

Toss dictates day's

FROM PAGE 1
consensus is that Shakib erred in sending India in. And it was widely reflected in all the newspapers and TV channels of the country.

There was however some solace for Shakib that Saturday's punisher Virender Sehwag himself endorsed Shakib's decision saying that India would have done the same had they won the toss.

Tamim Iqbal while talking to the Daily Star yesterday said that India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar too acknowledged that there was lot of moisture on the playing surface.

To focus solely on the decision at the toss may have the undesirable effect of backing the captain into a corner so that in subsequent matches he chooses in fear of backlash rather than in accordance of team strategy.

What is worth remembering is that the decision at the toss can only ever be a small factor in the eventual result. To focus solely on that and not Bangladesh's poor show with the ball would be to miss the point.

Also worth remembering is a match that took place a little over a year ago, against the same opponents at the same ground. On January 7, 2010, Bangladesh chose to field first in the Idea Cup match against India, and after their more-than-competitive total of 296 was eclipsed by India with fifteen balls to spare, criticism came the Tigers' way for choosing to bat first. Then, the party

line was that the think tank should have taken the dew factor into account when deciding at the toss.

That Shakib has been criticised for doing the opposite in the World Cup opener paints a fickle picture of detractors. If the dew is such a big factor, as it was made out to be on the days following the Idea Cup loss, then Shakib must have been correct in deciding to field on Saturday. Then again, as is being advocated now, if the dew is not much of a factor then criticism heaped on Shakib a year ago must be seen as baseless. The truth, as is often the case, lies between the two extremes.

The dew cannot be a central aspect of team strategy, simply because a team cannot expect to win the toss every time. It should ideally be seen as a hindrance that has to be accommodated for. It is an ever-present component of day-night games in the subcontinent, and so should be taken out of the equation, and spinners should think of bowling with a wet ball as part of their skill base.

As for the toss, the answer to whether it would have been better to bat or field first is one based on conjecture. It can be argued, however, that the odds of successfully defending a total of 296 is higher than successfully chasing 370. A lot may be up for debate, but the fact that Bangladesh bowled poorly and Virender Sehwag and Virat Kohli batted brilliantly is not.

Pintu cleared of attempted murder charge

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu of an attempt to murder case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Farhana Ferdous passed the order after complainant Kabir Hossain of the case submitted a petition seeking an order from it that he would not run the case against Pintu.

Pintu was sent to jail on February 15, 2007 after he turned himself in to a Dhaka court to seek bail in the case.

Kabir Hossain, also a BNP activist of Baragram in Kamrangirchar area, filed the attempt to murder case against Pintu with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on January 25, 2007 after local police of Hazaribagh Police Station refused to record his complaint.

On June 26, 2006, Pintu called Kabir out of his house and beat up mercilessly with hockey stick and dumped him with fractured hands and injuries to the head in a nearby dustbin for 'tarnishing' his [Pintu] image.

Sub-Inspector Tajul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM Court of Dhaka, showing 13 people as prosecution witnesses.

Pintu was also shown arrested in different cases including graft and mobile snatching cases.

Though released on bail, Pintu was again arrested in June 2009 for his alleged involvement with helping Border Guard Bangladesh members to flee during mutiny at the Palkhaha.

Politics dictated

FROM PAGE 20
leaders sit around in the offices of entrepreneurs for hours? We have failed to defend our dignity," said Quader who is an AL lawmaker and the party's president member.

He said the events of 1/11 could be possible in 2007 due to the activities of the leaders of both major political parties.

About the successes and failures of the AL-led government, Jalil, a former commerce minister, said, "Though the government achieved immense success in agriculture and education, it could not be successful in generating necessary gas and electricity."

Besides, the government failed to improve law and order, and to curb price hike of essentials, he said adding that commodity price hike could not be controlled through command. He suggested that the minister concerned takes opinions of all stakeholders.

Saying that the law and order situation has not improved as criminals are not being punished, he suggested that the government brings a major reshuffle in the police force after increasing their salaries and other perks. He also advised bringing change to the police recruiting system, attracting more educated people to the force.

