It's India vs SL

FROM PAGE 1

in the latter half of the game to end with an ultimately comfortable victory. The win also keeps India's record of not having lost a World Cup match against Pakistan intact.

Tendulkar's scratchy 85 was the highest score in the game as India put on an imposing looking 260 for the loss of nine wickets in their fifty overs before restricting Pakistan to 231 through a disciplined effort with the ball, best illustrated by the even distribution of the ten wickets among all five bowl-

India's total could have been far less had Pakistan not put in an absolutely shocking shift in the field, dropping catches like nine pins. Their fielding did not back up a solid effort with the ball, led by left-arm quick Wahab Riaz who finished with 5-46 in his ten

The great Tendulkar fell 15 short of what would have been a magical hundredth international hundred, but he will certainly not mind, since the prize for this victory is a chance for a shot at the World Cup title; a piece of silverware that has agonisingly eluded him all throughout a glittering 21year career.

Set a target of 260 on a track that was rapidly crumbling and slowing, Pakistan started brightly enough with openers Mohammad Hafeez and Kamran Akmal putting the hard new ball to good use. The pair put on 44 in eight overs before Akmal drove uppishly at a Zaheer Khan slower ball to Yuvraj at His opening partner

Hafeez fell after playing an inexplicable shot, trying to drag a ball from wide outside off-stump to fine leg and edging it to MS Dhoni. Hafeez had looked the

most dangerous Paksitan batsman, his 43 made in quick time and laced with seven beautiful boundaries.

Pakistan never seemed to recover from his dismissal and they failed to string partnerships together for the rest of the innings. Younis Khan made a

strangely struggling 13, while a potentially dangerous innings from Umar Akmal was cut short by Harbhajan.

Misbah-ul-Haq held up his end, playing the sheet anchor role with a sedate knock, but his 56 of 76 balls in truth never threatened to take the game away from the Indians..

The run rate was always against the Pakistanis and most of the batsmen fell trying to accelerate; captain Shahid Afridi's wild swipe at a low Harbajhan full-toss epitomising the Pakistani demise.

Earlier, a charmed Tendulkar managed to survive four dropped chances and two other close calls; one stumping decision that could have gone either way and one leg-before that was originally ruled out, but salvaged on referral.

Tendulkar top-scored with 85 in India's total of 260, which had at one point of time, threatened to spiral into the high 300s through a rollicking start, provided to the hosts by Virender

Sehwag. Sehwag slammed 21 off Umar Gul's second over, setting up a terrible day with the leather for the tall Pakistani quick who went for

69 in his eight overs. But Sehwag's imposing looking innings was soon brought to a close by Riaz, who was undoubtedly Pakistan's star of the day. The left-arm quick who was a late inclusion in the side ahead of Shoaib Akhtar, showed that his inclusion was with good reason, generating good pace with swing and seam

movement. He dismissed Sehwag in

his first over and then later took two in two balls to finish with a career best 5 for 46. Riaz was ably supported

in the bowling department by Saeed Ajmal, who took 2-44 in his ten overs, including the wicket of Tendulkar courtesy of a sharp catch by Afridi at short cover. It was no less than Ajmal deserved after continually troubling the great man with his flight

and turn.

But at the end, it was Tendulkar's India who progressed and the man dubbed the "Little Master" will look forward to another engaging spin battle in the final. This time his adversary will be an old foe; Sri Lanka legend Muttiah Muralidaran who will also be making his last bow this Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup semifinal between India and Pakistan at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium onWednesday:

INDIA Sehwag lbw b Riaz Tendulkar c Afridi b Ajmal 85 Gambhir st K Akmal b Hafeez Kohli c U Akmal b Riaz Yuvraj b Riaz Dhoni lbw b Riaz Raina not out Harbhajan st K Akmal **b** Ajmal Zaheer c K Akmal b Riaz Nehra run out Patel not out Extras: (lb-8, w-8, nb-2)

Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-118, 3-141, 4-141, 5-187, 6-205, 7-236, 8-256, 9-258. Bowler

Gul 69 Razzaq 10 Ajmal 44 Afridi Hafeez 34 PAKISTAN KAkmal cYuvraj b Zaheer 19 Hafeez c Dhoni b Patel Shafiq b Yuvraj Younis c Raina b Yuvraj Misbah c Kohli b Zaheer U Akmal b Harbhajan Razzaq b Patel Afridi c Sehwag

Ajmal not out Extras: (w-8) Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-70, 3-103, 4-106, 5-142, 6-150, 7-184, 8-199, 9-208.

