



**P3**  
**Bangladeshi syndicate tortures Iraqi expat**



**P6**  
**National film awards conferred**



**P7**  
**Afghan schoolgirls forced home**



**B1**  
**Global cotton prices rise**

# Tigers tame new frontier

Taskin, Tamim shine in first away series win in South Africa

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh had gone into the tour of South Africa on top of the ICC ODI Super League, but to truly earn the respect that the position merits, they required something special. Having clinched the first ODI with a supreme showing, a clinical performance befitting of the history that was beckoning saw the Tigers seal an emphatic nine-wicket victory in the third game to clinch the three-match series 2-1 against South Africa at Centurion yesterday.

**This is massive. It is a massive achievement ... I will rate this at the top.**

Tamim Iqbal

India had been thrashed 3-0 in January by the same hosts despite putting up challenging scores with the bat. Given that context, the Tigers knew their pace attack would hold the key and Taskin Ahmed and Co rose to the occasion. That confidence found by the pacers coursed through the rest of the departments.

Taskin was on fire with the ball and led the siege with a five-wicket haul as the Proteas were bowled out for 154 before openers Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das punctuated the team's winning mentality, not giving an inch during a 127-run stand. The openers were authoritative, Tamim remaining unbeaten on 87 while Liton Das fell softly after a classy 48 before Shakib Al Hasan ensured no further hiccups. Taskin was in imperious mood, becoming the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



**Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed celebrates the dismissal of South Africa's Kagiso Rabada as Keshav Maharaj, left, looks on during the third ODI at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday. Taskin took five wickets for 35 runs in nine overs before Tamim Iqbal hit an unbeaten 87 to help Bangladesh seal their maiden series win in South Africa.**

PHOTO: AFP

## US-BANGLADESH RELATIONSHIP What's in the feast?

PORIMOL PALMA

On the surface, the 8th US Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue was a success.

Victoria Nuland, the US Undersecretary for Political Affairs, who led the American delegate, termed it an "appetiser for the feast" that is to come, while Foreign Secretary Masun Bin Momen viewed the dialogue as "the beginning of a rejuvenated robust engagement with our US friends".

But foreign policy experts found the dialogue, the first under the Biden administration, not as positively sanguine as the US did not give any clear hint on whether the sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion and its top officials would be lifted anytime soon nor would the Generalised System of Preferences be reinstated.

Democracy, human rights and governance are at the centre of Biden's foreign policy, crystallised in the US's stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Bangladesh also shares the same values, but it needs to act diligently on these fronts," said Shahab Enam Khan, an international relations professor at the Jahangirnagar University.

For instance, Bangladesh's abstention from the UN General Assembly voting on Ukraine was construed by the US as taking the side of Russia, he said.

The world is becoming more polarised, especially over the Russia-Ukraine war, with the West and its allies

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Titas flayed

Consumers at Berc hearing complain about illegal gas links, theft and poor supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a public hearing over a Titas proposal to increase gas prices, consumers yesterday hit out at the distributor for failing to snap illegal connections, prevent gas theft, and ensure uninterrupted supply.

The consumers -- from different sectors, including domestic, industries, and power -- also said Titas came up with the "illogical" price hike proposal despite failing to provide proper services.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) organised the public hearing at Bangladesh

Institute of Administration and Management (Biam) auditorium in the capital. Yesterday was the third day of the hearing.

Titas distributes gas in Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions. It has 29 lakh legal connections, including 28 lakh to households.

Recently, it proposed to increase gas prices by 117 percent. At the hearing, the Technical Evaluation Committee of Berc recommended the prices are hiked by 20 percent on average.

As per the recommendation, per cubic meter gas will be Tk 11.64 from the existing Tk 9.70 on

average.

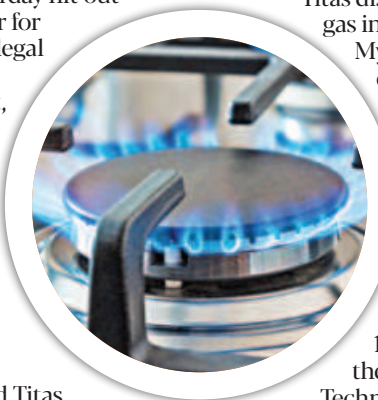
TEC recommended a double burner at a household would cost Tk 1,080 from the current Tk 975 and a single burner Tk 990 from Tk 925.

Per cubic meter gas will cost Tk 5.34 from the current Tk 4.44 for the power sector, Tk 15.50 from Tk 13.85 for the captive power plants, Tk 5.34 from Tk 4.45 for fertiliser factories, Tk 12.65 from Tk 10.70 for tea industries, Tk 27.60 from Tk 23 for commercial consumers like hotels and restaurants, and Tk 49.50 from Tk 43 for CNG feeds.

At the hearing, Prof Shamsul Alam, vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said both the Titas proposal and the TEC recommendation were "not acceptable".

He asked Titas MD Haronur

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Vegetable exports grounded

Broken explosive scanners at Dhaka airport to blame

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladesh is at risk of losing its European export market for vegetables because the Explosive Detective System machine at the Dhaka airport has been inoperative for the last two weeks, causing massive shipment problems and huge financial losses.

There was another EDS at the cargo village of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport but that had been out of order for two years, vegetable exporters said.

They said the lone functioning EDS machine had become inoperative since March 9 and despite their repeated appeals, authorities at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) are still not taking steps to fix the scanner.

Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, executive director, HISA, said the EDS machine require parts and will be repaired as soon as the parts arrive.

According to UK and European aviation regulations, agricultural products scanned on any device other than EDS scanners are not allowed to enter the country.

Mansur Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

## Power division named for Swadhinata Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power division will receive this year's Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award) for its outstanding job of bringing cent percent of the country under electricity coverage, said power division officials.

Confirming the approval of the award yesterday, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources ministry, told The Daily Star that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the award to the division today.

On Monday, the prime minister declared 100 percent electricity coverage after inaugurating the 1320MW coal-fired power plant at Patuakhali's Payra.

"It is power that brings dynamism to our economy. The relentless efforts of the prime minister have made

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Cars and buildings are seen on fire after shelling, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, in this handout picture released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Zelensky slams UN inaction

Calls for reform as Russia keeps up pounding Ukrainian cities

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told Japan's parliament yesterday that the United Nations had failed over the conflict in his country and reforms were needed, calling for more pressure on Russia.

The international body has been hamstrung because Russia is a permanent member of its Security Council and has effectively blocked condemnation or action over its invasion of Ukraine.

"Neither the United Nations nor the UN Security Council have functioned. Reforms are needed," the Ukrainian leader told lawmakers via videolink.

"We need a tool to pre-emptively ensure global security. Existing international organisations are not functioning for this purpose, so we need to develop a new, pre-emptive tool that can actually stop invasions," Zelensky added.

US President Joe Biden flew to Europe yesterday for an emergency Nato summit on Ukraine, where invading Russian troops are stalled, cities are under bombardment and the besieged port of Mariupol is in flames.

Four weeks into a war that has driven a quarter of Ukraine's 44 million people from their homes, Russian forces have failed to capture a single major Ukrainian city.

They have turned to siege tactics and bombardment of cities, causing massive destruction and many civilian deaths. There are reports of the Ukrainian flag being raised again in the suburb of Makariv, west of the capital Kyiv.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4