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TIGRESSES FACE ENGLAND

Bangladesh women face England today in ICC Women's World Twenty20

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OBAMA'S CHOICE

The US president nominates Merrick Garland as the next Supreme Court justice

Confusion, panic order of the day

BB spends its first day without a head after Atiur's resignation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Confusion and panic was the order of the day at the Bangladesh Bank yesterday, a day after its governor Atiur Rahman stepped down and two deputy governors were removed hastily amid strong criticism over the central bank's handling of the \$101 million cyber theft.

"It is rare in the central bank's history that a governor and two deputy governors left office in such a manner. A vacuum has been created," said a senior official of the BB.

Atiur tendered his resignation to the prime minister on Tuesday following pressure from the government after seven years at the helm. But the removal of two deputy governors -- Md Abul Quasem and Nazneen Sultana -- was completely unexpected.

As a result, there was uncertainty as to who will fill in whose shoes. There was a sense of panic, too, as a finance ministry official said on Tuesday that the ministry would soon ask the BB to remove its two executive directors and two general managers. It was not clear who these four might be.

Normally, the deputy governor-1 opens the mails and other correspondence sent for the governor when the chief of the BB is not working. Other deputy governors who oversee various departments each signs papers on behalf of the governor.

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

In a thoroughly disappointing performance from Bangladesh, Shakib Al Hasan (R) was the only one who emerged with some credit. After being smashed for 39 runs in his four wicket-less overs, the left-hander battled valiantly with the bat, scoring a 40-ball 50 as the Tigers were humbled by 55 runs at the hands of Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20 Super 10 Group 2 encounter at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Pak fireworks humble Tigers



AL-AMIN from Kolkata

Bangladesh suffered a painful 55-run defeat against Pakistan in their opening Super Ten match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. It's a flat statement that deserves a better expression. The Tigers lost to the pyrotechnics of one Shahid Afridi, who rediscovered his big-hitting exploits at a time when many thought he is no longer the kind of devastating force he has been over the years.

His 19-ball 49, which contained four sixes and as many fours, was a special treat for the boisterous Eden crowd and a nightmare for a couple of thousand loyal Tigers fans in the mix. Like it or not, the explosive innings of the Pakistan batsman killed what was billed to be a good contest on a ground

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CYBER HEIST: TRAIL OF MONEY

FEB 5: A Bangladesh Bank official, Zubair Bin Huda, finds a printer connected to SWIFT systems out of order. Huda and his colleagues tried to fix the problem but failed. Then Huda left the office at 11:15am, seeking help from colleagues to fix it and inform him.

FEB 6: Huda once again attempted to solve the problem but failed. The software on the terminal connected to SWIFT systems was not responding. When an attempt was made to restart the terminal, a message flashed: "A file is missing or changed." They manually printed acknowledgement or confirmation receipts, but the automatic printing system was still not working.

FEB 7: BB tried to contact the Fed by phone but failed to reach any official as it was a Sunday.

FEB 4: HACKERS STRIKE BB SYSTEMS

Receipts show the Federal Reserve Bank of New York sent back queries to Bangladesh Bank against 46 payment/transaction orders in different messages. But there was no debit confirmation in the BB's system against payment orders.

Sensing a serious breakdown in SWIFT system, BB contacted a SWIFT manager with a request to analyse the issue.

As the SWIFT system was out of order, BB emailed the New York Fed at 1:30pm on Feb 6 with a stop order for unauthorised payments. BB also faxed a copy of the email to the Fed and tried to reach officials in New York by phone. No officials were available in New York as it was a holiday there.

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Sylhet court dismisses plea for case against Star editor

Bail granted in Khagrachhari

STAR REPORT

A Sylhet court has dismissed a petition for filing a defamation case against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Former joint secretary of Sylhet city BCL unit Ashraf Siddiqui submitted the petition to the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on February 17, seeking to lodge a Tk 100 crore libel case against the Star editor.

The court then asked the petitioner to provide it with supporting documents. After a hearing on Monday, the judge dismissed the plea due to discrepancy between the petition and the documents he supplied.

Advocate Emad Ullah Shahidul Islam, former president of Sylhet Bar

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Six power deals get go-ahead

Govt goes for wholesale unsolicited power deals; special act being used for 'speedy deals' on 2-year-old proposals

SHARIER KHAN

The government continues to award power project contracts on the basis of unsolicited negotiations under the Special Act for Speedy Supply of Power and Energy, 2010, although the country is no longer reeling from electricity shortage.

Interestingly, though the negotiations under this law were supposed to be speedy, these actually took longer than those in the normal tendering.

Yesterday, the cabinet committee on purchase approved awarding six power project contracts, five of these on the basis of unsolicited negotiations that started two years ago.

Three of these five projects are fuel oil-based which is very costly for the nation, one is a dual fuel-based (either gas or fuel oil) and the other is a solar power project.

The lone project that saw competitive bidding is a 210-megawatt "re-powering" project in Ghorashal, where an old power unit will be refurbished with new technology with financing from the World Bank. China Energy Engineering Group and Guangdong Power will jointly implement

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Birthday of Bangabandhu today

UNB, Dhaka

The 96th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being celebrated across the country today with due respect.

On this day in 1920, the architect of the nation was born at Tungipara of Gopalganj.

Through his dynamic leadership, Bangabandhu had organised the Bangali nation to fight against

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LAWS BENT FOR SOME



A police officer penalises a group of bikers for taking the wrong side of a road near Ruposhi Bangla intersection in the capital though an SUV used by a government official gets away with the same offence right behind him. Another car, top right, carrying the national flag is found doing the same. Yet another SUV violates the law under police protection, bottom right. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Dhaka's cost of living as high as Montreal's

Says The Economist Intelligence Unit survey

STAR REPORT

Would you believe that the cost of living in Dhaka is as high as that in the Canadian city of Montreal although the living amenities and conditions in these two cities are world apart?

The Intelligence Unit of British magazine The Economist in its latest study on the global cost of living in 2015 ranked Dhaka city at number 71 along with Montreal. Cities like Mexico City, Cleveland, or Istanbul turned out to be cheaper than Dhaka in this study.

Toronto, Canada's biggest city, is ranked 88, which is way cheaper than Dhaka.

The Economist studied 133 cities of the world, analysed the strength of dollar and mainly the cost of living for expats and business travellers.

Zambia's capital Lusaka seems to offer the best value for money in the world. Despite rampant inflation, a devaluation of its currency, Kwacha, caused by falling copper prices has pushed the city's cost of living down to just 41 percent of New York.

Singapore ranks as the costliest city of the world.

The top ten cheapest cities include four Indian cities. Bangalore and Mumbai are

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