



Tigers trip on bouncy Wanderers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could not cope with the kick and bounce on offer at The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday, suffering a seven-wicket thumping at the hands of hosts South Africa in the 10th iteration of the annual Pink Day ODI.

With the convincing win, South Africa levelled the three-match series 1-1, extending the Tigers' wait for a maiden series victory away in South Africa.

Ahif Hossain, who took one wicket and an outstanding catch after hitting his second ODI fifty to help Bangladesh recover from a batting collapse, was the standout performer. The left-hander's courageous 107-ball 72 helped the Tigers post 194 for nine. However, powered by Quinton de Kock's blistering 41-ball 62 and an unbeaten fifty from Kyle Verreynne, South Africa romped to victory with 76 balls to spare.

After electing to bat, Bangladesh's top-order was dismantled by pacers Rabada and Lungi Ngidi.

Ngidi surprised Tamim Iqbal, who turned 33 yesterday, with a rising delivery while Rabada accounted for the crucial wickets of Shakib Al

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END OF A MAJESTIC FOREST

Chakaria Sundarbans nears extinction as shrimp farming and salt production take over

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

If you cruise through the Ujantia canal up to its estuary with the Matamuhuri river of Cox's Bazar, you will see the last remnants of a mangrove forest, almost obliterated from the country's south-eastern landscape.

Popularly known as Chakaria Sundarbans, the forest once acted as a shield against natural catastrophes and served as a source of livelihood for coastal people.

It also used to be home to the Bengal tiger, crocodile, monitor lizard, deer, langur, wildcat, reticulated python, and

a host of birds.

The natural treasure trove now exists only on a few hundred acres out of its original 45,000 acres spanning across Purbo Borobeula, Paschim Borobeula,

INT'L DAY OF FORESTS

Rampura, Charandwip, Bodorkhali, and Moheshkhali.

The vast tracts of the forest have been wiped out, mostly in three decades, along with its flora and fauna

to make space for shrimp farming and salt production.

Kamal Hossen, professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University, said Chakaria Sundarbans is older than the Sundarbans in Khulna and Satkhira.

"We lost this majestic mangrove forest to the wrong policy taken during the Ershad's regime. The forest was sacrificed for farming of shrimp, which the then government branded as white gold," he told this newspaper.

"A thousand acres of forestland was also leased out to influential people."

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Russia strikes school sheltering 400 people

Says Ukraine; situation 'dire' in other besieged cities

AGENCIES

Ukrainian authorities yesterday said that Russia had bombed a school sheltering 400 people in the besieged port of Mariupol, as Moscow claimed that it had again fired hypersonic missiles in Ukraine, the second time it had used the next-generation weapon on its neighbour.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the siege of Mariupol, a strategic mostly Russian-speaking port in the southeast where utilities and communications have been cut for days, would go down as a war crime. He also warned Russians that thousands of their soldiers had died in the conflict.

The war in Ukraine, which Russian President Vladimir Putin launched on February 24 to stamp out pro-Western leanings in the ex-Soviet country, has sparked the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

Relations between Russia and the West have plunged to Cold War-era lows, and is wreaking havoc in the

world economy still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Yesterday, the Russian occupiers dropped bombs on an art school No 12," the Mariupol city council said on messaging app Telegram yesterday, adding that around 400 women, children and elderly people had been sheltering there from bombardments.

"Peaceful civilians are still under the rubble," it said, adding that the building had been destroyed.

City authorities also claimed that some residents of Mariupol were being forcibly taken to Russia and stripped of their Ukrainian passports.

"The occupiers are sending the residents of Mariupol to filtration camps, checking their phones and seizing (their) Ukrainian documents," Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration said, adding that more than 1,000 Mariupol residents had been deported.

"I appeal to the international community: put pressure on Russia and its madman of a leader," he said on Facebook.



A Ukrainian family from Mykolaiv sits inside a tent to warm up after crossing the border from Ukraine to Poland, fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the border checkpoint in Medyka, Poland yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Family cards confuse many

Some don't know where to get them, return home from TCB outlets empty-handed

STAR REPORT

Amid high prices of daily essentials, many in need returned empty-handed from the TCB sales points outside the capital yesterday as they did not have "family cards".

As per a recent government decision, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) sold the essentials at subsidised prices only to those who had the cards issued by local public representatives.

Fifty-year-old Rahima Khatun, who lives in a slum in Chattogram city's Sholashahar area, is among those who could not buy the essentials yesterday. "I did not know about the card. I thought I would get the products standing in queues like before ... I also don't know how to get the card," she told our Chattogram correspondent.

In Chehelgazi Shishu Niketan area of Dinajpur, Roksana, another low-income person, was shocked after learning that only the card-holders were being sold the essentials. She also did not know how to get the cards.

More than a thousand people had thronged the TCB sales point in her area. Most of them had to return empty-handed as they did not have the cards.

To ease the burden of people ahead of Ramadan, starting in the first week of next month, TCB began a special drive yesterday, aiming to deliver basic commodities, including edible oil, lentil and sugar, at cheaper rates to selected 88 lakh families outside Dhaka.

Showing the "family cards", the beneficiaries can purchase the commodities twice: once between March 20 and March 31, and then between April 3 and April 18.

Public representatives are issuing the cards,

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brac turns
50
from
Bangladesh
to the world

সম্ভাবনা বিকাশে ঘুরে দাঁড়ানোর ইতিহাস
বাধা পেরিয়ে এগিয়ে যাওয়ার বিশ্বাস
মানুষকে নিয়েই পূর্ণ হলো ব্র্যাকের

৫০ বছরের এই দৃষ্ট পথচলায় দেশ থেকে দেশান্তরে কোটি প্রাণের সন্দন হয়ে ছড়িয়ে গেছে ব্র্যাকের নাম।
ব্র্যাক পরিবারের সদস্য হতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত। যুগ যুগ অব্যাহত থাকুক এই পথচলা...