Jalil spoke on different aspects of the government, the ruling party and its 14-party coalition.

He said the public do not

know much about some of the ministers, and those ministers have no touch with the people. He observed that the cabinet should be reshuffled to make it vibrant.

He demanded formation of a parliamentary probe body to investigate alleged torture of political leaders, entrepreneurs, and academicians by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) after the 1/11 political changeover. He said the investigation must be carried out for the sake of strengthening democracy.

There is no coordination in the ruling 14-party coalition due to a lack of proper initiative, Jalil observed adding that each and every component of the coalition should be evaluated properly. Organisational activities of ruling AL also came to a standstill, he added.

Saying the main opposition BNP is not joining the parliament because it is not committed to the public and democracy, he urged the opposition to join the House.

He demanded that ruling party lawmakers be given full freedom of speech in the parliament, with an assurance that there will be no punitive measure against them for talking against party line. The measure is needed so the parliament remains effective even if the opposition walks out, he said.

DRU President Mustak Hossain, and General Secretary Jamal Uddin accompanied Jalil at the event.



A book on edn policy launched

RAKIB AHAMMED

A book containing the national education policy hit the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid launched the book in the afternoon.

He said the book has been brought out since people have interest in the education policy, and through the fair it has been made available to all.

The minister said the National Curriculum and Textbook Board printed the book available at its stall on the Bangla Academy premises.

He said the policy aims to build a new gen-

eration through a modern education system and its implementation has already begun.

The price of the book is Tk 100 but visitors to the fair can get it on a 25 percent discount.

Meanwhile, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Bangla Academy director general, declared the names of Bangla Academy Sahitya Award winners yesterday.

Poets Rubi Rahman and Nasir Ahmed won the award in the category of poetry, Bulbul Chowdhury in folk literature (Katha Sahitya), Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid in research and essay, Ajoy Roy in science and technology and Shahjahan Kibria in children's literature.

The awards will be handed over to the winners at a ceremony on February 26.

175 new buses

FROM PAGE 20

Currently, some 9,000 buses and minibuses ply the city roads. The number seems inadequate for the city dwellers although there is no official statistics of the demand.

"A ship carrying 175 buses is now on the way to Chittagong from China," said Col Md Akhter Kamal, director of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

The buses, each costing around Tk 33 lakh, will start plying different city routes right after their registration, he added.

Last year, the government imported 100 buses from China at the same price. They cost 10 million euros given by Nordic Development Fund (NDF).

The BRTC director said the contract with the Korean government has been signed in January for importing 255 single-deckers at Tk 210 crore.

These buses are better

than those from China and will cost about Tk 70 lakh each excluding import tax. South Korean company Daewoo will assemble those.

The government is also going to import a large number of buses from India with loan from India. Among those, there will be 300 double-deckers, 100 single-deckers and 50 articulated buses, popularly known as bendybus.

Tender was floated in January for importing the double-deckers from India. Cost of each bus has been estimated at Tk 60 lakh.

The crisis for transport in the city is growing by the day. Passengers are seen crowding at various city points, especially in the morning and evening hours, for transport.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain hoped the situation will improve once the 175 buses hit the streets.

Warrant

FROM PAGE 20

as he went to Bangkok without having permission from the court.

Earlier, Hashem's lawyer Mohammad Sanaulah Mia submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing saying that his client could not appear before the court as he went abroad for treatment.

The court also directed the officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station to submit a report by March 8 on execution of the arrest warrant.

The court fixed the same date for hearing on charge framing against Hashem.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a case against Hashem for evading tax of Tk 4,76,00,000 from 1977-1978 to 2005-2006 fiscal years on August 23, 2010.

In the case statement, NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Kabir Uddin Mollah said Hashem evaded Tk 4,76,09,845 in income tax on Tk 18,93,42,380 earned from different sources. He repeatedly provided false information about his income and expenditure, the statement said.

