

India walk away

FROM PAGE 16

Dhoni opted to field. Bangladesh lost half their batting within 24 overs with the score yet to reach three digits.

Imrul Kayes was the first to fall as he slashed at a wider delivery from Sudeep Tyagi, after hitting two boundaries in the previous over. Mohammad Ashraful tried an expansive drive off Shanthakumaran Sreesanth that hit his boot and into the stumps. Tamim Iqbal's sedate knock of 17 came to an end when he came down the pitch against Nehra but holed out to a well-taken catch by Tyagi at mid-off. Unfortunate was the way Rokibul Hasan went, had backed up a bit too much to return when Yuvraj Singh cleverly caught him short off his crease. The softest dismissal was that of Mushfiqur Rahim's, as he chipped one to Suresh Raina at cover off the bowling of part-time spinner Yuvraj.

Much needed consolidation came in the form of Shakib and Mahmudullah. Mahmudullah, the most consistent of the Bangladesh batters in the tournament, kept his touch and calm to keep the scoreboard ticking. Both the batsmen started pretty slowly and picked up the odd boundaries when opportunity came. As they entered the last 15 overs, both started to let loose. Shakib was playing outrageous shots, playing the pull shots with utmost ease. His massive slog-six against Ravindra Jadeja was probably the shot

DMCH

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Salma that she had travelled from a distant part of the country and had nowhere to stay that evening.

Salma, who had been admitted to DMCH with financial assistance from Brac, said, "I gave her a place to stay beside me but I could not sleep that night."

"Eventually I fell asleep around 8:00am and when I woke up I could not find my baby."

"The woman and her bag had disappeared too."

"When I asked the patient beside me what happened, she said that the woman told her she was my sister-in-law and that she was taking the baby."

Salma lodged a complaint with the DMCH authorities and DMCH police camp, who informed Shahbagh police station yesterday evening.

The woman and baby not being found by the time this report was filed at 7:30pm yesterday.

DMCH sources said that the last time a baby was stolen from the hospital was seven years ago and that security had been tightened after a past string of kidnappings.

Four female security guards were on duty in the ward when this incident took place.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezau Karim told The Daily Star that a ward master of the DMCH informed the police verbally and would lodge a case at night.

BNP for trial

FROM PAGE 16

make any remark about the role of former president Iajuddin Ahmed who had declared the state of emergency on January 11, 2007.

"With the help of some foreign forces few ambitious army officials implemented the conspiracy. The GOC of the 9 division was the commander. In presence of the army chief, a signature was taken from the president at gunpoint on January 11, 2007," Delwar said adding that later it was aired on TV channels that the president had resigned from the post of the caretaker government, and a new advisory council had taken oath. He claimed all of it was absolutely unconstitutional.

He said, "The army which is responsible for protecting our sovereignty became a part of the conspiracy, and it was unfortunate that the intelligence was divided."

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now sheltering the players of 1/11, and that proves they have been having connections since back then.

"The organisers of 1/11, and the prime minister who publicly announced that she would ratify all moves by the unconstitutional government, both should be brought to trial."

Party Standing Committee

Changes in CrPC
FROM PAGE 1
parliamentary affairs ministry for scrutiny. It was asked to submit report in two weeks.

The parliament earlier resumed sitting after a six-day recess without participation of the main opposition lawmakers.

The House held a discussion on a thanks-giving motion on the president's address.

Chief Whip of Treasury Bench Abdus Shahid placed the motion and Whip ASM Feroz seconded it.

President Zillur Rahman on January 4 addressed the inaugural sitting of the fourth session.

The parliamentarians at the discussion urged the lawmakers of the main opposition BNP to return to the House.

They also appreciated the government's performance in the last one year. The lawmakers also mentioned various problems in their localities and urged the ministers concerned to address them.

Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder pointed out the ongoing gas crisis in different parts of the capital and called upon the authorities concerned to take measures to solve it.

30 RMG units
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days they had been requesting the authorities to introduce lunch and conveyance bills of Tk 500 and Tk 300 monthly for each worker. They also pressed for encashment of their casual leaves, but the authorities did not respond.

Rabeya Begum, an agitating worker, told reporters that the workers of the three factories reached their workplace around 7:30am and began demonstrating when the authorities denied fulfilling their demands.