Riaz c Tendulkar b Nehra

b Harbhajan

Bowler

Gullbw b Nehra

Zaheer 58 Nehra 10 Harbhajan 10 57 10 Result: India won by 29 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar

Indian journalist takes AFP prize for Kashmir work

AFP, Hong Kong

Dilnaz Boga, an Indian reporter and photographer, received the Kate Webb Prize from Agence France-Presse vesterday for her courageous investigative work in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Boga, 33, spent a year in Srinagar working for the respected news portal Kashmir Dispatch as well as a number of international publications and websites, the culmination of a decade covering the troubled region.

She received a certificate and \$4,200 in cash from Eric Wishart, AFP's regional director for the Asia-Pacific region, in a ceremony at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong.

"Dilnaz Boga is a more than worthy recipient of the third Kate Webb Award, and her work stood out from a very strong field of applicants from across the region," Wishart said.

Boga said the prize money would help support her future coverage of Kashmir as an independent journalist.

"I, on behalf of my colleagues in Kashmir, would like to say that we will not stop telling the truth at any cost," Boga said.

She vowed to "fight the battle against forgetfulness -- for we know that there can be no peace without justice".

The Kate Webb Prize was launched in 2008 in honour of a legendary AFP correspondent in Asia who blazed a trail for women in international journalism.

The prize recognises exceptional work produced by locally engaged Asian journalists operating in dangerous or difficult circumstances in the region.

Bahrain Shia opposition urges Iran not to 'meddle'

AFP, Manama

Bahrain's Shia opposition leader yesterday urged Shiite Iran to keep out of the Arab country's internal affairs, after government charges that Tehran had orchestrated month-long protests.

Ali Salman also warned against Bahrain being used for a proxy war between rival regional superpowers Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"We urge Iran not to meddle in Bahraini internal affairs," he told a press conference, also demanding the withdrawal of Saudi-led Gulf troops deployed in the kingdom in mid-March to help quash the protests.

Dolphins

FROM PAGE 20

The death of the dolphin came as a shock to the locals, especially to the schoolgoers. Hundreds of locals including children came to

The dolphin weighed 32 kilograms and was found floating dead in the river near Dhaka-Khulna highway. It was buried at the river bank.

In February this year, a pod of around 10 to 15 Ganges dolphins were spotted stranded in a pool of half a kilometre stretch in the Arial Khan River near Hajji Shariatullah Bridge in Shibchar. The pool formed as water receded and a char The locals with the help of

the DoF declared the part of the river off-limits to fishermen. They even put up a banner cautioning people not to fish there or disturb the dolphins.

Locals believe the small pool has run out of food.

Zahir Chowdhury, a local who put effort to save the dolphins, urged the government to ensure food for the rest of the pod.

Md Manirul Mamun upazila fisheries officer, said new water has started flowing in the river. So it appears the animal did not die for lack of food. "There could be some other reasons behind it," he suspected.

Govt's review

FROM PAGE 1 head Prof AK Monowai Uddin Ahmed said.

The committee will submit its recommendations to the government on the Grameen Bank operation, Prof Ahmed told reporters vesterday after a meeting at Bangladesh Bank.

The government formed the five-member committee on January 11 to review the activities of Grameen Bank following a Norwegian Television documentary on the microfinance lender founded by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus

Prof Ahmed said Prof Yunus attended yesterday's meeting at the invitation of

the committee. He said Prof Yunus told them that he has no intention to hold the position of MD in Grameen Bank any longer. He wants to leave the institution he founded with honour and hand over the leadership to a competent person so that the

bank remains effective. Prof Ahmed did not pro-

vide further details. Sources close to the meeting told The Daily Star that Prof Yunus referred to the letter he had earlier written to Finance Minister AMA Muhith detailing how he gradually wants to hand over his responsibility of the bank to new leadership.

