



Bikers going against traffic on the Tejaon-Bijoy Sarani flyover dodging oncoming vehicles yesterday. A police vehicle, bottom left, and a sport utility vehicle, middle, takes to the wrong side there. A car is seen going the wrong way at Farmgate, bottom right.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

WINTER OLYMPICS IN SEOUL

Koreas agree to march together under one flag

CNN ONLINE

North and South Korean athletes will march together at the Winter Olympics opening ceremony under a unified flag, the South said yesterday, in a diplomatic breakthrough following days of talks between the two countries.

They will also field a joint North and South Korean women's ice hockey team for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, which begin early next month, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

North and South Korean skiers will train together at a resort in North Korea before the Olympics start, and performers from the two countries will also hold a joint cultural event there.

North Korea will also send around 230 supporters to cheer on its athletes. A smaller delegation of North Korean athletes and supporters will attend the Paralympics, the unification ministry said.

The developments were announced following North-South talks yesterday at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between the two countries.

The Korean Unification Flag features a blue silhouette of the peninsula and outlying islands. It was first used in 1991 at the World Table Tennis Championships and has been used at a number of sporting events since, most recently at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

DIPLOMATIC THAW

Yesterday's announcement is the latest breakthrough since talks began between the two Koreas earlier this

month, after years of broken communications.

While the two sides have earned praise for ratcheting down military tensions in recent weeks, some of Seoul's allies yesterday voiced concern that Pyongyang may be using the talks to buy time to pursue its weapons program.

The US military has moved more firepower to the region and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned of complacency at a Tuesday summit in Vancouver where the top diplomats from the United States, Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom were in town to discuss North Korea.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono called on the international community to be clear-eyed about North Korea's motivations for participating in the talks, which have been hailed by some as the most significant thaw in ties in years.

"I believe that North Korea wants to buy some time to continue their nuclear and missile programs," Kono said at the meeting. "It's not the time to ease pressure towards North Korea."

China denounced the Vancouver talks, and the United Nations Command, under whose framework they are being held, as demonstrating "Cold War mentality."

"(Such thinking) will only lead to split in the international community and harm the joint efforts that could properly solve the nuclear issue on Korea peninsula," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday.

Biggest flooded

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exploring a maze of underwater channels.

Near the beach resort of Tulum, the group found that the cave system known as Sac Actun, once measured at 263 km, communicated with the 83-km Dos Ojos system, the GAM said in a statement. For that reason, Sac Actun now absorbs Dos Ojos.

GAM director and underwater archaeologist Guillermo de Anda said the "amazing" find would help to understand the development of the rich culture of the region, which was dominated by the Maya civilization

before the Spanish conquest.

"It allows us to appreciate much more clearly how the rituals, the pilgrimage sites and ultimately the great pre-Hispanic settlements that we know emerged," he told Reuters.

The Yucatan peninsula is studded with monumental relics of the Maya people, whose cities drew upon an extensive network of sinkholes linked to subterranean waters known as cenotes.

Some cenotes acquired particular religious significance to the Maya, whose descendants continue to inhabit the region.

ACC sues ex-MD, businessman

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The ship is now out of order, according to an ACC statement.

The bank will have to provide vat, tax and arrears to the port and government after selling the ship.

Besides, the salaries of the staffers of the ship will have to be provided from the sale.

The case statement also said there were no collateral kept against the loan taken by Faisal.

During the investigation, the ACC also discovered that the client had broken the conditions of the

personal guarantee set by the bank.

The client promised to submit sales and stock statement regularly every month, but did not do so, the investigation said.

The investigation also found that the branch and the credit committee of the head office had sent the loan proposal to the managing director of the bank with negative recommendations.

But the bank's MD placed the proposal before the board and it subsequently approved the loan.

Earlier, the ACC had asked former

BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu not to leave the country so that his interrogation continues without any interruption.

The anti-graft body quizzed Bacchu on December 4 and again on December 6 in connection with at least 10 out of 57 cases filed over the embezzlement of Tk 2,044 crore from the bank.

On January 8 this year, the ACC interrogated Bacchu for the third time, this time in connection with 56 cases filed over embezzlement of Tk 2,036 crore from the bank.