Hashem, during submitting his tax returns, said he did not conceal any information about his income and expenditure. But NBR rejected his claim.

Hashem was arrested during the tenure of caretaker government on different charges including graft and later he was released on bail.

Massacre feared

FROM PAGE 20

Unverified posts on social network sites referred to minor skirmishes in the capital and of overnight gunfire in Nalut, to the west of Tripoli.

In Bahrain, a key US ally and home to the US Fifth Fleet, thousands of protesters celebrated as they poured into Pearl Square after riot police pulled out.

"We don't fear death any more, let the army come and kill us to show the world what kind of savages they are," said Umm Mohammed, a teacher wearing a black abaya.

Bahrain's government said it had opened a dialogue with opposition groups demanding reform. The crown prince called for a national day of mourning for the six people killed in this week's protests and appealed for calm.

"All political parties in the country deserve a voice at the table," Crown Prince Salman told CNN late on Saturday.

He had earlier announced that all troops had been ordered off the streets -- meeting one of the conditions for talks set out by an ex-lawmaker of the main Shi'ite opposition bloc Wefaq.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's main trade union yesterday called off a strike, saying its demand for the right to dem-

onstrate peacefully had been heeded as anti-government protesters camped out in Manama's Pearl Square.

"In the light of the army's withdrawal and respect of the right to demonstrate peacefully, the general union for labour syndicates has decided to suspend the general strike and return to work on Monday," the union said.

The Sunni Muslim Al-Khalifa dynasty rules Bahrain, but the Shi'ite majority has long complained about what it sees as discrimination in access to state jobs, housing and healthcare.

"The protesters in Pearl Roundabout represent a very significant proportion of our society and our political belief," the crown prince told CNN.

"But there are other forces at work here. This is not Egypt and this is not Tunisia. And what we don't want to do, like in Northern Ireland, is to descend into militia warfare or sectarianism."

The United States and top oil producer Saudi Arabia see Bahrain as a bulwark against neighbouring Shi'ite Iran.

Unrest has also been seen in Yemen, Oman, Kuwait and Djibouti as people took to the streets demanding political and economic change.

3 power deals

FROM PAGE 20

stakes in the recently awarded contracts for Meghnaghat 335 MW dual-fuel, and Bibiyana Phase one and two 341 MW gas-fired power projects.

The government turned down the proposal as it thinks that until Summit-GE signs the contract, there is no scope for changing partnership. It can make the changes after the contracts for the three projects are signed.

Summit chief Muhammad Aziz Khan told The Daily Star, "GE sought to delegate its stakes to GE Technologies as it is supposed to give GE some tax advantage. If the government does not allow it, the partnership remains unchanged and we will go ahead."

"We are now more or less set with the financing for these three projects. We are taking finances from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) fund of the Bangladesh Bank."

He went on, "The IPFF has approved its financing in principle. The IFC has also given primary approval at its senior level. But before we get the ADB's board approval for the loan, it (ADB) will conduct its own environment and social impact assessment. That takes three months. It will then take some additional time for the approval."

"This is where we would like to show our commitment. While the ADB conducts its assessment, Summit will put its own money in the project against the ADB financing so

that the project implementation is not delayed. We are sure that the ADB will find the assessment favourable and will approve the loan."

Aziz Khan pointed out that Bangladesh is best served when local capacity is built. He claimed that by awarding the contract to local company Summit, Bangladesh will be saving \$ 2 billion in the three projects over a project period of 22 years. He made this claim on the basis of the higher tariff offer given by the second lowest bidders for these three projects.

Summit won the bids for Bibiyana and Meghnaghat projects by beating other competitors through offering a very low tariff.

11 BGB men

FROM PAGE 20

Naogaon.

Special Court-12 also fined each of the convicts Tk 100.

The court headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan started delivering the judgement around 11:00am.

He said the ship-breaking workers must be provided with relevant training and helmets, gloves and other necessary safety gears.

