulana Mohammad Mansur Ali is on two lists prepared by the intelligence agencies of India and the US for his involvement in militancy, sources said.

According to sources, Mansur's position is 16th on the list prepared by the US. A total of 280 names of militants who took part in the wars in Afghanistan and Kashmir are on the US list while another 77 militants on the Indian list.

DB sources said they have

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Another Lashkar man captured

The Indian national linked to attack on American Centre in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police has arrested another Indian national linked to Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the capital.

The arrestee, Moulana Mohammad Mansur Ali, was also an organiser of Asif Reza Commando Force, the terrorist outfit responsible for the attack



Mansur Ali

on American Centre in Kolkata on January 22, 2002.

DB police claim they made the arrest swooping on a madrasa in Dakkhin Khan area on Monday night.

They carried out the raid following up information gleaned from Mufti Obaidullah, an Indian and LeT operative captured in Dhaka recently.

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Brutality beats the beast

Strapping to tree, eyes of BNP man gouged out

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Misceants gouged out eyes of a BNP activist strapping him to a tree on Aditmari Degree College campus Monday.

The victim is Abdus Samad, 40, son of late Kismat Ali, of

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Jalil resigns

The out-of-favour AL general secretary says he had no alternative

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Just three days ahead of ruling Awami League's national council, its General Secretary Abul Jalil resigned yesterday alleging that he was not being allowed to function as the party's general secretary.

"I am resigning today from

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Panchagarh abuzz with skygazers

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Panchagarh

The small, quiet northern town of Panchagarh makes history today, hosting thousands of tourists and astrologers from home and abroad who have gathered here to watch the full solar eclipse.

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PM wants ties with India to thrive on trade

Tells Indian business team Dhaka wants rerun of cross-border train service

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is interested to reopen the cross-border railways, abandoned following the 1965 India-Pakistan war, for stronger connectivity between Bangladesh and India in the fields of trade, investment and people-to-people contacts.

She also sought Indian cooperation so that Bangladesh can transact trade and business through Banglabandh and Burimari land port routes with Nepal and Bhutan.

The PM made the remarks when a 50-member business delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) led by its vice-president Harsh C Mariwala had a meeting with her at the prime ministers office yesterday.

Hasina disclosed that she already has contacted Indian Minister for Railways Mamata Banerjee about the re-run of trains along the derelict rails.

Besides, the government will take immediate effective steps to modernise the intra-country railways for communications up to the present day standards, she said.

"I have also seen the rail budget of your country (India). You have expertise in the sector of railway communications. We need your help in this regard," she told the business leaders.

The PM informed the delegation that all land ports located on

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