

Idea Cup

FROM PAGE 16
eventually prevailed over a youthful Raina effort when Mahela Jayawardene played a masterly knock of 71 not out despite wickets falling around him at regular intervals.

In a final where bowlers proved the doubters, who believe that in the modern day 50-over game with the addition of the T20 the bowlers have little to do to change the fate of the match, wrong as both sides' bowlers showed that they could play the role only if they got some assistance from the surface.

Despite India set a target of 246 runs for the Lankans, it was no way a one-sided affair rather there were full of excitement for some 10,000-crowd who braved the chilly weather to watch the two big guns fight.

It would be unfair to say that the Lankans won the battle by winning the toss only because one can't take away the intelligent efforts of their two new ball bowlers Nuwan Kulasekara (4-48) and Chanaka Welegedara (3-53) who actually laid the foundation by mesmerising the vaunted Indian batting line-up. Kulasekara was later adjudged man-of-the-final for rattling up the Indian top-order.

Raina's third one-day century, first against any top-ranked opponents, may have sung the eulogy of youth in the Indian side but it was not good enough for them to put on a challenging total.

Ashish Nehra gave India a perfect start when the left-arm pacer got the edge of inform Upul Tharanga in the third ball of the innings, but he had to leave the field after bowling his second ball in the second over with groin problem.

Captain Sangakkara (55) joined Tillakaratne Dilshan (49) to steady the ship by making 92 runs for the second wicket, but the dismissals of the two inform batsmen revived the hope of the Indians but only to be denied by an ever-alert Jayawardene, who struck five fours in his 81-ball vigil.

Earlier left-handed Raina

almost single-handedly rescued India from a complete embarrassment in company with Ravindra Jadeja, who played the perfect foil at the other end in a 106-run sixth-wicket stand.

Lanka's two new-ball bowlers exploited the condition brilliantly and they cashed in on the extra bounce of the pitch. Indian top-order's approach to kill the bowlers' as much as you can simply backfired.

Right-arm pacer Kulasekara started the carnage by removing Gautam Gambhir for a duck, a silly dismissal as the left-hander missed on the flick and the ball hit the thigh pad and rebounded on to the leg stump. Left-arm pacer Welegedara struck in the very next over by picking up the wicket of inform Virat Kohli.

It was a poor dismissal for young Kohli as the right-hander unnecessarily cut away a wide delivery only to reach the safe hands of keeper Sangakkara.

In came Yuvraj Singh who on many occasions rescued India from disasters but this time he had to finish a tournament with a forlorn face. His innings lasted only three deliveries. Yet to open his account, Yuvraj chased a rising delivery from Welegedara only to give an edge to Thilan Samaraweera who took a good catch at second slip.

Captain cool MS Dhoni faced the same fate and this time the bowler was Kulasekara. With the wickets falling like ninepins at the one end, Virender Sehwag kept on playing his natural game. But Kulasekara made sure that the dangerman could not take his innings too far. Sehwag chipped the ball but failed to clear the slip squadron where Sangakkara took a simple catch to put an end to the right-hander's 27-ball 42 that contained seven sweetly timed boundaries.

Raina then anchored the innings during his 115-ball 106 that featured ten fours and a six to take his team to a respectable position while Jadeja added 38 off 64 balls.

Rab HQ

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between a Rab personnel and a student of the university.

The Rab-2 authorities have closed Sub-inspector Mohammad Raju in the face of the siege by agitating students demanding punishment to the SI.

Witnesses said SI Raju and Saleh Ibne Farhad, a student of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, locked into an argument as Saleh allegedly behaved badly with a waiter of a restaurant at Argaragon Pucca Market around 10:00am.

Locals said Saleh and one of his fellow students rebuked the waiter as he delayed serving breakfast. A protest from SI Raju, who was having breakfast with two of his colleagues in plain clothes at the next table, ensued the scuffle.

At one stage the SI pointed his service arms at Saleh's head. As the news spread over cellphone several hundred students of the university thronged the spot. Rab officials nearby also rushed there immediately, added the witnesses.