Modern technology must be used during breaking ships, the judge said, adding that oil tankers and nuclear and passenger ships, which contain toxic and hazardous materials, cannot be imported until they are cleaned.

Waste of the ships has to be dumped in a specific place so that environment and water are not polluted, the court observed.

Referring to a reported statement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has recently said the ship-breaking sector is identified as a separate industry considering its huge potentials and economic benefit, the bench said the industry must follow the relevant rules and regulations.

The BSBA filed the petition with the HC in January for recalling its order of

Safety first

FROM PAGE 1

temporary basis before framing the rules by the government only when some conditions are fulfilled."

He said the ship-breaking workers must be provided with relevant training and helmets, gloves and other necessary safety gears.

Modern technology must be used during breaking ships, the judge said, adding that oil tankers and nuclear and passenger ships, which contain toxic and hazardous materials, cannot be imported until they are cleaned.

Waste of the ships has to be dumped in a specific place so that environment and water are not polluted, the court observed.

Referring to a reported statement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has recently said the ship-breaking sector is identified as a separate industry considering its huge potentials and economic benefit, the bench said the industry must follow the relevant rules and regulations.

The BSBA filed the petition with the HC in January for recalling its order of

December 15 that directed the government to frame rules within next three months to ban import of any hazardous ships.

According to the HC ruling, the rules must be framed in light of six existing laws -- the Basel Convention Act, 1989; Bangladesh Environment Protection Act, 1995; Bangladesh Marine and Fisheries Ordinance, 1989; Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006; Bangladesh Territorial Water and Maritime Zone Act, 1974; and Environment Protection Rules, 1997.

The ruling came following a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela). The organisation filed the petition as supplementary to the original writ upon which the HC on March 17, 2009 directed the government to frame specific rules considering the relevant laws to prevent import of toxic ships.

Fida M Kamal, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for Bela, while Anisul Huq argued for the ship-breakers.

Robbers

FROM PAGE 1

Sub-Inspector Rezaul Karim of Sutrapur Police Station told The Daily Star that his patrol team started chasing a microbus on Northbrook Hall Road around 2:50am after the vehicle defied the team's signal to stop.

The vehicle tried to speed away but the patrol team chased them down and stopped the car at Hathkholra around 3:30am.

He added, "Five managed to escape the scene but we could arrest the two."

The team recovered one firearm, a pair of handcuffs, two sets of police uniform, one signal light used by police to stop vehicles and some sharp weapons including a machete.

Police said the gang has been active in the capital for over one year.

Belal uses the microbus with fake registration plates.

The arrestees were produced before a Dhaka court with a prayer for 10-day remand each yesterday. The arrestees claimed that they were sick but the court sent them to jail and fixed February 23 for hearing on the remand petitions.

War crimes trial

FROM PAGE 20

allegations against Sayedee by March 15.

The tribunal also adjourned the hearing on the matter till that day.

It came up with the order after hearing submissions from the prosecution and a counsel for Sayedee on a progress report of investigation against him.

Earlier, the prosecution submitted the report to the tribunal on February 15.

Sayedee was produced before the court at about 10:30am.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali told the tribunal the investigation agency has collected papers and documents relating to the allegations against the accused and it would collect more.

He prayed to the court to give time for completing the investigation.

Haider Ali said six general diaries have been filed with Zia Nagar Police Station in Pirojpur following an allegation that Sayedee was threatening the prosecution witnesses.

Sayedee's counsel Tajul Islam told the court the prosecution could not show any progress in the

investigation against his client, and Sayedee should not be detained for long 'on false allegation'.

He also termed the prosecution's allegation that Sayedee was a rapist, murderer and war criminal 'a lie of the century'.

Tajul said his client is seriously ill and he should be provided with special treatment.

Earlier in December last, the prosecution submitted a report on preliminary investigation into the allegations against the Jamaat leader.

During yesterday's hearing, the court expressed dissatisfaction over little difference between the earlier investigation report and its progress report.

BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, and four other senior Jamaat leaders -- Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla, who are accused of committing war crimes in 1971, are now in custody.