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Cricket earns maiden Asian Games gold

SPORTS REPORTER

The flashing blades of Sabbir Rahman and Naeem Islam took the country's sports to a new height yesterday as their rescue act in Bangladesh's five-wicket win over Afghanistan in the cricket final clinched the long cherished Asian Games gold medal for the first time.

Despite the Twenty20 competition's second-string nature with a majority of smaller cricketing nations taking part, it was important to bring a gold -- the ultimate prize in multi-sport event -- to the country that has long starved of sporting excellence. The past decade has seen cricket take centre-stage and it was only fitting that the cricket team made a contribution to the medals' tally.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Zillur Rahman congratulated the players and officials of the cricket team for winning gold. In separate messages, they expressed hope that Bangladesh would be able to succeed further in sports and the government will give all out support for its development.

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MORE IN STAR SPORT



A GOLDEN RUN: Bangladesh players gleefully take a victory lap after they clinched gold in the Asian Games cricket competition at the Guanggong International Cricket Stadium in Guangzhou yesterday.

Withdraw expulsion decision

Huda appeals to Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled BNP leader Nazmul Huda in a complete about face appealed party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to withdraw his expulsion order.

Claming himself innocent, the much-talked-about leader urged Khaleda to appoint him in a policymaking position in the party.

"I appealed Thursday night to withdraw the expulsion order following pressure from the people in my area and leaders of Dhaka district unit and thana units under the district," Nazmul Huda told The Daily Star last night.

He said he sent a letter through BNP leader Aman Ullah Aman and leaders of

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Probes designed to fail

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Incidents of "crossfire," "encounter," "shootout" and "gunfight" claimed around 1,200 lives in the last six years thanks to shady enquiries into the allegations of extrajudicial killings to get the responsible law enforcers legally protected.

In cases when investigation reports were submitted complying with court orders or persistent media reports, victims' families and rights organisations invariably found those incomplete, biased, misleading, self-contradictory and flawed.

Each government enquiry committee usually comprises a joint or additional



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secretary and police commissioners. "A universal maxim goes that you cannot be the judge in your own case. The system they are following is wrong and flawed," said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman.

"It is not acceptable anywhere in the

world," he added.

Recently, the NHRC rejected the government probe report into the disappearance of Tusher Islam Titu, who allegedly went missing after Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) picked up him from his village home in Sirajganj in 2008.

Following the NHRC rejection, the home ministry has formed a fresh one-member committee with a joint secretary to review the past investigation.

"The investigation must find out if the incidents of 'crossfire' or 'shootout' or 'encounter' had taken place under rational circumstances. It is necessary to find out that the force the law enforcers had used in self-defence was proportionate to

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FACING AGITATION AL moves to consolidate grand alliance

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Ruling Awami League is moving to strengthen the unity of the grand alliance faced with the main opposition BNP's anti-government movement that includes hartals.

The party will hold a meeting with the components of the 14-party coalition tomorrow, a day before BNP's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal.

The meeting will be held at Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's political

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TRANSIT FOR TRIPURA POWER PLANT

Deal likely next week

4-nation transit talks to continue separately

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is likely to sign an agreement with India next week to allow the neighbouring country transit for a year and a half to carry power plant equipment to Tripura from West Bengal.

The deal would not be done as part of the on-going talks on transit and transshipment between Bangladesh and three neighbouring nations -- India, Nepal and Bhutan, said Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Howlader.

The governments of the two countries would sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) next week allowing India to have road

and river transit without any charge, he said.

India would not pay any fees for the transit in line with the agreed principle of the joint communiqué signed by the prime ministers of the two countries, said a high official at the shipping ministry.

Bangladesh has granted India the waiver to transit fees only for transport of power plant machinery because of the friendly relations between the two nations, the secretary said.

He said India would pay Bangladesh the estimated cost of Tk 25 crore for renovation and repair of roads and ports, and Bangladeshi contractors would do the work.

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