The agitating students then laid siege to the battalion headquarters of Rab-2 around 10:30am. The siege was lifted around noon as high officials of Rab assured the students of punitive measures against the SI, said the students.

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City struck

FROM PAGE 1
move for hours ignoring traffic lights."

Shahana and Yiasmin said their vehicle was stuck on the flyover and they saw random processions go by under the flyover making the traffic system there fall to pieces.

Mohammad Liton, who started from airport at 3:19pm and reached Farmgate at 5:40pm, said, "Thousands of ruling-party men carrying festoons and banners were heading towards the airport and motorcades were leading those processions."

"Several hundred vehicles got stranded," Liton said, adding, "The ruling-party men with ribbons on their heads were seen standing along the streets obstructing traffic and pedestrians."

He claimed that since the processions were of ruling-party men, the law enforcers were seen busy making way for the motorcades and processions halting traffic altogether.

According to witnesses, vehicular movement on almost all major streets came to a stand still due to the motorcades and processions brought out by the ruling party men.

Motorbike rider Morshed Ali, barely able to suppress his anger, told The Daily Star, "I started from Sadarghat around 3:00pm and it took me over two and a half hours to reach work at Karwan Bazar."

"It usually takes no more than 20 minutes on a bike but the processions wasted hours of my day," he said. Seeking anonymity, several traffic policemen on duty said they had to follow the orders of "higher authorities".

They said the traffic situation got worse as they had to make way for the motorcades, processions and the prime minister's motorcade.

Boro irrigation

FROM PAGE 16
will be strengthened further.

Replying to a query, Towfique-Elahi Chowdhury, the premier's adviser on power and energy, said there was no government announcement that farmers have to buy transformers to get electricity connections.

The government has a stock of 14 lakh tonnes of diesel against a demand of 11 lakh tonnes for operating pumps during Boro season, power ministry officials told the meeting.

State Minister for Energy and Power Brig Gen (ret'd) Enamul Huq was also present.

11 children

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that they are active members of the gang and trafficked children in the name of getting them admitted into different educational institutions.

Police said though the traffickers brought 33 children from Thanchi area, it could not be known where the other children were kept.

A child named Nuni Tripura, 8, said they were taken away from different villages in Thanchi upazila in the name of admitting them in Adarsha Madina School in Dhaka.

Police rescued 17 children in similar raids last year.

PM defends

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work. But if we still face any problem, we can think of extradition treaty. Discussions are on with India on the extradition treaty."

She said terrorism knows no boundary, adding, "Many of our criminals are hiding in India, and I have asked India to hand them over to us."

Asked if Bangladesh would hand over to India Ulfa leader Anup Chetia, she said, "I am not here to discuss any individual name."

Hasina said she understands how people suffer from terrorism as she herself was a victim of a terror attack in August 2004, and before that she had lost a lot of her family in another deadly attack on them.

"We feel we can tackle terrorism if all South Asian countries work together. No kind of terror can be condoned," she said.

Pointing out that Islam is a religion of peace and does not allow any kind of terror, Hasina said those who are indulging in terror activities in the name of religion are bringing a bad name to it. "Terrorists have no religion," she added.

She said she had clearly stated that Bangladesh will not allow its territory to be used for any kind of terror activities against any country. "Our two countries should cooperate with each other to tackle terror."

Asked about Bangladesh allowing India to use Chittagong and Mongla ports and also transit, Hasina said, "In the present day world you cannot live with doors closed," and that the issue of transit should be seen in the context of regional cooperation in connectivity.

She also said, "We will allow Nepal and Bhutan to use those ports."

When asked, what assurance she has got from India on Tipaimukh dam on the Barak river, Hasina said, "The Indian prime minister has repeatedly said that India would not do anything that harms Bangladesh's interest. And if he is repeatedly saying that, I have to believe in that."

Then she went on to add, "What can I say on a project when there is nothing on the ground? I don't understand why there is such a storm over something which does not exist there."

On Bangladesh's concerns over trade gap with India, she said discussions were held on how to increase Bangladesh's exports to India.