In that letter Prof Yunus said he wants to work as the chairman of Grameen Bank before a new leadership is ready to take over.

Grameen Bank Deputy Managing Director Nurjahan Begum was present at the meeting.

In a move unrelated to the review committee's work the Bangladesh Bank recently removed Prof Yunus as the bank's MD saying he has violated the bank's 60-year retirement rule. Yunus, 71 lost an appeal in the High Court. He then went to the Supreme Court with another appeal against the High Court ruling that upheld the central bank's dismissal order. The next hearing is set for April 4.

Yunus' removal has sparked criticism at home and abroad. The United States says it is "troubled" over Yunus issue and wants both sides to reach a compromise.

President may lose

FROM PAGE 1

a caretaker government, a member of the committee told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity.

Asked about it, Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair and spokesman of the special committee, yesterday said they agreed in principle that the president's power should be limited during a caretaker government.

"Now we are working on how to do it through bringing necessary changes to the constitution," Suranjit told The Daily Star.

The office of the president is a ceremonial one when an elected political government is in power, for this the president is considered the titular head of the state.

Under an elected government the president cannot promulgate any ordinance without being advised by the prime minister.

But the 13th amendment to the constitution, that introduced the caretaker government system, turns the titular head of the state into an executive president with sweeping authority during an interim govern-

According to the current constitution, a caretaker government is collectively responsible to the president. During a caretaker government, the president does not require counter signature of the prime minister to declare a state of emergency and to keep suspended some fundamental rights of citizens. A caretaker government president also does not require anyone's advice to promulgate ordinances.

Using this authority, immediate past president Iajuddin Ahmed declared a state of emergency on January 11, 2007 under a caretaker government.

And then a new caretaker government was formed led by Fakhruddin Ahmed. The then president promulgated 119 ordinances during the interim government that stayed in power for almost

In light of that experience, the parliamentary special committee took the move to limit the scope for declaration of a state of emergency and promulgation of ordinances by the president during a caretaker government, some mem-

bers of the committee said. At the special committee Sangsad Bhaban, the committee members also discussed whether it is possible to keep completely suspended the president's Suranjitsaid.

power to declare a state of emergency and promulgate ordinances during an interim regime.

Suranjit however told The Daily Star that a door should be kept open to tackle urgencies during a caretaker regime.

About the proposition to reconvene a dissolved parliament for consent for declaration of a state of emergency by the president during an interim regime, a committee member said, on condition of anonymity, that they looked into article 72 (4) of the constitution regarding the matter. The article says, "If after a

dissolution and before the holding of the next general election of members of Parliament the President is satisfied that owing to the existence of a state of war in which the Republic is engaged it is necessary to recall Parliament, the President shall summon the Parliament that has been dissolved to meet."

The committee member who is not authorised to talk to the media, said they are also examining a proposal for making it mandatory for the president to take advice of the chief adviser to a caretaker government to promulgate any ordinance during such a government.

If the president promulgates ordinances on his or her own, it destroys the spirit of the caretaker government system, as an interim government is supposed to carry out only the routine work, Suranjit said in a media briefing in the parliament's Media Centre yester-

He said the committee members identified some 'weaknesses' in the caretaker government system, and decided to plug those loopholes to make the system more effective.

The committee co-chair said they discussed about the tenure of caretaker governments, which might be limited to 90 days, with a provision for 30 days' extension on the president's approval, only for completing formalities of handing over power to an elected government.

He said the committee also discussed how to limit the president's power to reconstitute a caretaker government, and how to restrict an interim governmeeting held in Jatiya ment's power to take policy making decisions.

> "At the next meeting to be held on April 5, we will discuss those issues again,

Removal stops

FROM PAGE 20

"With the world cup going on, the city corporation would not allow digging the main roads," said Emdadul Huq, member of

the supervising committee. As a result, large underground equipment for relocating overhead cables is resting above ground.

Apart from being an eyesore, haphazard overhead data cables also put an extra weight on electric poles creating chances of accidents. As a solution, NTTN companies Summit Communications Ltd and Fiber@home Ltd were awarded the responsibility to prepare a countrywide underground optical fibre network -- a subterranean common duct to move the cables.

