



# The Daily Star

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## Tigers offer hope with rousing win

PM congratulates Bangladesh team on seven-wicket win over India

SPORTS REPORTER

To say the ghost of Bengaluru was laid to rest by Bangladesh's first T20I win over India in the first of three matches in New Delhi yesterday would both be overselling and underselling the seven-wicket win. While the pain of losing to India in the 2016 World Twenty20 when Bangladesh needed just two runs from three balls will not be forgotten with one victory, the win at the smog-choked Arun Jaitley Stadium will be significant for other reasons.

It would have told the Tigers that it is possible to survive without Shakib Al Hasan -- banned for two years on the eve of the tour by the ICC for not reporting corrupt approaches by a bookmaker -- and opener Tamim Iqbal, who is sitting out the tour to be with his pregnant wife. The batsmen at the crease when Bangladesh eclipsed India's 148 for six were none other than Mushfiqur Rahim and skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, the players who had fluffed the finish

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With 20 runs required from 10 balls, Mushfiqur Rahim hit four consecutive boundaries to bring up his half-century and reduce the equation to four runs from the final over in the first T20I against India in New Delhi yesterday. Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad hit the winning runs with a six to give the Tigers their first T20I win over India in nine attempts.

PHOTO: BCB

## MOBILE TOWER SHORTAGE

# Users denied quality service

Only 2 towers set up in last one year despite growing number of users

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Over the last one year, 62 lakh new mobile connections became active, 57 lakh new users started using mobile data, and about 2 crore people switched to the much faster 4G connection. But only two new cell towers have been set up in the entire country.

This is subjecting subscribers to call drops, poor internet speeds, busy networks, and signal bars disappearing.

To ensure proper service to their subscribers, they need at least 3,000 cell towers either newly built, upgraded, or replaced altogether, carriers said.

They said they could not do that themselves since Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) introduced a new tower licencing system under which third parties are in charge of cell towers and carriers rent towers from them.

The BTRC gave four cell tower companies licences a year ago and they were supposed to start building towers within six months of getting the licences. None of them are doing so now because none of the companies that are new are ready to do so, sources said.

Mobile operators and cell tower companies are supposed to make deals regarding tower usage and rents and the BTRC is supposed to approve those deals. But the BTRC is interfering by making the agreement and imposing it on

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## FRESH BANK LOANS

# Defaulters must make 15pc down payment

HC rules, says borrowers may apply for rescheduling for the next 90 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that the loan defaulters must make down payment of 15 percent of the outstanding amount to get fresh loans from any scheduled bank in line with the 2012 Bangladesh Bank circular.

Delivering a verdict on a writ petition, the court, however, said the BB circular issued on May 16 this year will be valid for the next 90 days so that the borrowers can apply for rescheduling their bank loans.

The central bank issued the circular allowing borrowers, who became defaulters by December last year, to reschedule loans for 10 years by making a down payment of only 2 percent instead of the existing 10 percent.

The HC gave the verdict after hearing the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in early February. The rights organisation sought court directives for the formation of a commission to look into the irregularities and corruption in the banking sector in the last two decades.

Talking to The Daily Star, Barrister Munirujjaman, a counsel for the BB, said the HC made the observation as the central bank's May 16 circular was suspended for various reasons.

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## BNP may take part in Dhaka city polls

EC official says elections to be held in January

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP is likely to participate in the Dhaka city polls, to be held in January next year. However, many leftist parties are yet to decide on contesting the elections.

Both the ruling Awami League and opposition Jatiya Party say they are preparing for the polls to Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

Election Commission Senior Secretary Md Alamgir yesterday said the polls to the two city corporations would be held in January next year.

The EC would declare the schedule any day after November 18, he said at a press conference at the commission's Agargaon office in the capital following a meeting of

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# Economy under stress for lack of reforms: CPD

The think tank also questions GDP growth without rise in private sector investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lack of good governance and reforms has put the Bangladesh economy under the most severe strain it has faced in the last decade, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said yesterday.

The fault lines in the economy are getting deeper and need to be fixed; otherwise the country's economic growth cannot be sustained in the coming years.

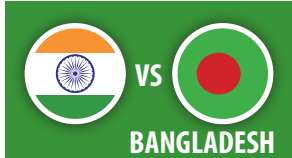
The observations were made at the launch of the think tank's "State of the Bangladesh Economy in fiscal 2019-20" report at Cirdap in the capital.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) identified four areas -- banking, revenue mobilisation, capital market and balance of payments -- where the fault lines have been exposed in recent months.

A rapidly increasing trend of defaulted loans, a potential risk of large revenue shortfall in the target set by the National Board of Revenue, the ongoing problems in the capital market and crisis stemming from balance

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SINGER SCORECARD



FIRST T20I BRIEF SCORE

**INDIA:**  
148 for 6 in 20 overs (Dhawan 41, Rahul 15, Iyer 22, Pant 27, Pandya 15 not out, Sundar 14 not out; Shafiqul 2-36, Aminul 2-22, Afif 1-11)

**BANGLADESH:**  
154 for 3 in 19.3 overs (Naim 26, Soumya 39, Mushfiqur 60 not out, Mahmudullah 15 not out; Chahal 1/37, Chahar 1/24)

**RESULT:**  
Bangladesh won by 7 wickets

## ASSAULT ON POLYTECH PRINCIPAL BCL men wanted to pass without examination



ANWAR ALI with ARAFAT RAHAMAN

During an exam for second semester students in September, the teachers of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute noticed, to their astonishment, that some of the students were whiling away the hours.

"They were not writing at all," Principal Farid Uddin Ahmed said yesterday, describing how he drew the wrath of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists who would throw him into a pond about two months later.

When the teachers asked the students what was going on, the examinees simply said that their senior BCL leaders assured them of good grades even if they didn't write anything on the answer script, the principal said.

Eventually, at least 133, mostly BCL activists, of 455 examinees got 0, 1 or 2 in the 90-mark exam.

The BCL men then asked the authorities to make sure the activists pass the exam.

"If such students pass the exams, we'll have some useless graduates," Ahmed told The Daily Star.

After he was assaulted on Saturday, Ahmed filed a case

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