

Turkey says delivery of 2nd S-400 battery complete

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkey's defence ministry said yesterday that the delivery of a second battery of Russian S-400 missile defence systems has been completed as of yesterday, and added that the systems would become active in April 2020.

Ankara and Washington have been at loggerheads over Turkey's purchase of the S-400 systems, which the United States says are not compatible with Nato defenses and poses a threat to Lockheed Martin's F-35 'stealth' fighter jets.

The initial parts of the system were delivered to Ankara in July despite warnings about possible US sanctions over the purchase. The United States has also expelled Turkey from the F-35 programme, but Ankara has so far dismissed the warnings.

In a statement, the defence ministry said the delivery of the second S-400 battery to Ankara was completed. Efforts to mount the systems and train personnel who will use them were continuing, it said, adding that it planned to activate the S-400s in April 2020.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told an interview with CNN Turk on Saturday that the S-400s would be activated despite repeated U.S. warnings.

"They (U.S. officials) told us 'don't activate them and we can sort this out', but we told them that we didn't buy these systems as a prop," Cavusoglu said, adding that Turkey would be open to buying U.S. Raytheon Co Patriot systems as well.

In an interview on Friday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told Reuters he will discuss buying U.S. Patriot missiles with U.S. President Donald Trump this month, saying his personal bond with the U.S. leader could overcome the crisis caused by the S-400s.

Though Washington has not yet announced whether it will impose sanction on Ankara, U.S. President Donald Trump has shown sympathy towards Turkey. He has not fully ruled out sanctions.

'Lost' EC laptop

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light, the ACC started the investigation.

"During the visit, the ACC officials found that the special laptop had direct connection to NID server with a designated IP address and the Election Commission officials did not know anything about it going missing," he said.

Sharif said the EC officials did not even lodge any general diary for the missing laptop.

"As per our information, the laptop was used in Banskhali upazila and Panchliash area of the city the last time and we suspected that around 2,000 to 2,500 dubious entries into the NID server were made with the laptop," Sharif said.

The anti-graft official added that they could not say whether those entries were made for the Rohingyas.

ACC sources said the ACC team also found several printed NID forms missing from the store. The election officials there had no clue.

They also alleged that a syndicate of nine to 10 people was active at the election office. They were involved in different irregularities in exchange for money.

According to the ACC team, when it asked District Election Officer Munir Hussain Khan about the missing laptop, he failed to respond properly.

He first told the team that the laptop was sent to Mirsarai upazila in 2015. But it was later found that the upazila election office did not receive any such laptop.

Munir said the laptop went missing before his joined the office and he did not know anything about it. He joined around a year ago.

Replying to a question, he said four laptops used in Chandanish upazila went missing in 2012 and general diaries were filed for those with police station.

Meanwhile, two policemen were withdrawn yesterday for their failure to verify the addresses used for making Bangladeshi passports for three Rohingya youths in Noakhali.

The policemen are Abul Kalam and Nurul Huda, assistant sub-inspectors of Special Branch (SB) of police in Noakhali.