When an Indian journalist said there are 'anti-India sentiments in certain quarters' in Bangladesh, Hasina replied, "There will be anti-India sentiments. I cannot change that. But if the common people are benefiting from relations with India, then this anti-India sentiment would not work."

"Some quarters will continue to use anti-India sentiments. You cannot do anything about it. It will continue," she said.

Asked about sharing the water of common rivers, Hasina said there had been no talk between Bangladesh and India on the matter since 2002, and things started to move forward only after her government had come back to power in January 2009.

Already, meetings of the technical committee and water resources secretaries of the two countries took place in the last one year, and the ministerial level Joint Rivers

Commission meeting will be held in the current quarter of this year, she said adding, "Talks will be held and we will be able to come to a solution."

AFTER RETURNING HOME
On her return home in the evening, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina briefed the local media at Zia International Airport, where she announced she will donate the money that she received with the Indra Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development to Bangabandhu Memorial Trust.

She said every month the trust grants scholarships to 1,200 poor students, adding that her prize money will be best spent for education of the country's poor children.

She said her four-day trip was aimed at establishing peace in South Asia, and at strengthening the relationship of the two neighbours.

The agreements signed between Bangladesh and India during her visit will benefit not only the people of the two countries, but also of Bhutan, Nepal and the rest of the region, she said.

"We signed the agreements so the poor people of this region, not only of Bangladesh and India, may overcome poverty," Hasina said.

"We want peace to prevail in this region at all times, and for that reason our position against terrorism will be tough. We want the people of this region to live in peace. Peace, security and economic development is our target," she said adding that establishing peace in South Asia was her party Awami League's (AL) one of the electoral pledges.

She said trafficking of children, women, drugs and arms should be stopped immediately in South Asia and that is why Bangladesh signed the treaties with India.

Tens of thousands of activists and supporters of ruling AL and its associated organisations lined the airport road since afternoon to welcome the premier back home, as AL on Tuesday had decided to accord a grand reception to Hasina on her arrival.

Incumbent ministers, ruling party lawmakers, chiefs of the three armed forces, the dean of diplomatic corps, senior civil and military officials, and senior AL leaders welcomed Hasina at the VVIP lounge of the airport.

Former AL general secretary Abdul Jalil, senior leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, among others, were present.

Free textbooks

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"Although the printing work had been done outside the capital on a small scale this year, we shall suggest that the government spread it to divisional and district levels," the committee chief said.

Asked whether they would suggest punishing the monitors for their negligence in duty, Prof Akhtaruzzaman said the department concerned would make decisions on the matter.

"There might be some lapses as the massive initiative was taken for the first time. But the government almost accomplished the task," he said.

NCTB Chairman Mostafa Kamal Uddin and committee members were present at the meeting.

BNP plans protests

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They said launching of the agitation would also help strengthen the party's organisational capacity.

A BNP policymaker said they might join the parliament if everything goes according to plan after the BNPPP meeting likely to be held on Sunday.

"We are trying to wage a movement in and outside of parliament against the government's activities," BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, also a member of party's standing committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) was scheduled to sit yesterday to discuss if they should join the parliament. But the meeting was cancelled as the parliament's sitting was adjourned till 3:00pm Thursday, BNP lawmakers claimed.

Staffs of Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia's office in parliament yesterday morning communicated with BNP lawmakers and informed them that the meeting was postponed.

"The parliamentary party is likely to sit Sunday to discuss if party lawmakers should

Accused dies in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An accused in a murder case died in the custody of Chittagong court yesterday.

The deceased, Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, 50, was accused of killing his mother Aasia Khanam to death at their home in the city's Amirbag residential area in February 2007.

Sources said Nasir was brought to the court building on the scheduled date for hearing of the case at the third Additional Metropolitan Session Judge's Court.

Before appearing at the court, he fell down on the floor of the court building's lock-up at 10:10am.

Nasir died before he could be taken to the hospital, said the sources while police was preparing to take Nasir back to jail.

With the accused and witnesses being absent, the court fixed February 22 for the next hearing.

However, a general diary was lodged with the Kotoail police station in this connection.