Internet service providers and cable operators of the city were supposed to start moving their cables underground from this October, after the underground network had been ready. The NTTN companies years. would maintain the network in exchange for a monthly charge from the service providers.

But the service providers complained of technological challenges and costs rising with the shifting. They dawdled from moving their cables for long.

finally started to disappear

the data lines. The drive caused Dhaka dwellers lose internet and cable TV connectivity for hours. But as the drive moved

towards the city's commer-

cial hub Motijheel, the authorities had to think twice. "A minute of nonconnectivity to internet in Motijheel area can cause a huge loss of money," said

adding, "We are now waiting for the underground network to be ready." Meanwhile, the authorities are planning to expand the network towards Dhanmondi Russel

power ministry officials,

Square, said the officials. The underground network is a robust infrastructure that would provide uninterrupted service without being affected by any disasters.

network gives unlimited capacity for data transfer and would need no revamps or updates in ten Meanwhile, urban

NTTN officials said the

experts have raised concerns that the underground network may not be able to handle the increasing number of internet users and cable TV viewers. The authorities may

have to dig the streets in It was not until this regular intervals to January when the cables increase the capacity of equipment so that it can from the city landscape meet public demand, following a crackdown on added the experts.

69 more FROM PAGE 20

Bangladeshi nationals now

await repatriation at Ras Jdir border point of Tunisia while only two await at Al Salloum border check point in Egypt.

The report said 67 Bangladeshis, including five families with children, crossed over to Tunisia on Tuesday. To repatriate the new

arrivals, the foreign ministry said necessary measures are being undertaken by the government in coordination with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Besides, Biman Bangladesh authorities are

providing extra flights to

bring back the remaining Bangladeshis. Meanwhile, the ministry's consular team along with IOM is making arrangements to repatriate the two

Bangladeshis in Egypt. Since beginning the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals from Libya, a total of 117 flights have operated till date. Among these, 107 flights were jointly by government and IOM chartered while Biman Bangladesh operated 10 flights.

As per latest reports, 33,126 Bangladeshi nationals employed in Libya have been repatriated to Bangladesh.

Of these, the return of 3,722 persons was arranged by their employers while some returned on their own arrangements, and 26,604 were repatriated under the coordination of IOM. Of the total repatriates, 2,800 persons availed Biman Bangladesh flights. As per the flights sched-

Egypt and 288 from Tunisia will return Dhaka today with government-IOM arrangements. Also, two Biman flights are due to carry 620 stranded

Bangladeshi nationals from

uled, 16 Bangladeshis from

Tunisia on April 2-3. Mirza acting

FROM PAGE 20

Meeting sources said Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi introduced Mirza Fakhrul as the secretary general in charge.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque vehemently protested it. Farroque said Alamgir is

the acting secretary general as the chairperson asked him to carry out the activities of secretary general and party lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku backed him.

Alamgir, who presided over the meeting, controlled the situation by urging all to discuss things on the agenda, not party posts.

On Thursday during a protest rally in front of Jatiya Press Club, most BNP leaders, including a number of presidents and secretaries general of BNP's front and associate bodies, addressed Alamgir as acting secretary general.

Party insiders, however, said a number of senior leaders, including a few members of the BNP standing committee are not happy with the decision of the chairperson. Some of them already expressed resent-

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP standing committee member Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah said there is no order to issue as a senior joint secretary general will carry out the activities of secretary general in his absence.

There is no provision for acting secretary general, so the chairperson will appoint someone on her return, he added. Khaleda is said to be

home on April 2 but BNP insiders said she may take time to appoint a new secretary general.

Alamgir told The Daily Star that there is no provision of acting secretary general and the chairperson asked him to carry out the activities of secretary general as the post was vacant due to the death of Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

before she left.

Khaleda's personal aide Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas conveyed the chairperson's wish to Alamgir

Egypt to elect new president by November

AFP, Cairo

City

Egypt is to elect a new president by November to replace veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak who was ousted last month after 18 days of mass protests, the transitional military government said yesterday.

The polls will be organised "within a month or two" of a parliamentary poll already timetabled for September, spokesman General Mamduh Shahin told reporters. He made the announce-

ment as he unveiled an amended constitution incorporating changes endorsed in a referendum earlier this month which marked the first popular vote since Mubarak's over-Shahin also confirmed

that a ban on religious parties inherited from the Mubarak-era constitution would remain in force. That clause has been the

legal basis for the interdiction of the country's most influential political movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, for the past half-century. The military council stepped in to fill the political

vacuum in Egypt when

Mubarak quit on February

11 after three decades of

autocratic rule. Shahin already announced that a state of emergency in force almost continuously for the past 50 years would be lifted before the September parliamentary election.

The emergency was imposed after the 1981 assassination of Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat by Islamist gunmen at a military their overtime.

parade and was never lifted.

Human rights groups have consistently denounced the emergency which gives police wide powers of arrest, suspends constitutional rights and curbs non-governmental political activity.

"Parliamentary and presidential elections will not be held under the state of emergency," Shahin said on Monday.

More than 14 million Egyptians, or 77 percent of those who voted in the March 19 referendum, approved the military's plans for a swift return to civilian life, in the first test of democracy since the fall of Mubarak.

RMG workers

FROM PAGE 20

knitwears saw a closure notice of the RMG units following a conflict between the workers and the owners of the factory regarding payment of overtime on the previous day. After seeing the notice,

the agitated workers staged

demonstration disrupting traffic movement on a road near their factory. On information, police rushed to the spot and charged batons to disperse

At least 15 workers were injured during the clash,

the agitating workers who

retaliated with brickbats and

police said. Reajul Kabir, additional police super of Fatullah Model Police Station, said the conflict between the owners and the workers arose when the workers demanded more amount for

Monga initiatives

FROM PAGE 20

The study aims, among others, to use the overall experience for formulating a sustainable policy to eradicate Monga from the country's northern districts permanently.

Monga -- a cyclical phe-

nomenon of food insecurity and hunger -- has been prevailing in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari for long. Its features include around 24 lakh of the 97 lakh

people in the five districts survive with only one meal a day or sometimes no meal during mid-September to mid-November every year due to acute shortage of income for lack of employ-

Bangladesh accounts for roughly 5.5 to 6.5 percent of the global hunger. Last year, the country's position in the global hunger index slid further. In addition, the state of food security has worsened

in recent years, with the

Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) putting

the country in the list of 31

food-insecure countries in 2009. The Monga-prone area heavily dependent on agriculture, records one of the highest poverty headcount rates in Bangladesh with large number of its population living below the poverty

The study report titled "Monga a concern for food security remains out of the box of long-run development policy process" said different agencies have taken various short-term policies but long-term development strategies are not seriously considered in this regard.

"As a result, the shortterm microeconomic intervention, which brought temporary relief for a segment of the vast majority of the affected population, may not be the long-run panacea to eradicate Monga permanently.

"Weaknesses of the government interventions are that they lack adequate measures and termed as 'lackadaisical' by the local people," it notes.

The women who participated in the focus group discussions under the study said the impacts of Monga in

2009 and 2010 were less

compared to the previous years', partly due to Monga mitigation programmes. "What has been missing in the Monga mitigation exercise is that development practitioners have failed to provide adequate attention to give these microeconomic interventions a shape towards a long-term macroeconomic policy interven-

tion. Nor there has been

adequate advocacy to inte-

grate Monga at the national development planning strategies." The study recommends ensuring year-round employment opportunity through diversified economic activities -- farm and non-farm -- in the northern districts, and fostering sustainable and integrated development practices in

improving the living standards of the people. Given the demographic and economic features of the Monga-prone area, the study shows that without giving adequate focus to improve agriculture of the region, alternative strategies may not be effective to improve the Monga situa-

"Therefore, the immediate development priorities should be given to agriculture investment, particularly, on crop production in northern districts, which in future could open up increased investment opportunity in agro-based industries," the study report suggests.

The alternative employment opportunities including increasing opportunities for non-farm activities could only be effective and sustainable if they are properly complemented by agriculture sector, it said, adding that strategies should be taken so that farmers in the region can produce at least three crops a year.

Since women are the most vulnerable to Monga, they should be at the centrestage while formulating long-term policies to fight Monga, it recommended.