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Real test begins today

Soumya, Shahid set for Test debut

AL-AMIN From Khulna

The Tigers have so far been spectacular against Pakistan in the home series and have hardly put a foot wrong in the 3-0 ODI whitewash followed by a dominating win in the lone T20I.

But they will now need to be more than just spectacular and flashy if they are to turn another corner and perhaps the biggest in their cricketing history – a maiden Test win against an established Test team; a team which has never been as low (mentally) as it is now.

The closest Bangladesh came to a victory in their last eight meetings against Pakistan was in Multan way back in 2003, only to be denied by a resolute unbeaten 138 from Inzamamul Haq. That one-wicket loss at that historic venue, where Bangladesh also played their first five-day game against Pakistan, is a topic of

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An observant Mushfiqur Rahim, Bangladesh's Test skipper, inspects the pitch at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday while coach Chandika Hathurusingha watches on, ahead of the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Money transfer thru' mobile restricted till 5pm today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday imposed a ban on all kinds of transactions through mobile banking services until 5:00pm today.

The central bank in a press release said the restriction would take effect immediately.

Earlier in the day, the BB in another press release said the transaction limit through mobile financial services had been restricted to Tk 1,000 only. The central bank had also restricted mobile top-up or recharge to Tk 1,000, read the statement.

"BB made the decision due to the city corporation elections to be held tomorrow [today]," Mahfuzur Rahman, executive director of the BB, told The Daily Star.

The usual transaction limit set by the BB for account holders of mobile financial services is maximum Tk 10,000 a day and a total of Tk 25,000 a month.

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HC hearing on Abbas' bail deferred for a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday deferred for a week the date for hearing bail pleas of BNP blessed Dhaka mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas in three cases.

Two separate HC benches that were scheduled to hear the petitions yesterday have now fixed May 4 for the hearing seeking anticipatory bail.

The HC benches passed the deferment orders following prayers of time extension moved by Abbas' lawyers stating that the accused BNP leader could not appear before the court yesterday for security reasons.

Mirza Abbas, one of the BNP heavyweights in the mayoral race for Dhaka South City Corporation, has so far shunned electoral campaign, fearing arrest. His wife Afroza Abbas has been running the show for him.

Lawyers Khandaker

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

HC directives left unimplemented

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of sexual harassment are taking place repeatedly because of non-implementation of High Court directives to prevent such crimes, said lawyers of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

They cited the HC judgments of May 2006, May 2009 and January 2011, which defined sexual harassment and issued specific directives to all educational institutions and workplaces to prevent such incidents.

"People are still not aware of these laws," said advocate Salma Ali, executive director of BNWLA at a press conference on 'High Court directives to prevent sexual harassment and the necessity of a law' at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning.

She said after the recent attacks on women on the Bangla New Year, BNWLA lawyers met the vice chancellor of Dhaka University and the state minister for home and gave them copies of the judgments.

She also said that as a petitioner of the cases, BNWLA would monitor the steps the government takes to implement these directives, which include, among others, forming separate cells in every police station to receive complaints of sexual harassment.

Salma Ali also called on the women, who were attacked on April 14, to contact BNWLA on their hotline numbers 01711800400, 01711800401, 01711800406 and 01711800407 to get legal assistance.

"If you do not come forward the assaulters will get away with the crime," she said, promising to keep details of the affected women confidential.

Referring to the reaction of the government regarding the Pahela Baishakh incident, advocate Fouzia Karim Firoze, president of the organisation said, "Neither the government nor the opposition has ever addressed these issues."

She also criticised the police's role and failure to rescue victims of sexual harassment on the day. She emphasised the need for witness protection law and revision of the Evidence Act.

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ICT contempt provision challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been lodged with the High Court challenging the constitutionality of a provision of the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, 1973 that empowered tribunals to try and punish offenders for contempt of court.

Twelve eminent personalities, who face contempt of court charge before the International Crimes Tribunal-2, filed the petition on April 22 also challenging the legality of another provision of the law that deals with the appeal against any conviction.

In the petition, they prayed to the HC for staying the contempt proceedings against them.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akond concluded the hearing on the petition, and fixed Wednesday (tomorrow) for passing the order on it, Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim Swapna told The Daily Star.

Petitioners' counsel Rashna Imam said her clients challenged sections 11 (4) and 21 of the ICT act, citing that both the prosecution and defence can move appeals with the Supreme Court against any conviction by a tribunal for committing crimes against humanity.

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Ensure tough punishment for terror acts

Arrest not enough, says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the arrest of the culprits involved in terrorist acts is not enough, as they need to be given harsh punishment through disposal of their cases.

"The joint drive will continue against those engaged in terrorist and subversive acts," she said, adding that the criminals should get tough punishment so that no one could cause harm to people in the future.

The PM came up with the remarks while videoconferencing with the district development coordination committee of Bogra and Satkhira at the Cabinet Division's conference room yesterday.

Hasina mentioned that her government's prime aim was to ensure peace and security of public life.

Those who burned people to death alive through hurling petrol bombs and caused huge damage to public property in the name of hartals and blockades must get the punishment, she said.

"Then joint drive will continue until the public lives become safe," she added.

After arresting the culprits, it has to be ensured that



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Only an SMS, and know your polling centre's name

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is made all very easy! One SMS, and get the name of your polling center on your phone.

If you have a 17-digit National ID number, go to your message option and type PC, give a space and type your 17-digit ID number and send it to 16103. You will get a return message bearing the name of your voting centre, booth number and voter serial number.

Voters with a 13-digit

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 28

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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A double-decker BRTC bus requisitioned by Dhaka University plies the wrong lane of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, adding to traffic jam in the busy afternoon yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Man forms his own country!

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Vit Jedlicka, 31, has formed his own European nation on a three-square-mile territory located between Serbia and Croatia.

The piece of land technically does not belong to either country, so he decided to use the space to fulfil his own political ambitions.

Vit, who is an active member of the conservative Party of Free Citizens in the Czech Republic, has long since wanted to live in a country that doesn't have an army, and where taxes are optional.

When he realised that his ambitions may never be fulfilled in his own country, he decided to found

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