The Indian finance minister said he conveyed to Hasina India's appreciation of her role in restoring democracy in Bangladesh.

The workers staged demonstrations in the area, threw bricks and stones at the law enforcers, who resorted to charging truncheon to disperse the demonstrators, police said.

Ashulia police said they had brought the situation under control around 10:00am and removed the barricade from the road.

Contacted Ashulia Police Station OC Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that the workers shut the doors of the factories and took to the streets while a discussion between their leaders and the factory authorities was being held over a pay hike.

Admitting the incident Envoy Group chairman Kutubuddin Ahmed said the garment workers had demonstrated pressing for encashment of their leaves, which they did not enjoy.

Kutubuddin however said they would start disbursing the encashment bills from February.

Hasina wants
FROM PAGE 1
used for terrorist activities against any country in the neighbourhood or around the world."

On counter-terrorism, the Bangladesh premier said, "I can give you this assurance that Bangladesh is committed to eliminating all forms of terrorism from within its territory."

At the banquet, Hasina stressed better connectivity in South Asia as it would "open a new era of economic activities, benefiting all countries" in the region. Her discussion on the subject was "extremely fruitful," she added.

"Commendable progress was made on long-pending issues, particularly on land boundary," Hasina said.

She invited Manmohan Singh to visit Bangladesh at the earliest to "consolidate mutual gains".

Hasina said the relation between Bangladesh and India has its root in the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 "under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and with support of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, her government and the people of India".

"The blood of over 18,000 valiant Indians mingled with that of millions of our own", she said in the banquet speech.

She said the spontaneous visit by Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna to Dhaka in February last year indicated the level of importance India attached to her relation with Bangladesh and "the quality of our relation".

Hasina's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad later at a press briefing told reporters that the visiting Prime Minister told Indian leaders that democracy in the two countries would help keep terrorism at bay.

He said Indian leaders had appreciated the struggle and leadership of Hasina for restoring democracy in Bangladesh.

General David Petraeus, the head of US Central Command, which oversees a region encompassing the Middle East, the Gulf, the Horn of Africa and

the Indian Ocean.

Central Asia, welcomed Yemen's desire to tackle extremists on its own.

"We would always want a host nation to deal with a problem itself. We want to help. We're providing assistance," he told CNN after returning from a trip to Yemen during which he held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Petraeus said Washington planned to more than double its economic aid to Yemen this year to 150 million dollars or more, up from 70 million last year. But US officials have insisted the total aid amount has not yet been determined.

Though the figure pales in comparison to the billions of dollars Washington has poured into Afghanistan, the general stressed other allies were providing aid, including Saudi Arabia, which has reportedly allocated two billion dollars, and the United Arab Emirates, which pledged 650 million dollars to Sanaa.

Washington has urged Yemen to crack down on al-Qaeda but Sanaa already faces a litany of challenges, including a Shia rebellion in the north, a movement for autonomy in the south, an economic crisis aggravated by dwindling oil reserves and a water shortage.

And President Saleh said, in remarks broadcast Sunday, that he is open to dialogue with militants.

"If al-Qaeda lay down their arms, renounce violence and terrorism and return to wisdom, we are prepared to deal with them," Saleh told Abu Dhabi TV.

Obama said the message his administration sends to Muslim communities around the world was "extraordinarily important."

"We can't return to sort of a garrison-state notion that we're just going to hunker down and this is only an issue of firepower and boots on the ground," he added.

A thinly stretched US military has deployed large troop contingents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The number of US troops in Afghanistan -- where Obama has vowed to focus his war against al-Qaeda militants who have also sought refuge in neighbouring Pakistan -- is set to triple under his watch from 2008 levels, reaching some 100,000 later this year.

Somalia is also the focus of US counterterrorism efforts, where an embattled transitional government faces relentless attacks from extremist Shebab militants and their Hezbal-Islam allies.

The central government asserts little control over the country located along key shipping routes to oil fields in the Middle East, with pirates now swarming the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Bangladesh to seek

FROM PAGE 16

Sources said the visit is important because the malpractices could be checked then through strengthening diplomatic relations and disciplining the recruitment process.

Mosharrif Hossain said the migration cost to go to Libya is over Tk 2 lakh. "If our workers pay that high cost, they cannot serve better, because then they will be trying to do extra jobs."

