

BORDER STANDOFF
India, China disengage troops
from key flashpoint in the
eastern Ladakh region
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TIGERS TAKE HISTORIC SERIES

Fizz bowls nerveless penultimate over to deliver 10-run win against Aussies

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Pacer Mustafizur Rahman was the saviour yesterday, helping Bangladesh complete a remarkable turnaround from a trying situation as they trumped Australia by 10 runs in the third T20I, in the process clinching their first ever series win over the men from down under.

The Tigers, defending a modest 127 for nine, completed a stirring win under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, and now lead the five-match series 3-0.

Australia's man in form Mitchell Marsh, who struck a battling 47-ball 51, looked set to carry his team over the ropes with seven wickets in hand and 34 required from three overs.

Then came one of the turning points when Marsh looked to go big down the ground but departed to Shoriful Islam in the 18th over, not getting the connection he hoped.

The most pivotal point of the game would come in the 19th over bowled by Mustafizur.

Fizz, who had been earmarked as the key by Australia on this kind of pitch, brought out all his skill and guile in a tight scenario, with Australia needing 23 from the last 12 balls. His slowers worked their magic, not in producing wickets but crucial dot balls.

The cutters gripped the surface, beguiling Dan Christian, the batsman on strike as he failed to get his bat on three deliveries on the trot. A yorker on the last delivery did not produce any runs either and that is where the game changed as the Aussies managed just one run in that over -- Carey squeezing out a single -- and Fizz ended with only nine runs conceded in his four overs, the pivotal hand in the historic series win.

A six off the first delivery of the final over brought hope for the Aussies but Mahedi Hasan, despite bowling a no-ball in his fourth delivery, held on as the Aussies fell short by 10 runs, needing 22 off the last over.

At the start of Australia's chase, left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed gave Bangladesh the early breakthrough in the second over to see the back of touring skipper Matthew Wade, who

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Bangladesh players celebrate the dismissal of Mitchell Marsh, Australia's man-in-form, on way to clinching a maiden series victory against the visitors. The Tigers defended 127 by restricting the Aussies to 117 for four in the third T20I yesterday after having earlier won the first two matches of the series. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



VEGETABLES	LOCAL PRICE AT BOROBAZAR IN JASHORE (TK)	RETAIL PRICE IN DHAKA KITCHEN MARKETS (TK)
Pointed gourd	8	40
Bitter gourd	12	40
Eggplant	20	40-50
Bottle gourd	10-12	30-40
Green papaya	8-9	30

- Prices of all vegetables dropped by at least 50% in northern region
- Farmers' losses could have been minimised by taking proper measures to check disruptions in the supply chain, experts say
- About 59.6 lakh tonnes of vegetables were produced this summer, up 10.7% from last year

Lockdown shocks vegetable farmers

While prices drop at growers' level, vegetables still dearer in city kitchen markets

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

Hoping to turn a handsome profit, Jasim Uddin took a Tk 50,000 loan from a local non-governmental organisation to grow pointed and bottle gourds on 40 decimals of land in Rahamatpur village in Jashore.

But the countrywide lockdown since July 23 has shattered all his hopes -- prices are too low for him to even be able to pay the labourers' wages and the transport cost.

At Boro Bazar and Sattmail Bazar in the district, a kilogramme of pointed gourd is selling for Tk 3 to Tk 5 and a single bottle gourd for Tk 10 to Tk 12.

Before the lockdown kicked in, the 45-year-old farmer sold the pointed gourd for Tk 20 to Tk 25 per kg and bottle gourd Tk 30 to Tk 40 per piece.

In contrast, the two varieties of vegetables are selling at Tk 40 per kg and Tk 50 to Tk 60 per piece respectively at various kitchen markets in the capital.

Despite a good yield this year, Jasim

and several lakh vegetable farmers across the country are bearing the brunt of the lockdown imposed to curb the second wave of coronavirus cases sweeping the nation.

This summer, about 59.6 lakh tonnes of vegetables were produced, up 10.7 percent from last year on the back of improved seed varieties and the absence of natural calamities, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

"We are devastated by the lockdown," said Amzad Hossain, a farmer in Bogura, a district in Northern Bangladesh.

Amzad cultivated brinjals and okra on 45 decimals of land and might have to incur a loss of Tk 1 lakh this season.

The prices of almost all vegetables dropped by at least 50 percent in the region, according to Manik Mia, a vegetable wholesaler in Dinaipur, another district up north.

"How will I make up the production cost?" asked a tearful Hashem Ali, another

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Dengue infections keep rising

214 more admitted to hospital in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More and more dengue patients are requiring hospitalisation as the number of dengue cases continues to rise across the country.

At least 214 people with dengue fever were admitted to hospitals in the country in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday. Three of them were from outside Dhaka. This took the total number of dengue patients to 4,115, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the infected, only 147 were from outside Dhaka.

Around 1,457 of the dengue patients were diagnosed during the

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COVID PANDEMIC

Delta drives rise in deaths

5 die every hour since the deadly variant found in May

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Nearly five people have died per hour since the Delta variant of the Covid-19 was detected in the country on May 8, shows data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The number of deaths per hour over the last three months is four times higher than that in the previous months of the pandemic.

The DGHS data shows 10,371 people died between May 8 and yesterday, meaning 4.72 people died per hour.

On the other hand, 11,833 deaths were recorded between May 7 this year and March 18 last year when the first Covid cases were detected in the country. On average, the country saw 1.18 deaths per hour.

A total of 22,150 Covid deaths were confirmed across the country till yesterday, with a date rate of 1.66 percent, shows the data.

The World Health Organisation has termed the Delta variant a "variant of concern" as it is more transmissible than the virus' previous strains.

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Police quiz TV director Chayanika

Question her over links with Pori Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives quizzed TV director Chayanika Chowdhury at the DB office in the capital for three hours last night.

Officers interrogated her over her ties with arrested actress Pori Moni, who is accused of possessing drugs and liquor.

"We were receiving many allegations against Chayanika Chowdhury... We felt that we needed to talk to Chayanika Chowdhury and interrogate her," said Joint Commissioner Harun Ur Rashid of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

If needed, Chayanika might be summoned again to the DB office, he told a press briefing in front of DB office around 10:15pm.

Meanwhile, Pori Moni's costume designer Junaid Karim Jimmy was detained last night from Banani.

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Relatives wheeling Fatema Begum to the Covid ICU unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, a day after the 70-year-old patient from Barishal was admitted to the hospital. She was shifted from the DMCH's Coronary Care Unit as her oxygen levels dropped.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

6-DAY VACCINATION DRIVE

Target revised down to 32 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government had initially planned to inoculate around one crore people against Covid-19 during a six-day special drive beginning today, it has revised down the target to 32 lakh apparently due to a shortage of vaccines.

Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), yesterday termed the nationwide campaign a "pilot project" and said it would be launched this morning in rural areas.

"The government would expand the campaign area. A total of 32 lakh people will be jabbed in more than 15,000 centres on August 7-12 during the campaign," he said at a press briefing at the capital's Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons. Health Minister Zahid Maleque was scheduled to address the briefing but he was not present.

Earlier, the government had announced that it would inoculate one crore people in those six days across the country.

However, a top government official on Wednesday said the number of doses would be lowered due to a shortage of vaccines.

The health DG yesterday said people aged 25 and above would get the doses, stepping away from the government's previous statement that those aged 18 and above would be jabbed in the drive.

"Many people aged around 18 don't have NID [national identification] cards. It could create some chaos. So we decided to inoculate people who are aged 25 and over," he said adding that those completing the registration and getting text messages on their mobile phones would be given the shots.

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