Nasir chopped his mother and grievously hurt his brother Sahabuddin as the latter refused him to pay Tk 20,000 on February 5, 2007.

Asia succumbed to her injuries at a city clinic that prompted her another son Kamaluddin to file a case accusing Nasir of murder with the Kotoail police station.

Charge sheet of the case was submitted on May 23, 2007 while the court framed charge against Nasir on September 11, 2007, sources said.

6 peacekeepers

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telecommunication disruption."

"E-mails have been sent to the mission and we are yet to receive the replies," Harun said.

The sources said, apart from the six policemen, two Bangladeshis were working at the UN peacekeeping headquarters. However, one of them was on leave and now staying in the country.

A senior official of the Police HQ said, "We have, somehow, talked to the injured Bangladeshi civil official, who was working at the mission headquarters." He survived injuries and does not want to be quoted, added the police officer.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 1
On November 19 last year, the SC confirmed death sentence to a dozen ex-army personnel including the detained ones.

Of the seven others, one died and six are on the run.

In response to a government application, SC Chamber Judge Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday fixed the date for hearing the review petitions.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam and Chief state counsel in this case Anisul Huq moved the application.

Later, Anisul Huq told journalists that the SC would hear all the review petitions on January 24 since two of the detained convicts will file review petitions by the January 19 deadline.

Replying to a question, he said lawyers for three convicts would explain to the apex court during the hearing of review petitions why they had submitted mercy petitions to the president before filing review petitions.

Huda, AKM Mohiuddin and Mohiuddin submitted mercy petitions through the jail authorities on January 9.

Anisul Huq said the process of executing death sentence of the convicts would remain suspended till disposal of the review petitions.

Food crisis

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are not dependent on India for importing food."

"We have options to make a deal with Myanmar or Vietnam which have 60 lakh metric tonnes of food grain reserved this season," Hasina said.

She said if India entered the food grain market, prices might shoot up.

However, India was neither importing nor exporting grains and it had an adequate stock of grains, she added.

Sheikh Hasina said India and Bangladesh have decided to cooperate with each other in the agricultural sector and for this Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar had recently visited Dhaka.

Haiti quake

FROM PAGE 1
The quake toppled the cupola on the gleaming white presidential palace, a major hotel where 200 tourists were missing and the headquarters of the UN mission in Haiti where up to 250 personnel were unaccounted for.

The force's head Hedi Annabi was among those feared dead, according to France's foreign minister. More than 100 people are missing in the rubble of the UN building.

Jordan reported that three of its peacekeepers were killed and 21 wounded in the quake, the most powerful to hit the country in more than a century.

Brazil said four of its peacekeepers were killed while eight Chinese soldiers were buried in rubble and 10 were missing, state media said.

Estimates of the death toll ranged from hundreds to thousands but with every hour passing it was becoming clear that the destruction and loss of life was catastrophic.

The first airlifts to Haiti concentrated on search and rescue efforts and setting up makeshift hospitals.

"It is now clear that the earthquake has had a devastating impact on the capital, Port-au-Prince," UN chief Ban Ki-moon said as geologists said it was the worst quake to hit the Caribbean nation in more than a century.

"We have yet to establish a number of dead or injured, which we feel may well be in the hundreds."

As daylight rose on the city after a terrifying night, rescuers dug with bare hands to help scores still believed trapped in the rubble of toppled shantytowns and Haitian landmarks, witnesses said.

Cries from the victims still pinned under debris could be heard as powerful aftershocks rattled the poorest country in the Americas after Tuesday's 7.0-magnitude quake.

While much of the rest of the impoverished Caribbean nation appeared largely unaffected, Ban gave a grim assessment of the devastation in Port-au-Prince, saying the city's few basic services had collapsed.

"There is no doubt that we are facing a major humanitarian emergency and that a major relief effort will be required," he told a press conference in the United Nations, as he prepared to visit Haiti as soon as possible.

Injured residents of the crowded Caribbean capital had Tuesday poured into the streets screaming in panic with each new tremor. Bodies were just left in the streets or crushed under rubble. Collapsing buildings left Port-au-Prince choked with cement dust for hours after the quake.