"This is a matter of mutual interest, because they need better services and Bangladesh has the human resources. So, things should be dealt accordingly," he told The Daily Star.

Khorshed Alam Chowdhury, director general of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training and also a member of the delegation said they had reports that some Bangladeshi workers went to Libya illegally. These contributed to the troublesome situation for Bangladeshi workers, he noted.

"As Libya is a prospective market, we don't want to lose it as has been the case with Malaysia and want to intervene at the earliest possible time," he said.

The main problem in Malaysia was surplus workers hired by the brokers. But once they arrived, they were not provided jobs or were forced to work without pay or very small pays or on confined for months.

Duty-free
FROM PAGE 1
assumed power in Bangladesh while a Congress-led government is also in power in India.

Mukherjee hoped that cooperation between the two countries would be strengthened further.

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CID wants

FROM PAGE 16

grenade attack cases, submitted a petition seeking permission to interrogate OC Rafiqul about the attacks on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue.

The court will pass order today on the petition.

Suspended OC Rafiqul, also an accused in the killing of college student Kamrul Islam Momin, was sent to jail after he surrendered and sought bail in the case on October 16, 2005.

In the petition, Akond said Rafiqul needs to be quizzed as he was the OC of Motijheel Police Station when the deadly attack took place on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

On August 3 last year, a Dhaka court ordered the inspector general of police to reinvestigate the cases and submit reports in two months after identifying the persons who had procured and supplied the grenades used in the attack.

Twenty-three AL leaders and workers were killed and over 300 maimed in the incident.

AL President Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack.

Following the fresh probe, detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, BNP leader Arifur Islam Arif, Islamic Democratic Party leader Moulana Sheikh Abdus Salam and pro-Pakistani militant group Hizbul Mujahideen leader Abdul Majid Butt were earlier shown arrested.

They were also remanded for several times.

Of them, Moulana Salam and Majid Butt had earlier given confessional statements before magistrates on separate dates.

The previous IO had pressed charges against 22 people including BNP leader and former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and Harkatul Jihad chief Mufti Abdul Hannan.

Criminals
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The agreements inked are titled Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Combating International Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

The one on transfer of convicted persons would allow those convicted of criminal offences to serve their sentences in their own country if they want.

Anyone condemned to death however will not get this opportunity.

If similar agreement existed with a third country, Bangladesh and India will provide transit facility for extradition of sentenced persons, said officials.

The agreement on combating international terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking is the bilateral implementation of a protocol under Saarc.

It says if terrorist activities are perpetrated in and against India and Bangladesh, the two countries can exchange intelligence and general information.

The MoU on power was signed for import and export of electricity to the tune of over 900 million units per annum, depending on availability, need and price.

Under this, the Power Development Board will buy electricity from India at a price to be agreed upon by the two parties, said officials sources.

The neighbours also signed an MoU on cultural exchange under which they would jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

This apart, Hasina and Singh discussed issues relating to the 6.1-km undermarked stretch of the 4,096-km border, "enclaves" and "adverse possessions" (pockets in each country where nationals of the other one are residing).

MANMOHAN'S SPEECH
Later, the Indian prime minister

Robber killed
FROM PAGE 16
robbers started shooting at them, resulting in a gunfight.

After a 15-minute long gunfight, the criminals fled the scene leaving bullet-hit Khalil and Abul Hossain, the CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, on the spot, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Hathazari) Babul Akter.

The injured were taken to Hathazari upazila health complex and later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Khalil succumbed to his injuries around 4:00am, said ASP Babul. His body was sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, police recovered six local firearms, 33 cartridges, a grill cutter and some equipment they use in robbery from the auto-rickshaws. Two cases were filed with the Hathazari Police Station in this connection.

Police said Khalil was kinglypin of recent robberies in the upazilas and was wanted in over 15 cases with robberies at Rauzan, Rangunia, Hathazari, Patiya, Boalkhali and city's Chandgaon police stations.

Khalil was also involved in the killing of Wasa office assistant Siddique Ahmed after a robbery at Boalkhali on December 14 last year.

Terming Chittagong a robbery-prone area, SP Morshed said a total of 72 incidents of robbery took place in 2009 while 49 incidents in 2008. A total of 388 robbers were arrested and of them, 266 robbers gave confessional statements under section 164 in 2009. He claimed they nabbed most of the ringleaders of robbers and the incidents of robbery have been fewer now.