'ROBBERY ATTEMPT'

Mob beats two men to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two young men were killed by a mob after they allegedly attempted to rob a house in a village of Narayanganj's Bandar upazila early yesterday.

Locals of Baligaon villagers claimed that the dead men were active members of a gang of robbers.

Police later recovered the bodies and sent them to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Quoting locals, Bandar Police

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Zimbabwe upstage

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the first match in this venue against Bangladesh on December 8, 2006 -- issued a reminder of their prowess through a team effort with Sikandar Raza putting in a star turn with an unbeaten 67-ball 81, a wicket and two crucial catches.

The closeness of the match -- Thisara Perera's late-innings blitzkrieg of 64 off 37 balls almost clinched it for Sri Lanka -- also bodes well for the triangular tournament after a seemingly underprepared Zimbabwe crashed to a one-sided eight-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in the first match on Monday. Zimbabwe showed, even though they got the tough end of conditions as they had to bowl in dew-soaked conditions, that their bowling has enough discipline to overcome disadvantages.

There was added significance to the match as it was the first international that Sri Lanka played under new coach Chandika Hathurusingha, who had only last October quit his post as Bangladesh head coach after a successful three-year association with the Tigers. It will irk Hathurusingha that his charges were outdone by a lower-ranked team in his first match in charge, that too in the country he left two years before his contract was due to expire.

Sri Lanka seemed out of the chase of 291 when Asela Gunaratne was stumped off skipper Graeme Cremer, leaving the score on 194 for six in the 36th over, but then Thisara Perera did what he does best and set the cat among the pigeons with his five fours and three sixes.

He built a 47-run partnership with Akila Dananjaya after the departure of Wanindu Hasaranga on 224, but Dananjaya's departure, caught off Tendai Chatara in the 45th over, put the onus squarely on Perera.

With 24 needed off 24 balls, he hit his third six before holing out to Raza off a Chatara full toss with the score on 275, and just three runs later Chatara bagged his fourth scalp by having Dushmantha Chameera caught at point to seal hard-fought win -- their third on the trot over Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's chase got off to a fast start from openers Kusal Perera,

whose punchy left-handed batting is reminiscent of explosive former Sri Lanka batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, and Upul Tharanga but there was a frenzied air to their batting which caught up with the latter when he was caught at mid-on off Kyle Jarvis in the sixth over with the score on 46. One wicket brought another as Kusal Mendis was caught off Cremer for a duck in the next over.

Skipper Angelo Mathews came in and displayed the intent to bat long, scoring just three off the first 21 balls. Kusal Perera reached his 50 off 32 balls but was dropped twice -- first by Solomon Mire at 57 and then off a return catch by Cremer on 77 -- before trying one shot too many and being caught off Raza at short fine leg, ending an 85-run stand with the captain. Blessing Muzarabani then grabbed his first wicket when Raza, again, pulled off a fine diving catch at midwicket to get rid of Mathews for 42. Things started to turn grim for Sri Lanka when Dinesh Chandimal was bowled by Jarvis in the 34th over with the score on 181.

Earlier, it was evident that Zimbabwe had historically beaten Sri Lanka in their own den last summer as the southern African nation brushed aside an indifferent display in the opener to put up a fighting 290 for six after being asked to bat first. The early impetus was provided by an accomplished 83-ball 73 from Hamilton Masakadza, who incidentally was also part of the team that played the first ODI in Mirpur in 2006.

There were supporting hands from Soman Mire (34 off 37) and Brendan Taylor (38 off 51), but after Masakadza's dismissal when he was third out, caught off the ultra-slow bowling of Gunaratne in the 28th over with the score on 142, it was all Raza. The right-hander, who knows the ground very well having been one of the few bright spots in Chittagong Vikings' dismal campaign in the recent BPL, hit eight boundaries and a six in his quickfire innings and helped realise 76 runs in the last 10 overs. It staged the stage for a fitting match to celebrate 100 ODIs at Mirpur, although there were very few spectators to witness it.

They tried to kill me

FROM PAGE 1

from two yards away," she said.

A three-member body, led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Jashim Uddin Haider, has been formed to probe the incident. It will submit a report within a week.

