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# Dhaka's Crimea role upsets US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh stands aloof from the tensions between two superpowers America and Russia over the "annexation of Crimea" by the latter.

Russia was quite happy as Bangladesh abstained from voting on this important issue at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on March 27. America, however, regretted Bangladesh's stance.

The 193-member UNGA adopted a resolution on Ukraine's territorial integrity, which called on all states, international organisations and specialised agencies not to recognise any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 100 in favour to 11 against, with 58 abstentions, including Bangladesh, India and China.

"I regret that Bangladesh was not able to join the majority on that important issue," US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan Mozena told a Meet the Press event at American Club in the capital yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING		
	April 1	
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15



Supporters of 10 candidates in upazila polls block the Mymensingh-Tangail highway and lay siege to the UNO office at Ghatail of Tangail yesterday, protesting the capture of 37 polling stations and ballot stuffing by the supporters of AL-favoured contenders. Police shot rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the protestors, leaving five people injured.

PHOTO: STAR

# SL through after Herath Hurricane

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

With Mahela Jayawardene at slip, a short-leg in place and the vicious turners coming off Rangana Herath, the second half of the match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium last night in a way resembled the last innings of a Test match with the batting side struggling to bat on a five-day-old wicket.

This was the setting that proved to be the turning point of a game which saw the mighty Sri Lankans --bowed out for a 119 - post a comeback courtesy of Rangana Herath's career-best figures of 5 for 3 and storm into the semis with an 59-run win. The clueless Kiwis, who were restricted to



60 for nine --an injured Corey Anderson could not take the field -- did not know what hit them.

Having come into the tournament as favourites, a do-or-die battle against New Zealand this early in the tournament must have caused a few jitters in the Sri Lankan camp. In addition to that was the pressure of this match possibly being the last T20I for their legends Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene. And once they got bundled out for their lowest T20I score in the last one and a half years, it seemed as though the Lankans were on their way to an unexpected exit.

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Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Rangana Herath celebrates one of his five wickets, which destroyed New Zealand and took the Lankans through to the ICC World Twenty20 semi-finals, at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# 26 LAKH CASES PENDING JS panel for evening shift at all courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body has recommended that the government introduce evening shift at both lower and higher courts to reduce the backlog of cases.

The parliamentary standing committee on law affairs came up with the suggestion at a meeting on Sunday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"It is the constitutional right that people will get justice within a reasonable period of time. But at present over 26 lakh cases are pending at different courts in the country.

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# ROW OVER ADP M Kamal takes a swipe at Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented manner, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday hit out at Finance Minister AMA Muhith over the latter's alleged lack of results during his tenure.

"He [Muhith] talks big. He proposes a massive budget every year. The speech is so long that he crashes out while delivering it," Kamal said during his extraordinary interaction with a group of journalists.

"But in practice, he fails to deliver on many of the things. If I were him, I would keep the budget speech to just 15 pages."

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# CONTROVERSIAL CLAIM Case against Khaleda dismissed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although a Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a defamation case hours after it was filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for claiming Ziaur Rahman as the country's first president, the cabinet decided to take the matter seriously.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

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