Tension arose at Proshika Bhaban in Mirpur on Sunday as police were deployed in the morning to help Qazi Faruque enter the building. Proshika staff locked the main entrance of the head office after they had known that Faruque might return to the office.

Last year, the governing body of Proshika removed Qazi Faruque and appointed Abdulwadud as its chairman.

FROM PAGE 1
the building during the attack.

Pallabi Police Station OC Iqbal Hossain said a group of people entered the Proshika Bhaban in the early hours of today, beat the people who were inside and drive them away.

On information, police rushed to the spot but could not enter the building as the group kept closed the main gate.

"I don't know actually which group they belong to," Iqbal Hossain said adding we are trying to drive away the trespassers.

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Six foreign troops killed in Afghan fighting

AP, Kabul

Six Nato service members, including three Americans, were killed Monday in Afghanistan, making it the deadliest day for the international force in more than two months.

The violence underscored warnings that casualties will increase as more foreign troops stream into the country and step up the fighting against the Taliban.

The Americans died in a firefight with militants during an "operational patrol" in southern Afghanistan, US military spokesman Col Wayne Shanks said. He declined to provide on the exact location of the clash or their branch of service pending notification of family members.

The deaths raised to at least 10 the number of US service members killed in Afghanistan so far this year, according to an Associated Press tally.

The French officer was killed during a joint patrol with Afghan troops in Alasay, a valley largely under insurgent control that Nato is trying to reclaim. Another French service member was seriously wounded in the attack some 80km northeast of Kabul. There were eight French troops in the patrol, said spokesman Col Jacky Fouquereau.

Nato said another service member was killed in the clash but did not release the nationality. It said a sixth service member was killed by a roadside bomb in the south.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose country has lost 37 troops in Afghanistan since 2001, condemned what he called "blind violence" and expressed his determination to keep his country's forces in the country.

The previous deadliest day for foreign forces was October 27 when eight US troops were killed. Seven CIA agents and a Jordanian intelligence officer also were killed by a suicide bomber on December 30.

The year has gotten off to a particularly bloody start for the Nato-led force; last week, four Americans and one British service member were killed in a single day.

Officials said earlier Monday that bombs killed another American service member and two Afghan road construction workers in separate attacks Sunday in southern Afghanistan.

The southern half of the country, the Taliban heartland, has frequently been hit by attacks as the US military builds up its presence in the area. Most of the 30,000 additional American troops that President Barack Obama has ordered to Afghanistan will be deployed there.

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1

ter hosted a banquet in honour of Hasina.

In his speech, he warmly praised his Bangladesh counterpart, saying her life is an inspiration to those who cherish freedom and independence.

He said, "We admire your courage and conviction and your unwavering belief in the principles you uphold, for which you have personally sacrificed so much."

Assuring Hasina that relations with Bangladesh were the "highest priority" for his country, he said there was very little that divided the two nations and much that united them.

Bangladesh has strong democratic and cultural traditions and led the way in South Asia in important areas of human development.

"We meet today as two vibrant and equal democracies that share common values and common goals," he continued.

"The links between us extend to every aspect of human life, be it social, economic, cultural, intellectual or political."

He said, "India stands ready to be a full and equal partner in the realisation of your vision of social change and economic development for Bangladesh."

"India seeks to build a new future with Bangladesh. The time has come to chart a new path. We are ready to pursue a bold vision for our relations, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit."

"Our two peoples want peace, security and prosperity. We should move forward to achieve these common goals for ourselves and for all the people of South Asia."

Manmohan hoped Hasina's visit would "open a new chapter in India-Bangladesh relations."

"We have finalised several initiatives to build a true partnership of friendship and cooperation."

"We have agreed on the importance of showing sensitivity to each other's concerns. We have agreed to cooperate in meeting the common challenges of climate change, and assuring food, water and energy security to our peoples."

The Indian prime minister observed that the countries are fortunate to have produced some of the finest writers, scholars and artists. "The works of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam have inspired generations of people. This is a unique asset which binds our people, and which we must preserve."

Referring to Hasina's visit, he said India was delighted that the first state visit of the new year was by a "valued friend and close neighbour".

Earlier in the day, the Bangladeshi prime minister who began her official visit here Sunday, met Indian President Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj.