

Tigers lose

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bundled out in 43.1 overs; and this modest target hardly imposed any threat to the Australia XI, who overtook the total with ease, having six wickets and 8.1 overs to spare.

After a four-wicket haul, Ashton Turner hit an unbeaten 71 to script an easy victory for Australia XI, but it was Clarke, who opened the innings and scored 34 off 36 balls, who brought a sigh of relief as he bowled, fielded and then batted with increasing fluency to take a major step towards being passed fit and leading Australia at the World Cup.

Batting remained a concern for Bangladesh as the main reason behind their losses in the unofficial practice matches was their faltering top-order batsmen, but captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who was given rest along with injured pacer Taskin Ahmed and opener Tamim Iqbal, was not too worried. "We should not have lost the matches. But I am not too concerned with our batting because we have examined all the players and Shakib [Al Hasan] didn't even bowl. The players were still in a kind of 'practice mood', but from the official practice matches you will mark the difference," said Mashrafe.

Bangladesh lost their first wicket after electing to bat when Anamul Haque fell victim to a run out in the second over. After that they lost wickets at regular intervals with Soumya Sarker, Mominul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim being dismissed cheaply to stumble to 57 for five. A 64-run sixth-wicket stand between Mahmudullah Riyad and Sabbir Rahman repaired the damages and finally Nasir Hossain's 56-ball 52, that featured seven fours, gave the team a total of 193, but ultimately it proved too small to defend.

The Tigers will fly for Sydney from Brisbane tomorrow to play their two official warm-up matches against Pakistan (February 9) and Ireland (February 12).

BNP's Ashraf

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The case was filed with Paltan police accusing 51 leaders and activists of BNP-led 20-party alliance including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 120 to 150 unnamed people.

On Wednesday, detectives detained Ashraf and Nazimuddin at the capital's Motijheel.

Journalists must

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should be published or broadcast in media and what not.

Associate Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Abdul Quayum stressed the need for a policy for publishing and broadcasting advertisements to protect children from its adverse effects.

Bangladesh Press Council Secretary Shyamol Chandra Karmakar noted that online news portals in many cases do not follow professional ethics.

Editor of the daily Samakal Golam Sarwar said the Editors' Council has already taken initiatives to formulate a code of conduct for journalists.

Director (news) of Ekattor TV Syed Ishtiaq Reza, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury, MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman, CEO of INFOCUS Farid Hossain and Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Shah Alamgir also spoke.

In another programme organised by Orbis International at the same venue, speakers yesterday said journalists can motivate people to prevent diseases, particularly childhood blindness, by reporting on its causes and preventions.

President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, and Dr Munir Ahmad and Dr Lutful Hossain, country director and ophthalmologist respectively of Orbis International, among others, spoke.

4G spectrum

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been launched in the country, and he hoped that everyone would be able to access it soon.

He directed BTRC to formulate an internet policy, which was one of his three plans.

Emphasising the need for a cyber security policy, Joy said data of 25,000 official websites of the government would have to be secured.

To make a digital Bangladesh, the government has set up 23,500 digital multimedia classrooms and 3,500 computer labs, he said, adding that 2,000 more computer labs would be set up soon.

Joy spoke with leaders of Awami League of Tungipara upazila of Gopalganj and Pirganj upazila of Rangpur through video conferencing.

Of the 25,000 tabs, 18,000 were distributed across the country yesterday under a project titled "National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-2" funded by the Chinese government.



Journalists with their cameras and microphones surround an arson victim at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, overwhelming a patient enduring severe pain.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The height of insensitivity!

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Friday Review.

The incident caused a stir in the hospital.

A large number of journalists, politicians and others visit the unit every day, leaving the patients exposed to infectious diseases. Nobody ever bothers about precautions like wearing apron or mask.

Especially, journalists enjoy full access anytime. In many cases, they crowd inside, talk with the patients,

create chaos and thus hamper treatment. The situation turns the worst whenever fresh arson victims arrive.

However, there are some restrictions on family members and relatives of patients.

Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon at the burn unit, said media persons may enter the unit but they should keep in mind that the patients do not suffer for their journalistic work.

"We have urged all not to crowd the burn unit."

Diplomats, donors call

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members of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry last night, the diplomats and donor representatives wanted to know about a possible way out of the crisis.

They then suggested that talks can be a solution, Awami League lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, who was present at the dinner, told The Daily Star over the phone.

"We told them that dialogue was a continuous process in democracy and at first they [BNP-Jamaat] must stop committing violence," he said.

European Union's Head of Delegation Pierre Mayaudon organised the dinner at his residence in the capital.

The diplomats and donor representatives also expressed concern over the draft of Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act-2014 which was approved by the cabinet in June last year.

And they also seek to know about the government motive behind formulating such an act which they said had

been criticised by rights bodies and non-government organisations home and abroad, said Khasru.

According to the act, no NGO will be allowed to receive foreign donations for any project without prior permission from the NGO Affairs Bureau.

The AL lawmaker said the diplomats and donor representatives were told that the act was yet to get the cabinet's final approval.

Chairman of standing committee on the law ministry Suranjit Sengupta, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Lawmakers Shamsul Haque Tuku, Abdul Majid Khan and Tajul Islam Chowdhury, who is also the main opposition chief whip, were among the participants in the dinner.

High Commissioners to Canada Benoit-Pierre Laramée and Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock, and representatives from the Department for International Development and United States Agency for International Development were also present.

US proposal seeks to head off Internet 'fast lane'

AFP, Washington

The top US telecom regulator proposed Wednesday to regulate broadband Internet service providers as "public utility" carriers, in a renewed effort to enforce "net neutrality" rules.

Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler unveiled the plan which aims to prevent Internet providers from playing favorites or blocking some services or allowing others to pay for "fast lanes."

The new proposal comes a year after a federal court struck down the FCC neutrality rules, saying it lacked the authority because Internet providers were not "common carriers" under US telecom law.

The plan, which is expected to unleash a fresh legal and political battle, aims to resolve the impasse by reclassifying Internet service providers as regulated entities under the 1934 Telecommunications Act.

"The Internet must be fast, fair and open," Wheeler said in an essay in Wired magazine.

"That is the message I've heard from consumers and innovators across this nation. That is the principle that has

enabled the Internet to become an unprecedented platform for innovation and human expression."

Wheeler said his plan, to be submitted to the five-member commission for a vote later this month, would call for "the strongest open Internet protections ever proposed by the FCC."

He would ban "paid prioritization," which would allow services to pay for faster connections, as well as "blocking and throttling of lawful content and services."

The move comes after President Barack Obama voiced support in November for a similar plan, arguing online services that don't pay extra fees should not be in a "slow lane."

The Wheeler plan would reach deeper into the Internet, beyond consumer-facing offerings to "interconnection" services and allow the FCC to investigate alleged discriminatory practices at that level.

Wheeler said he would apply the rules to the mobile Internet for the first time as well.

Critics of the approach argue that the 1930s-style regulation would choke off investment in the Internet and stifle innovation.

Kirchner in China gaffe row after Twitter gibes

AFP, Beijing

Argentina's President Cristina Kirchner was assailed at home and abroad yesterday after an undiplomatic tweet during a state visit to China, in which she seemingly poked fun at Asian difficulties pronouncing the letters L and R.

Kirchner, on a mission to China to expand trade and political ties, tweeted in Spanish on the number of people attending one of her events in Beijing, asking: "Are they all with La Campora?" She was referring to La Campora,

her party's youth organisation, led by her son.

"Or, are they only there for the lice (rice) and petroleum (petroleum)?" she added. It was a play on a political joke from home: Kirchner's detractors say that her supporters only attend party events so they can get a free sandwich and a soda.

After the tweets triggered criticism and accusations of racism, she followed up with another saying: "Sorry. You know what? There is too, too much craziness and absurdity, only humour can get you through it."

Govt handout brings up Anti-Terrorism Act

BSS, Dhaka

Against the backdrop of continuing arson attacks, the government yesterday issued a handout highlighting the punishment, including death penalty, for killing people with petrol bombs or any ignitable substances.

According to the Anti Terrorism Act 2009, it said, causing death, inflicting grievous injury on people by using petrol, any explosive or ignitable substances, and possessing those, and instigating terrorist activities are punishable offences.

As per section 6 (2) (a) of the act, if any person burns anyone to death or inflicts grievous hurt on anyone or makes an attempt to do so using petrol or any ignitable substance, he/she shall be sentenced to death and shall also be liable to fine.

If any person uses or keeps petrol or any ignitable substance to carry out terrorist activities or attempts to do so, he/she shall be sentenced to life imprisonment and shall be liable to fine, in accordance with section 6 (2)

(e) of the law of 2009.

If any person plots or assists or instigates to cause death or inflict grievous hurt on anyone using petrol or ignitable substances, he/she shall be sentenced to life-term imprisonment or shall be liable to fine as per section 6 (2) (b).

As per section 7 (3) (4), any person or organisation giving financial support to other person for any terrorist activities shall be sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and shall be liable to fine.

In accordance with section 14 (1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act-2009, if any person or organisation gives shelter to carriers of petrol bombs, manufacturers and users, they shall be sentenced to five years in prison and shall also be liable to fine.

If any electronic or print media broadcasts or publishes any content to instigate burning people to death by petrol bombs or any ignitable substance, they shall be sentenced to life imprisonment or shall be liable to fine, as per section 13 of the act.

Father's hunch saves toddler

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He searched for three minutes and when he found him, his lips were blue and his heart wasn't beating. Lin gave him CPR.

"He is my only child. I absolutely have to save his life -- I can't lose him," the Liberty Times newspaper quoted him as saying.

