

Thirty years after losing the 50-over World Cup final to Pakistan at the same venue, England turned the tables with brilliant death bowling and Ben Stokes' half-century in yesterday's T20 World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The inspired all-around effort saw England defeat Pakistan by five wickets to claim their second Twenty20 World Cup title.

PHOTO: AFP

Soured loans soar to new highs

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Banks' defaulted loans hit Tk 134,396 crore at the end of the third quarter of this year – yet another high as a lack of governance continues to wring the sector.

"This is just a new figure of the old story, which is a sign of ignorance of due diligence while giving out loans," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

At the end of September, soured loans accounted for 9.36 percent of the total outstanding loans of Tk 1,436,200 crore, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. A year earlier, the ratio was 8.12 percent.

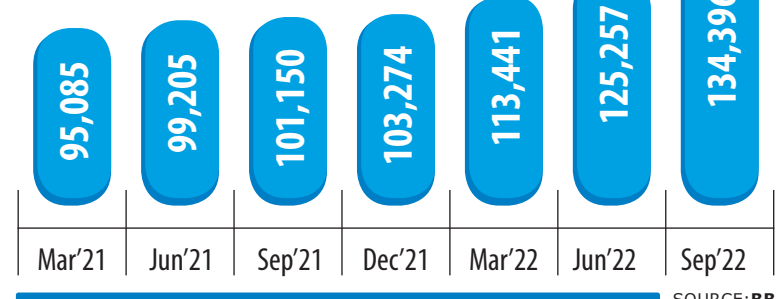
The recent staff mission of the International Monetary Fund, however, was sceptical of the figure and has tagged bringing down the sector's bad loans to less than 10 percent as one of the conditions for the \$4.5 billion loan.

Forming an asset management company to dispose of the soured loans from the banks' balance sheets is another condition agreed upon with the IMF mission.

"The problems in the banking sector are clearly identified. But the

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DEFAULT LOANS IN BANKING SECTOR in crore Tk



SOURCE: BB

England conquer white-ball cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Ben Stokes and Sam Curran starred as England edged Pakistan by five wickets to win the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday and become the sport's first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50 and 20-over titles.

Jos Buttler's side held Pakistan to 137-8 in front of a partisan 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match and tournament Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping with 2-22.

In reply, England slumped to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace attack, with boundaries hard to come by.

But Stokes (52 not out) and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month.

"In finals, especially when chasing, you probably forget all the hard work before that. To restrict them to 130, the bowlers have to take a lot of credit. Adil Rashid and Sam Curran won us the game," said Stokes.

"Pretty good evening. Representing your country in World Cups is amazing, it has been a good one."

Curran said Stokes should have been player of the match.

"We all look up to him. People question him, but he's incredible. He's the man," he said. "The way I bowl, I go into the wicket with my slower balls and keep the batsmen guessing. World champions, how good," he added.

The victory added to the 50-over title England won in 2019, building on the legacy of



former captain Eoin Morgan, who retired this year after transforming the team into a white-ball juggernaut.

It was England's second T20 crown after tasting success in 2010, joining the West Indies as the only two-time winners since the tournament's inception in 2007.

The game was billed as a showdown between Pakistan's attack and England's top order, and Shaheen Afridi bowled danger man Alex Hales in the first over of the run chase.

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Press should be a fearless watchdog on democracy

HC says in the full text of a verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has observed that corruption pervades the society, and the press should act as an efficient and fearless watchdog on democracy.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam said, "Newspapers play an important role in a democracy by being the spokesperson for people of all classes. They act as a bridge between the government and the people..."

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan, who received a copy of the full text on November 10, yesterday told The Daily Star that the 40-page text was released last week.

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Govt seeks more cheap loans from WB

Bangladesh already highest recipient of such funds

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday sought more loans in concessional terms from the World Bank despite being the largest recipient of such funding as well as more budget support as it looks to shake off the impacts of the pandemic and the Ukraine war.

The call came during Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's meeting with Martin Raiser, the WB's vice president for the South Asia region, and Abdoulaye Seck, the incoming country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

In IDA20, the World Bank Group's ongoing concessional lending cycle for the world's 74 poorest countries, Bangladesh would be receiving \$6.15 billion, up 29.5 percent from IDA19.

It is 6.5 percent of the pot of \$93 billion raised for the three-year lending programme starting from July 2022 and ending in June 2025, which is the highest allocation for a single country.

And yet, the government is seeking a bigger share of the pie as well as more budget support, according to people informed on the contents of the WB delegation's meetings throughout the day.

Earlier in the day, Raiser met with the Economic Relations Divisions, where he was briefed on the impacts of the Ukraine war on the Bangladesh economy.

Because of the war, the prices of 6-7 items have spiralled, which



THE WORLD BANK

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Dengue deaths now 202

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deaths from dengue this year crossed 200 yesterday, the highest figure in a single year since the outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease in the country.

The number of total deaths was 202 as of yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), three more people died yesterday. At least 859 new patients were hospitalised, rising the figure to 48,529, of which 16,791 are outside Dhaka.

A total of 101,354 dengue cases, the annual highest, were recorded in 2019 when the death toll was 179.

In 2000, during dengue's first official outbreak, 93 died while 5,551 others were infected, says the DGHS.

Multiple exposures to dengue, late hospitalisation and late diagnosis of the disease are the main reasons for increasing

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Body of AL leader found floating in the Buriganga

STAR REPORT

Duronto Biplob had big plans for the benefit of farmers. He initiated two projects. One was to help organic farmers, such as himself, get rid of pests with the help of insects called "black soldiers" and the other was for a more nutritious fodder for cattle.

But he could not see the fruits of his labour.

His body was found floating in the Buriganga in Pagla area of Narayanganj's Fatullah on Saturday. The back of his head had been bashed in and there were several injury marks on his chest.

The 51-year-old had been missing since November 7. The last location of his phone was Muslimbagh of Kamrangirchar.

That day around 3:00pm, Duronto called his mother who lives in Mohammadpur and told her he would be dropping by later in the day.

He never showed up.

Concerned, the family started looking for him. They eventually filed a general diary on November 9 with South Keraniganj Police Station, said his brother Durjoy Biplob.

Duronto lived alone at Kholamora in Dakkhin Keraniganj near his farm, where he and his two friends have been growing organic vegetables, fruits and other crops for four years. His wife and 15-year-old daughter live in Eskaton in the capital.

"He was struck with a blunt object," said Mohammad

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Duronto Biplob