



Bangladesh fell 48 runs short in the face of a daunting 381-run total against Australia, but Mushfiqur Rahim fought tooth and nail till the end and in the process recorded his maiden World Cup century at Trent Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

পদ্মা সেতুর মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট

ভিত্তিসহ পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট মজবুত থেকে আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

Sourav freed after 11 days

Sohel Taj's nephew found blindfolded, tied up; abductors drop him at a roadside rice mill in Mymensingh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police found Syed Iftekhar Alam Sourav, nephew of former state minister for home Sohel Taj, in Mymensingh yesterday, 11 days after he went missing from Chattogram.

He was dropped off a vehicle in Battala area in Tarakanda upazila around 5:00am, blindfolded and his hands tied up. He had no shirts on at the time, police and family sources said.

About half an hour later, his father Idris Alam received a call from an unknown number and heard his son's voice on the other end. The family then contacted police.

During his captivity, he was kept blindfolded with his mouth gagged for most of the time, he said citing Sourav, 27, who was picked up and interrogated at least four times in the last five months allegedly by law enforcers and an intelligence agency over his relations with the daughter of a businessman in Dhaka.

Latest on June 9, Sourav, who teaches at a school in the port city where he lives with his parents, was picked up by plainclothes men from in front of Afmi Plaza around 7:00pm, his family members told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity on Monday.

He had gone there with his CV for a job after being asked by law enforcers by phone, said his mother Sayeda Yesmin Arjuman.



Flattest pitches I've ever seen, says Bumrah

AGENCIES, London

Top-ranked ODI bowler Jasprit Bumrah said yesterday that the pitches in England used for white ball cricket are the "flattest tracks" he has ever bowled on, adding that there is barely any movement either in the air or off the pitch.

"Whatever white ball cricket I have played so far, I felt the flattest wickets are those in England. There's no help for the bowlers on these tracks," he said. "You see cloud cover and feel that the ball will swing but there is neither seam movement nor swing," said Bumrah.

He added that when playing in England the Indian bowling unit is always ready for worst-case scenarios and if there is any help, they treat it as bonus.

"You have to rely a lot on your accuracy and clarity. So that's what we try to do. We

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Tigers fall short after spirited chase

Warner's 166 ton trumps Mushfiqur's unbeaten 102

SAKEB SUBHAN from Nottingham

When Mahmudullah Riyad hit the biggest six of the match, a 95-metre straight hit off Adam Zampa in the 42nd over, and Mushfiqur Rahim neared his seventh ODI ton, it was easy to wonder what could have been had Australia been held to 30 runs fewer. After a 48-run loss, individual milestone and a spirited chase aside, Bangladesh were left having to win all three of their remaining matches and needing some other results to go their way to have a chance of making the World Cup semifinals.

It was a strong display from the batsmen as the top order fired and carried the Tigers to 333 for eight when skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza holed out to deep midwicket off the last ball of the match. However, it was Bangladesh's bowling shortcomings and a superb -- if lucky -- 166 from Australian opener David Warner that made the difference as Australia first piled on 381 for six on a flat track in Trent Bridge.

While Australia take top spot with five wins and one loss, Bangladesh remain in sixth position with five points from six matches.

Bangladesh's batting responded well to the Herculean task with Tamim Iqbal scoring his first half-century of this edition. After a mix-up

saw fellow opener Soumya Sarkar being run out in the fourth over, Tamim put on a 79-run stand with Shakib Al Hasan. The plan, as Tamim later revealed, was to lose as few wickets as possible and get to 180 to 200 after 30 overs and then give it a go. However, against a well-oiled Australian attack, the Tigers lost wickets just when they were getting a hold on the match. Shakib departed for his first sub-50 score of the World Cup in the 19th over, caught off a leading edge off Marcus Stoinis. After scoring 62 off 74 balls, Tamim himself departed when he was bowled by Mitchell Starc off an inside edge, trying to dab a ball to third man in the 25th over.

Liton Das, who scored 94 in Bangladesh's clinical win over West Indies, was trapped leg before by Zampa for 20 in the 30th over and at 175 for four, all hope seemed to be lost. But a 127-run fifth-wicket stand between Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur in just 96 balls would have made the strong Bangladesh contingent in Trent Bridge rue the untimely dismissals and, most of all, the profligate bowling in the last 10 overs. Mahmudullah hit five fours and three big sixes in a 50-ball 68 before being caught at the square leg fence off Nathan Coulter-Nile in the 46th over.

Sabbir Rahman, playing his first match of the edition in place of the injured Mosaddek Hossain, departed for a golden duck next ball and Mehedi Hasan Miraz also fell cheaply, but by that time the interest surrounded whether Mushfiqur would bring up his ton.

He did complete a fine century -- marked by trademark reverse sweeps against Zampa and cuts against the Aussie quicks -- and ended unbeaten on 102 off 97 balls with nine fours and a six.

Earlier, Bangladesh's bowling suffered from a lack of penetration in the first 30 overs, bad execution in the next 10 before a mixture of both those failings and Australia's brilliance realised 131 runs in the last 10 overs. With his 16th century and sixth 150-plus score in ODIs, Warner made Bangladesh pay a heavy price for giving him a life early on, when he was on 10 and Sabbir Rahman dropped a difficult chance at backward point off the bowling of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in the fifth over.

Apart from that, and a missed run out chance -- also by Sabbir -- in the 26th over when the batsman was on 72, Warner played the perfectly paced innings, concentrating on singles interspersed with the odd boundary

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Savings Certificates Matia decries proposal for tax rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday blasted Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal for his budgetary proposal to increase tax at source on family savings certificate from five percent to 10 percent.

Taking part in the discussion on the proposed national budget for 2019-20 fiscal, Matia said, "I would like to talk about a sensitive issue which I can't support. I don't understand why he [finance minister] increased the tax at source on family savings certificate from 5 percent to 10 percent."

Stating that savings certificate is a scheme of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the senior Awami League leader said people ranging from helpless widows to insolvent women from rural areas depend on the earnings

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Farmers need more support

Call for special govt fund for them to ensure fair price of farm produce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over inadequate help for farmers, leading agricultural economists yesterday suggested formation of a special fund from where the growers would receive price support during harvesting period.

"Although there were emotions and voices raised on different platforms and in newspapers, they [farmers] did not get fair prices. But it [the issue] was not mentioned in the budget speech," Prof Emeritus Abdus Sattar Mondol, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, said at a seminar in the capital.

"During the harvesting period every year, farmers don't even get the production costs in return. Yet there has been no special allocation in this regard in the budget, which should not have been the case," he said.

Prof Sattar said the government should provide loan facilities and special budgetary allocations to farmers so that they get fair prices in the next harvesting season.

Yesterday's seminar titled "Agriculture Sector in Fiscal 2019-20 Budget" was organised by the Agricultural Economist Association at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Barc). The speakers included Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque and Planning Minister MA Mannan.

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A mobile court of Rab and the Directorate General of Drug Administration raids a medical store on the capital's Green Road yesterday. Inset, the magistrate, who led the drive, shows expired medicines seized from the store, which was fined Tk 2.5 lakh.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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