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SHAH CEMENT

# England outplay misfiring Tigers

AL-AMIN from London

Bangladesh posted 305, a total no team had chased down before in ICC Champions Trophy history. But England made light work of that chase when they galloped their way to an eight-wicket victory with a lavish 16 balls to spare in the opening match of the eighth edition of the global event at The Oval yesterday.

Tamim Iqbal scored a sublime 128 in Bangladesh's fighting total, which was overtaken by another magnificent unbeaten 133 by England's master batsman Joe Root on a ground famous for producing tons of runs. It was fitting that the previous highest successful chase – 297 by Sri Lanka against England on this very ground in 2013 – was overtaken yesterday. And the home side sealed this time in front of a packed crowd and under glorious sunshine.

With five overs remaining it was the England supporters who were singing and the green shirts in the mix were leaving the stands, anticipating a defeat.

It was an incredible opening game as far as scoring runs were concerned. After a cautious start that saw Bangladesh scoring 36 in 10 overs, runs cascaded on an absolute belter of a wicket. Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim put on 166 runs for the third wicket, which was Bangladesh's highest partnership for any wicket outside the country. It was also the highest third-wicket stand at The Oval. The pair were going great guns as the game progressed into the 45th over with the Tigers delicately poised at 259 for two.

It was a situation from where Bangladesh could hope for

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Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal raises his arms after scoring his first century in an ICC event during yesterday's Champions Trophy opener against hosts England at The Oval in London.

# BANANI RAPE No evidence in victims' dress, DNA samples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors did not find any sperm on the gown or DNA samples of the two university students who went through forensic tests over a month after they were allegedly raped in an upscale hotel in the capital's Banani on March 28.

It is difficult to find evidence of rape when a victim, with no mentionable injuries, comes for examination 40 days after the incident, said Sohel Mahmud, head of a five-member medical board formed to examine the girls.

Tests by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the girls' DNA swabs and one of their dresses didn't reveal any trace of sperm. Sohel, head of forensic medicine at Dhaka Medical College told reporters yesterday.

A day after filing a case with Banani Police Station

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# Nasa to fly probe into the sun

AFP, Miami

A new Nasa mission aims to brush by the sun, coming closer than any spacecraft in history to its scorching heat and radiation in order to reveal how stars are made. The US space agency said Wednesday.

After liftoff from Kennedy Space Center in Florida in July 2018, the Parker Solar Probe will become the first to fly directly into the sun's atmosphere, known as the corona.

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# Gas price may rise as LNG import starts next year

SHARIEF KHAN

Lagging five years behind schedule, the government is finally expecting to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar from the end of next year to meet Bangladesh's never-ending gas supply shortfall.

As per yesterday's budget speech, once the country starts importing LNG and begins supplying it to the national grid, the government may have to increase gas prices in the country. That is because the cost of LNG import would depend on the international price.

But with some massive gas price hikes already taken place in two instalments this year (the latest one taking place yesterday), the nation may not face any significant gas price hike with the use of LNG.

When the government in 2010 initiated a

# ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS VAT proposed despite court ruling against it

WASIM BIN HABIB

Shayla Sultana could not believe her ears when she heard that the much-talked-about uniform VAT rate of 15 percent will be applicable to English medium schools.

The mother of a nursery-going child in the capital thought there would be no more tax burden on them after the Supreme Court had ordered the government not to collect value-added tax (VAT) from English medium students.

But that was not to be since the government in the proposed budget for fiscal 2017-18 did not exempt English medium schools from paying 15 percent VAT.

All other educational institutions are kept beyond the purview of VAT in the budget proposals placed by Finance Minister AMA Muhiht in parliament yesterday.

"How the government slips VAT again when the highest court of the country laid against it! I'm flabbergasted," said Shayla, a resident of Indira Road.

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

| Ramadan | June | Sehri | Iftar |
|---------|------|-------|-------|
| 6       | 2    | 6-46  |       |
| 7       | 3    | 3:39  | 6-46  |
| 8       | 4    | 3:39  | 6-47  |

SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 2

Fateh Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3:45 12:30 5:00 6:45 8:15

JANAM 3:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Families affected by the recent flooding in the hoars of Sunamganj queue up at an Open Market Sale outlet in Tahirpur Bazar of Sunamganj to buy rice and flour at a reduced price. This budget reflects government's desire to go for a much bigger food subsidy for the poor. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

# Subsidised food for the poor

Hardly any move to arrest high prices of rice

REAZ AHMAD

The government has decided to provide the poor with subsidised food, despite experiencing a bad crop year owing to early deluge in the Boro-rich haor regions.

Finance minister's budget speech had a clear reflection that the government would go for a much bigger food subsidy this time and give food dotes to those in need.

But critics see no apparent move to arrest the high prices of rice in the market and find the government's decision to import the staple too late a response against the backdrop of traders' price manipulation.

"We have plans to procure 28 lakh metric tonnes and distribute 27 lakh metric tonnes of food grains in FY 2017-18. Besides, under a food aid programme, we will provide food assistance to 50 lakh low income families for 5 months at an administered price," Muhiht announced in his budget speech yesterday.

M Asaduzzaman, a distinguished fellow at the country's premier think-tank Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), however, finds nothing much to cheer

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