His son survived, as did his wife, although both are being treated in hospital. Lin emerged unscathed and was the only one of 15 survivors that didn't need medical treatment.

LUCKY ESCAPE

Lin puts his family's survival down to the last-minute decision to switch seats.

Initial reports indicated that it was the left side of the turboprop plane which was seriously damaged in the crash, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported. The Lins were originally seated on the left.

A rescue worker from the Taipei Fire Department, who was one of the first

on the scene, said the cabin was already chest-deep in water when he entered.

"Many passengers were tangled up in their seat belts and hung upside down," the Taipei Times quoted him as saying.

Huang Chin-shun, a 72-year-old man, said he helped save four lives by unclipping safety belts.

"Shortly after taking off, I felt something was not right," he told CNN affiliate ETTV. "I thought: 'something's wrong with the engine,' because I always take this flight."

A total of 13 people were saved in the initial rescue effort but progress slowed and water had completely filled the fuselage by evening, when a crane lifted it from the water.

The Lins were not the only ones to have a lucky escape.

As the out-of-control plane spiralled into the river on the outskirts of the island's capital, it clipped a taxi traveling along an elevated highway.

Khaleda won't budge

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demned the attack on innocent people and demanded arrest of "the real culprits".

Holding the government responsible for the ongoing arson attacks on vehicles and killings, she said, "We don't believe in evil politics which put the lives of citizens at risk."

Khaleda's statement came when the BNP-led alliance's ongoing blockade was on its 31st consecutive day. At least 54 people had been killed in violence and bomb attacks across the country during this period.

Over the month, the alliance had also enforced eight days of hartal for which the Secondary School Certificate exams for 15 lakh students had to be deferred twice.

The SCC exams are now scheduled to start today but there is a fear the exams could get deferred further.

The five consecutive days of hartals ended yesterday and announcement for fresh hartals is expected next week.

Mentioning that extreme pressure was mounted on her in a planned manner at a time when she was trying to deal with the shock of losing her son, Khaleda said she was ready to face anything and would not bow to any pressure and threats.

"We have enforced the movement not to go to power but to uphold the democracy, ensure people's fundamental and human rights, justice and rule of law."

"We have been calling upon the government for the last one year to hold a dialogue to create a congenial atmosphere for an all-inclusive national election but they did not pay any attention," she said.

The former prime minister feared that the country might see the rise of militancy again due to the govern-

ment's repressive policies against it. "And for this, the security of not only Bangladesh but also of the whole region may be affected," she said.

She also called upon the international community and democratic countries to raise their voice against the "state-backed terrorism", and for the people's democratic movement.

Khaleda alleged that the law enforcers had killed 33 and arrested 17,000 of her party men since the blockade began on January 6.

TOUGHER PROGRAMMES

In a separate statement, the BNP yesterday threatened to enforce even tougher programmes from Sunday if the government did not step down and take measures to hold a national election under a non-partisan administration.

Party's Joint Secretary General Salah Uddin Ahmed issued the statement.

DEMOS NEAR KHALEDA'S OFFICE

Transport workers yesterday staged demonstrations near Khaleda's office demanding withdrawal of the country-wide blockade and hartals. They also threatened to continue with their protests until their demand was met.

Wearing shrouds, some 200 workers under the banner of Bangladesh Sammilito Gari Chalak and Sramik Samiti protested around 100 yards away from the office in the afternoon.

At least two crude bombs went off near the gathering but none was hurt.

They again gathered there at night, but police forced them to retreat.

Earlier in the day, several thousand students from 40 schools of Badda and its adjacent areas formed a human chain on Rampura-Badda Road demanding withdrawal of the blockade and hartal during the SSC exams.

PM counts on public wrath

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20-party alliance]."

The PM came up with the remarks in her introductory speech at a meeting with seniors officials of various divisions under the finance ministry at its conference room.

Heinous act like burning people to death is just unthinkable, she said, adding that the BNP-Jamaat is doing politics in the name of Islam but they are unleashing all sorts of anti-Islamic activities and trying to push the country towards devastation.

She also called upon all to remain alert about the subversive acts unleashed by the BNP-Jamaat.

When the country is moving forward in all sectors, such subversive acts have put the people in distress, Hasina said, adding, "But we're trying to contain the menace with tough measures."

The PM mentioned that Jamaat had carried out arson attacks, rape and

genocide on innocent Bangladeshis during the Liberation War as the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces.

"When these parties grab power, they don't care about public welfare and development of the country, rather amass wealth through corruption and siphoning off money. Their character is to push the country backwards and now they are doing the same thing," she said.

At the meeting, Hasina asked the finance division to look properly into the financing issue of the fast-track projects.

She also expressed her optimism to alleviate poverty further in the next four years of her government.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, PM's Economic Affairs Adviser Moshir Rahman and Finance Division Senior Secretary Mahub Ahmed, among others, were present.