No case was filed as of last night. However, a general diary was lodged with Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station over the brandishing of a firearm by Jubo League leader Niazul Islam, allegedly loyal to Osman.

Tension still ran high in the city yesterday with a large number of law enforcers deployed at various points. Hawkers were not spotted on the footpaths in Chashara.

I build the market for them?" she added.

At a separate press conference at the Rifle Club yesterday, Osman claimed that shots had been fired from Ivy's procession on Tuesday.

"It was not a fight between Ivy and I, rather it was a clash between the hawkers and Ivy. Some people were trying to distort the facts. No one is telling the truth. The shots were fired from Ivy's procession," he claimed.

The AL lawmaker said he stood by the hawkers because Ivy's decision to evict them would affect them and also the AL that gave her nomination for the 2016 mayoral elections.

"I will work for the poor even if I

"I have talked to the prime minister [also the AL chief] in this regard. She said organisational steps will be taken against those involved in the incident," Quader said at a press conference at the AL president's political office in Dhanmondi.

The AL general secretary said he requested the home minister to launch a probe into the incident and take legal action against the agitators if they had used firearms.

REASONS BEHIND CLASH

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said jealousy and rivalry between Osman and Ivy led to Tuesday's clash,

ply with the directive.

"The hawkers will do business on the footpaths of Bangabandhu Road. Most of them sell goods there," said Asadul Islam Asad, convener of Narayanganj Zila Hawkers' Sangram Parishad.

DEMO BY JOURNOS

Members of Narayanganj Press Club and Narayanganj District Journalists' Union yesterday formed a human chain and held a rally in front of Narayanganj Press Club in Chashara, protesting the attacks on journalists during Tuesday's mayhem.

At least 12 journalists, including Narayanganj Press Club General Secretary Sharifuddin Sabuj, were



An emotional NCC Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy speaking to journalists at her Nagarbhawan office in the city yesterday while lawmaker Shamim Osman shows photos of Tuesday's mayhem at another press conference at the Rifle Club in the city.

At the press conference, Ivy said, "He [Osman] made an announcement the day before [Monday] and told police that 'this is my order, not a request, that hawkers will be on footpaths from 4:00pm'. And this man can do anything if he wants."

"I am the mayor and he is my party lawmaker. He did this on his own and I don't know why he had done this."

Ivy further said she wanted to free Bangabandhu Road from hawkers as the city corporation built a hawkers' market that can accommodate 1,500 to 2,000 hawkers.

"Footpaths and roads -- everything belongs to people. Don't I have the right to keep the footpaths clear for pedestrians? Why hawkers will sit there on the MP's order? Then why did

have to leave my party," he said.

Defending Niazul who brandished a firearm during the clash, Osman said it was being reported that Niazul is his supporter.

"But the truth is he [Niazul] is our party activist. He was beaten thrice while he was walking on the Bangabandhu Road. He had no choice but to pull out his pistol as he was being beaten for the fourth time. His pistol was lost during the incident."

The AL lawmaker, however, said that if Niazul had opened fire, there should be a probe into the matter.

STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

Obaidul Quader yesterday warned of taking organisational action against the party men who were involved in Tuesday's incident.

reports UNB.

Referring to the two Narayanganj leaders, the minister said, "Both of you are in power. What can we do if you fight each other?"

About the eviction drive in Narayanganj, he said, "The person who launched the eviction drive is an elected mayor while the person who opposed it is also an elected public representative. But it is not right to do something using muscle power. Why will hawkers occupy footpaths?"

DEFIANT HAWKERS

The Narayanganj deputy commissioner issued a directive that the hawkers would be allowed to run business today on footpaths except for that on Bangabandhu Road.

Hawkers, however, refused to com-

injured that day.

Yesterday, they demanded that Niazul and others responsible for this be arrested within 24 hours. Otherwise, they will boycott all programmes of the administration and politicians in Narayanganj city.

They will form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital today.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Halim Azad, former president of Narayanganj Press Club, and Abdus Salam, president of Narayanganj District Journalists Union, among others, spoke at the programmes.

[Our Narayanganj Correspondent contributed to this report]

PHOTO: STAR