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About time for a Shakib show

Second BD-Pak Test starts today

BISHWAJIT ROY

When Bangladesh last played a Test match against Pakistan in Mirpur in December 2011, Shakib Al Hasan was the man to watch from the Bangladesh side. Though Bangladesh lost that match, the ace all-rounder hogged the spotlight with his 144-run knock in the first innings and a match-haul of seven wickets.

As a new-look Tigers, with new-found confidence, lock horns with Pakistan in the second and final Test starting from today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, they will hope that the experienced campaigner will bounce back from his rather ordinary bowling performance in Khulna and help his side notch a remarkable finish to a series which has already resembled a fairytale story for the Tigers.

Everybody is anticipating a result in the Mirpur Test and skippers Mushfiqur Rahim and Misbahul Haq are no exceptions. The reason for that is the Mirpur pitch has traditionally offered something to the bowlers, unlike Khulna where Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes's record-breaking 312-run opening partnership in the second innings kept Pakistan winless in the series.

Bangladesh's batting so far has showed enough mettle to keep one's confidence in them, despite the fact that Pakistan has every weapon in their hand to challenge the Tigers and salvage some pride from the tour. There will be no shortage of confidence in the Bangladesh tent when they go into the last game of the tour, but if they want to clinch their first-ever Test victory against Pakistan, their bowling should tick all the boxes; and Shakib especially will be the key.

Pakistan had targeted Bangladesh's best bowler in the



The freedom of expression that Bangladesh coaches preach has so far done wonders for the Tigers in the home series against Pakistan. It's now remains to be seen how well the Tigers fare in the second and final Test that starts at Mirpur today.

Annisul gets fund before taking oath

Tk 200cr project for DNCC; Rampal airport scheme okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Luck smiled on Dhaka north mayor-elect Annisul Huq even before he took office as the Ecneec yesterday approved a Tk 200 crore project for his city corporation.

Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) gave the go-ahead to the project titled "Construction and Improvement of Roads, Drains and Footpaths of Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara Diplomatic Areas".

The project, to be implemented by Dhaka North City Corporation, was placed before the Ecneec early last month, but the Election Commission objected to the move saying that it might affect the city polls results. Accordingly, the decision on the project was stalled.

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MURDER AFETR RAPE

Death or life term can now be awarded

SC rules; it used to be only death penalty

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the offenders could be awarded capital punishment or life term for killing after rape, scrapping the provision of only death sentence for the offence under Women and Children Repression Prevention (Special) Act 1995.

Delivering a verdict on 12 separate appeals, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha also declared unconstitutional a section of the amended law of 2000 that had protected the provisions concerned of the 1995 law.

Now the murder-after-rape offenders will be tried and punished under the amended law of 2000, which provides for death sentence or life imprisonment with a fine of maximum Tk 1 lakh as punishments, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and lawyers concerned of the appellants told The Daily Star.

Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman (Bishesh Bidhan) Ain [Women and Children

ASHULIA BANK HEIST

Fund collection was the target

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grisly Ashulia bank heist was aimed at collecting funds for militant activities of Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and 10 operatives of the outfit carried out the robbery-turned-bloodbath.

They killed a guard, looted around Tk 7 lakh from the cash counters and then went on to kill the manager of Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd's Kathgora branch to take hold of the vault key.

However, they had to abort it midway as someone announced the heist news on the loudspeaker of a nearby mosque.

Police yesterday made the "revelations" after arresting Jasim Uddin alias Asad, a key member of the gang, from Manikganj's Daulatpur in the early hours.

It was the seventh arrest made in connection with the heist that claimed nine lives including a robber's on April 21.

Claiming that they have "unearthed the mystery behind the heist", Khandakar Golam Faruque, additional deputy inspector general (Dhaka range) of police, told pressmen at a briefing at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police that the heist was carried out apparently to collect funds for militant acts.

"We suspect that they are members of the Ansarullah Bangla Team," he said.

The arrestees follow Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, the so-called spiritual leader of the ABT, said the police official, adding that they also found books authored by Rahmani while raiding the arrestees' houses.

Rahmani is now in jail in connection with the killing of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider.



Jasim Uddin

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CITY ELECTIONS

EC to probe assault on journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday formed two probe bodies to investigate assaults on journalists covering three city corporation polls in Dhaka and Chittagong on April 28.

Additional divisional commissioners of Dhaka and Chittagong will head the three-member committees while senior officials of the police and the EC Secretariat will act as members and member secretaries respectively.

The commission directed the committees to unearth the real facts in connection with the assaults on journalists, according to an official document of the EC.

The probe bodies will find out whether any such incident had taken place. They will also locate the polling centres where such

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Alien sounds heard miles above Earth!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

'Alien' sounds have been captured at the edge of space. The hisses and whistles heard in the recordings were captured 22 miles above Earth, by a student last year.

The recording equipment was sent up by a graduate student as part of a Nasa project to record sound from the edges of the atmosphere.

The microphones picked up "infrasound" — frequencies so low that they can't be heard by human ears. But speeding up the recordings means that the sounds can be heard.

The recordings were taken from a helium balloon in August last year. The microphones dangled over New Mexico and Arizona and were one of 10 sent out by Nasa as part of the High Altitude Student Platform.

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2 GRAFT CASES

Khaleda asked to appear in court May 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to appear before it on May 25 in Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable trust graft cases.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka also ordered Khaleda's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder to take steps for ensuring that she shows up in the court that day.

The BNP chief was absent

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PRAYER TIMING
MAY 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-15	12-45	5-00	6-34	8-00
JAMAAT	4-50	1-15	5-15	6-38	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

2 'robbers' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two alleged robbers were killed and another was injured in a "gunfight" with police in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Abdus Salam, 50, of Jagannathpur village in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila, and Babu Mia, 40, of Puranapoi village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

The injured, Boishaku Romesh, 34, son of late Nagen Chandra of Boliarpur village in Phulbari upazila, is being treated at Joypurhat Modern Hospital. Another "robber", Delwar Hossain, 40, was arrested while he was fleeing after the "gunfight", said police.

Acting on a tip-off, around 3:00am, a joint-team of Joypurhat DB and Panchbibi police raided Bhutgari village where some seven to eight "robbers" were preparing for committing a robbery,

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DEATH TOLL 7,500

Earthquake survivors queue for relief food at an open ground shelter in Kathmandu yesterday, following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck the Himalayan nation on April 25. Many children in the Nepalese capital survived the earthquake physically unharmed, but bear the mental scars of a disaster that has devastated the country, killing thousands and leaving many more homeless.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

Relief effort intensifies

Govt claims aid reaches hard-hit areas; 60 Europeans still missing

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepalese authorities yesterday said that a vast army of emergency workers was finally managing to deliver aid to stranded survivors of a massive earthquake as the death toll from the disaster rose to 7,557.

The government said that more than 131,500 Nepalese military and police personnel were now taking part in the massive aid operation in the vast Himalayan nation, aided by more than 100 teams of foreign relief workers.

While the government has acknowledged being overwhelmed by the April 25 disaster and there have been complaints of delays to the relief effort, the home ministry indicated the situation was being brought under control.

"The situation in the country is gradually becoming normal because relief items have already reached crucial, hard hit areas," home ministry spokesman Laxmi Prasad Dhakal told AFP.

"Everybody is trying to return to their normal lives and all our government machinery is working to make sure that all relief is provided for as long as people want and need. We are trying our best."

His comments came after the National Emergency Operation Centre said the total number of dead had now reached 7,557 while 14,536 were injured in the 7.8-magnitude quake, Nepal's deadliest in more than 80 years.

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