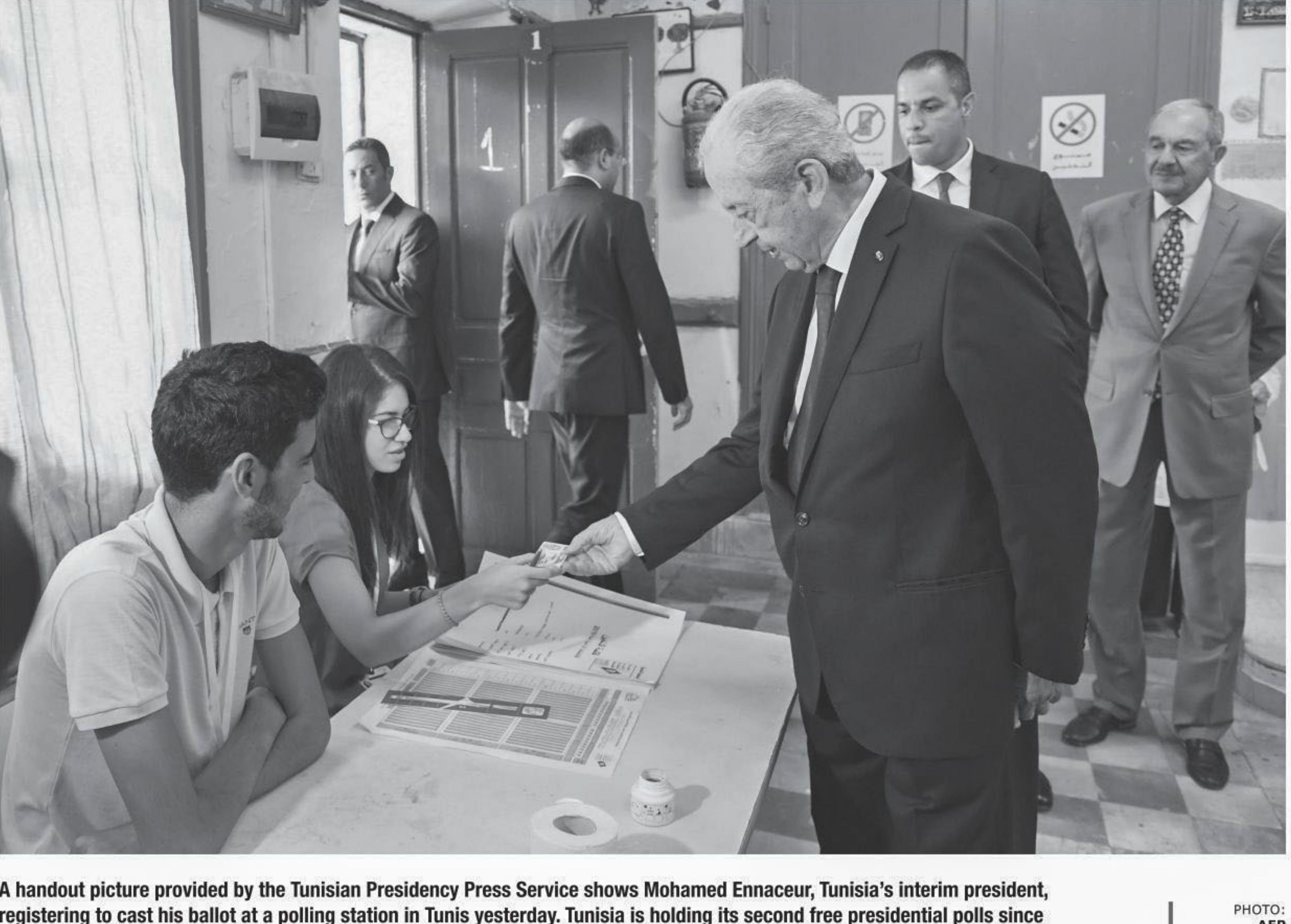
The two were attached to the district police lines, said Alamgir Hossain, superintendent of Noakhali police.

On September 6, police arrested three Rohingya youths with Bangladeshi passports in Chattogram city.

In primary interrogation, the Rohingya youths said they had the passports made from Noakhali regional passport office.

The two police officers were responsible for verifying the addresses and submitting reports to the Noakhali regional passport office.

Our Noakhali correspondent contributed to this report.



A handout picture provided by the Tunisian Presidency Press Service shows Mohamed Ennaceur, Tunisia's interim president, registering to cast his ballot at a polling station in Tunis yesterday. Tunisia is holding its second free presidential polls since the 2011 uprising that toppled ex-president Ben Ali and sparked the Arab Spring.

PHOTO: AFP

Tropical storm dumps rain on hurricane-hit hit Bahamas

AFP, Miami

Tropical Storm Humberto lashed the Bahamas with rain and wind on Saturday, possibly slowing down relief efforts in the wake of the devastation wrought less than two weeks ago by Hurricane Dorian.

The US National Hurricane Center said the center of the storm, packing maximum sustained winds of 60 miles (95 kilometers) per hour, was passing Saturday evening about 85 miles north of Great Abaco Island, one of the areas hardest hit by Dorian.

Humberto was moving away from the Bahamas on a path taking it well off the east coast of Florida this weekend and early next week, the NHC said.

The storm was expected to strengthen into a hurricane yesterday but is not forecast to impact the Bahamas or the US by that point.

"Significant storm surge is not

expected in the northwestern Bahamas from this system," the Miami-based NHC said -- good news for residents of Abaco and Grand Bahama still trying to get back on track after Dorian swept through early this month.

But about two to four inches (five to 10 centimeters) of rain were expected in most areas, with isolated flooding in low-lying areas, the Bahamian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) cautioned.

"I know this is not something people in Abaco and Grand Bahama would like to hear at this time, but it's out there and the storm will bring heavy downpours over the Bahama islands," Shavon Bonamy, senior meteorologist in Grand Bahama, told The Nassau Guardian.

"So we have to be prepared."

NEMA spokesman Carl Smith told reporters on Friday that the storm would likely "slow down logistics" of relief efforts, but added: "We have contingency plans in place."

"Fuel and water remain the biggest needs in Abaco," Smith said.

So far, the death toll from monster storm Dorian is at 52, but officials say that number is likely to go up. About 1,300 people are still unaccounted for, but Smith said officials are working to cross-reference new data and locate the missing.

Former Bahamian prime minister Hubert Ingraham said earlier this week he feared the final death toll could be in the hundreds.

Meanwhile 71 people were staying in shelters on Grand Bahama island and 2,037 in shelters in New Providence, where Nassau is located, Smith said.

"I just came back from Abaco. I must say (I) was horrified. I've never seen such a level of systematic devastation," UN Secretary General

Antonio Guterres said Saturday after traveling to the islands the day prior.

"Hurricane Dorian has been classified as category five. I think it's category hell."

Guterres said Dorian demonstrated the need to address climate change.

"It was not powered by the devil. We have always had many hurricanes, but now they are more intense, and they are more frequent, and they are powered by climate change," he said.

"We need to make sure that we reverse the present trend where climate change is running faster than what we are."

While he congratulated the Bahamian and other governments along with aid agencies who responded to the hurricane, he warned recovering from the disaster "will require a large investment" and said the country deserved the support of the international community.

USA blames Iran for drone strikes in KSA

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including the world's biggest petroleum processing facility, were expected to send oil prices up \$3-\$5 per barrel as tensions rise in the Middle East.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi, speaking on state TV, dismissed the US allegation as "pointless". A senior Revolutionary Guards commander warned that the Islamic Republic was ready for "full-fledged" war.

"Everybody should know that all American bases and their aircraft carriers in a distance of up to 2,000 kilometres around Iran are within the range of our missiles," the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted commander Amirali Hajizadeh as saying.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday condemned drone attacks at the Saudi oil facilities, reported AFP.

"The United States strongly condemns today's attack on critical energy infrastructure. Violent actions against civilian areas and infrastructure vital to the global economy only deepen conflict and mistrust," the White House said in a statement following a phone call between Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Trump offered Prince Mohammed "his support for Saudi Arabia's self-

defense," the White House said.

State oil giant Saudi Aramco said the attack cut output by 5.7 million barrels per day, about half the kingdom's production, at a time when Aramco is trying to ready itself for what is expected to be the world's largest share sale.

Aramco gave no timeline for output resumption but said early yesterday it would give a progress update in around 48 hours. A source close to the matter told Reuters the return to full oil capacity could take "weeks, not days".

Traders and analysts said crude may spike to as high as \$100 if Riyadh fails to quickly bring back supply.

The kingdom, the world's top oil exporter, ships more than 7 million barrels of oil to global destinations every day.

Riyadh said it would compensate for the loss by drawing on reserves which stood at 188 million barrels in June, according to official data. The United States said it was also ready to tap emergency oil reserves if needed.

The Saudi bourse opened down 2.3% yesterday but later pared some losses. Saudi petrochemical firms announced a significant reduction in feedstock supplies.

"Abqaiq is the nerve centre of the Saudi energy system. Even if exports resume in the next 24-48 hours, the image of invulnerability has been

altered," Helima Croft, global head of commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets, told Reuters.

Saudi authorities have yet to blame any party for the strike, but linked it to a recent series of attacks on Saudi oil assets and crude tankers in Gulf waters.

SAUDI READY TO ACT

Pompeo said there was no evidence the attack came from Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition has been battling the Houthis for over four years in a conflict widely seen as a proxy war between rivals Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran.

Riyadh has accused Iran and its proxies of being behind previous attacks on oil pumping stations and the Shaybah oilfield, charges Tehran denies.

Some Iraqi media outlets said the attack originated from there, where Iran-backed paramilitary groups wield increasing power. Iraq denied this yesterday and vowed to punish anyone using Iraq as a launchpad for attacks.

Regional tensions have escalated since Washington quit an international nuclear deal and extended sanctions on Iran to choke off its vital oil exports.

France, condemning Saturday's attack, said such actions "can only worsen regional tensions and risk of conflict". Turkey, an ally of Iran, called

for the avoidance of "provocative steps" that could harm regional stability.

The attack comes after US President Donald Trump said a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was possible at the United Nations General Assembly in New York this month. Tehran ruled out talks until sanctions are lifted.

"Amid all the calls for de-escalation, Iran has now launched an unprecedented attack on the world's energy supply," Pompeo said in a Twitter post on Saturday.

Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Trump by telephone on Saturday that Riyadh was willing and able to deal with the "terrorist aggression".

A senior Emirati official said the UAE, Riyadh's main partner in the Western-backed military coalition in Yemen, would fully support Saudi Arabia as the assault "targets us all".