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A hospital in the suburb of Petionville collapsed, as did ministries, schools, homes in luxury districts and hillside shanties, businesses and markets.

Police, UN and Red Cross vehicles tried to ferry the wounded to hospital, but progress was slow as roads had been torn asunder.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported 32 strong aftershocks hit the country in the hours after the initial 2153 GMT quake.

USGS geophysicist Susan Potter said the last earthquake of such magnitude to strike Haiti was in 1897, and possibly as far back as 1770.

An aid worker in Port-au-Prince described the city as looking like a war zone, with eight-story buildings collapsed into mounds of rubble.

"The scene was devastating... People are in shock," communications director Magalie Boyer of aid agency World Vision told reporters.

"The centre of Port-au-Prince has been destroyed, it's a

70 Pakistani

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"Majority of those who are on the list belongs to NWFP but the names of important politicians as well as officials from Punjab and Sindh are also included in the list," an official said.

The development came amid heightened fears of more terror attacks on VIPs in the wake of the assassination of seven CIA operatives in Afghanistan's Khost province.

The bombing in Afghanistan has not only shocked many officials here but also was an open demonstration of TTP's ability to conduct operation in an area that was considered out of its reach, another official said.

NWFP IGP Malik Naveed said: "I have not received any threat but a lot of our officers have received threatening calls and letters written in Pashto and Urdu languages. We are taking every possible step to save valuable lives of common people and police officers who have frequently been targeted by the terrorists."

catastrophe," wailed a man named Pierre, so traumatised he could hardly speak as he surveyed the disaster.

Haiti's ambassador to the United States, Raymond Alcide Joseph, described the quake to CNN as "a catastrophe of major proportions."

Haiti's ambassador to Mexico, Robert Manuel, said Haitian President Rene Preval and his wife "are alive and well but did not provide further information."

A major international relief operation was set underway with the United States, France, Britain and other countries promising help.

Two hundred foreigners were missing at the Hotel Montana, French Secretary of State for Cooperation Alain Joyandet said.

"We know there were 300 people inside the hotel when it collapsed, only around 100 have got out, which greatly concerns us," he told French radio.

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Sara Fajardo of Catholic Relief Services told AFP that buildings across the street from their headquarters collapsed, and that staff were terrified the aftershocks would topple more buildings.

"Most of the Catholic Relief Services staff is going to be sleeping on the CRS office compound but they're sleeping outside because they're too afraid to sleep indoors out of safety concerns," Fajardo said.

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The headquarters of the UN mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which has served as a peace-keeping mission since 2004, was destroyed. "There are numerous people underneath the rubble, both dead and injured," a local employee said.

Nations around the world offered aid and the United States, France, Canada and governments across Latin America geared to send help, while the international Red Cross mobilised relief supplies from Panama.

US President Barack Obama said "My thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by this earthquake."

Pope Benedict XVI urged a generous response to the catastrophe. The pope lamented Haiti's "tragic situation (involving) huge loss of human life, a great number of homeless and missing and considerable material damage."

Former Haitian president Jean Bertrand Aristide, exiled in South Africa since his 2004 ouster, called it a "tragedy that defies expression".

Aid group World Vision said it would begin distributing first aid kits, blankets and potable water to survivors on Wednesday.

BNP discusses

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[the prime minister's visit to India] was discussed very seriously in the meeting."

The party would give a formal statement Saturday, sources said.

It was the first meeting of the party's highest policymaking body formed on December 13. All members of the standing committee except Tarique Rahman, Nazrul Islam Khan, Shamsul Islam and Tariqul Islam attended the meeting.

BNP yesterday neither launched any protest programmes nor welcomed the prime minister after her return from India.

Khaleda on January 1 threatened to forge a movement if the government failed to protect the interest of the country during negotiations with India.

While speaking at a rally at Paltan Maidan, she had said she and her followers would receive the prime minister with flowers at the airport on her return home if the prime minister protected the country's interest. She said the prime minister's path would be strewn with thorns if she failed to do so.