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that Washington and its allies were "stuck in Yemen" and that blaming Tehran "won't end the disaster".

The conflict has been in military stalemate for years. The alliance has air supremacy but has come under global scrutiny over civilian deaths and a humanitarian crisis that has pushed millions to the brink of famine.

Nabi, Mujeeb outclass Tigers

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as the longest unbeaten run in the format. Afghanistan have in fact won all their 12 games, while Australia had a no-result and a tie in their streak.

Bangladesh were left needing 68 runs off the last five overs with the seventh-wicket pair of Mosaddek Hossain and Afif Hossain at the crease, but the pair could not reprise their heroics in the opener against Zimbabwe. Afif was dismissed by Gulbadin Naib before Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan put the issue beyond doubt by picking up Mohammad Saifuddin and Mosaddek Hossain in the 19th over.

Mujeeb had started in the very first over by having opener Liton Das caught off a leading edge with the second ball of the innings. The experienced Mashfiqur Rahim then inexplicably tried to scoop the third delivery he faced and was bowled by pacer Fareed Ahmed in the second over.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Soumya Sarkar then became Mujeeb's victims in the fifth over as the Tigers

were reduced to 32 for four. Following that, Mahmudullah Riyad and Sabbir Rahman put on the face-saving stand, but the duo departed in quick succession to leave Bangladesh on 97 for six after 15 overs.

Earlier, after losing the toss, Bangladesh got off to the best of starts when Mohammad Saifuddin produced a peach to get rid of Rahmanullah Gurbaz with the first ball of the innings, which pitched on middle stump and jagged away to hit the top of off stump.

The home bowlers continued to enjoy the Powerplay overs as opener Hazratullah Zazai too departed in the second over, caught off Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan. Saifuddin was back in the act in the third over, but this time it was a bouncer that had Najeeb Tarakai caught on the fence in the leg side to have Afghanistan reeling on 19 for three.

Asghar Afghan seemed to be doing his best to get out, flying and missing at numerous deliveries while managing to connect with a few in

an ultra-aggressive approach. But Najibullah Zadran's dismissal off Shakib's bowling in the sixth over, which cut Afghanistan to 40 for four, and the arrival of Nabi seemed to calm nerves as the experienced duo set about repairing the damage.

Three boundary-less overs followed as Afghanistan reached 51 for four after nine overs. Nabi broke the boundary drought by hitting a wayward delivery from part-time medium-pacer Soumya Sarkar for four down to fine leg. Afghanistan started accelerating from that point, with Nabi hitting a six off Taijul Islam in the 11th over and Asghar coming up with a maximum of his own off Mosaddek Hossain in the next over. Despite the slow start, the 50-run stand came up in 43 balls.

Bangladesh had a chance to break the partnership in the 15th over when Asghar, on 32, played one shot too many and was caught, but replays showed that Taijul had overstepped, allowing the former Afghanistan to hit a further six in the same over, with Nabi adding further salt into Taijul's

wounds with another.

Saifuddin, the pick of the bowlers for the Tigers, finally ended the stand in the 17th over by getting Asghar caught off a slower off-cutter. The pace-bowling all-rounder then picked up his maiden four-wicket haul by bowling Gulbadin Naib for a duck later in the same over.

Nabi, however, was not to be deterred as he lined up Soumya for two sixes and two fours in the next over, which cost 22 runs. The first of those two sixes brought up the powerful right-hander's fourth T20I fifty off 41 deliveries. Two more sixes off Nabi's bat followed in the next over from Saifuddin, before Mustafizur Rahman limited the damage by allowing only three runs in the final over after the previous five had yielded 69.

Nabi was unbeaten on a spectacular 54-84, hitting seven sixes and three boundaries in the process. Saifuddin had the best figures of four for 33 from four overs for Bangladesh, while Shakib was the most economical with two for 18 from his four.

Meanwhile, Obaidul Haque, entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said it is now a matter of concern as albopictus is tough to control.

Albopictus lays eggs in natural containers like tree holes, leaf axils and bamboo stumps, he said, adding that those breeding places will have to be destroyed.

"We have to set up a target and take necessary measures to control albopictus."

According to the case statement, the accused picked up the woman on her way to home from work. They forcibly took her to the rooftop of a nearby community clinic and raped her.

At one stage, the accused fled the scene sensing presence of locals.

Our Bogura and Pirojpur correspondents contributed to this report.

It's now worse

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holding containers in urban, suburban, and rural areas as well as the edges of forested areas, and is closely associated with vegetated areas. Larvae can also be found in natural habitats such as tree holes and hollow bamboo stumps.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said it is now a matter of concern as albopictus is tough to control.