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PM brings Tamim back

Her intervention leads to retirement U-turn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was under extraordinary circumstances that ODI captain Tamim Iqbal had announced his shock retirement



on Thursday and, just as surprisingly, he withdrew his decision to retire from international cricket the following day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention.

Last evening, some 28 hours after his announcement, the situation changed drastically.

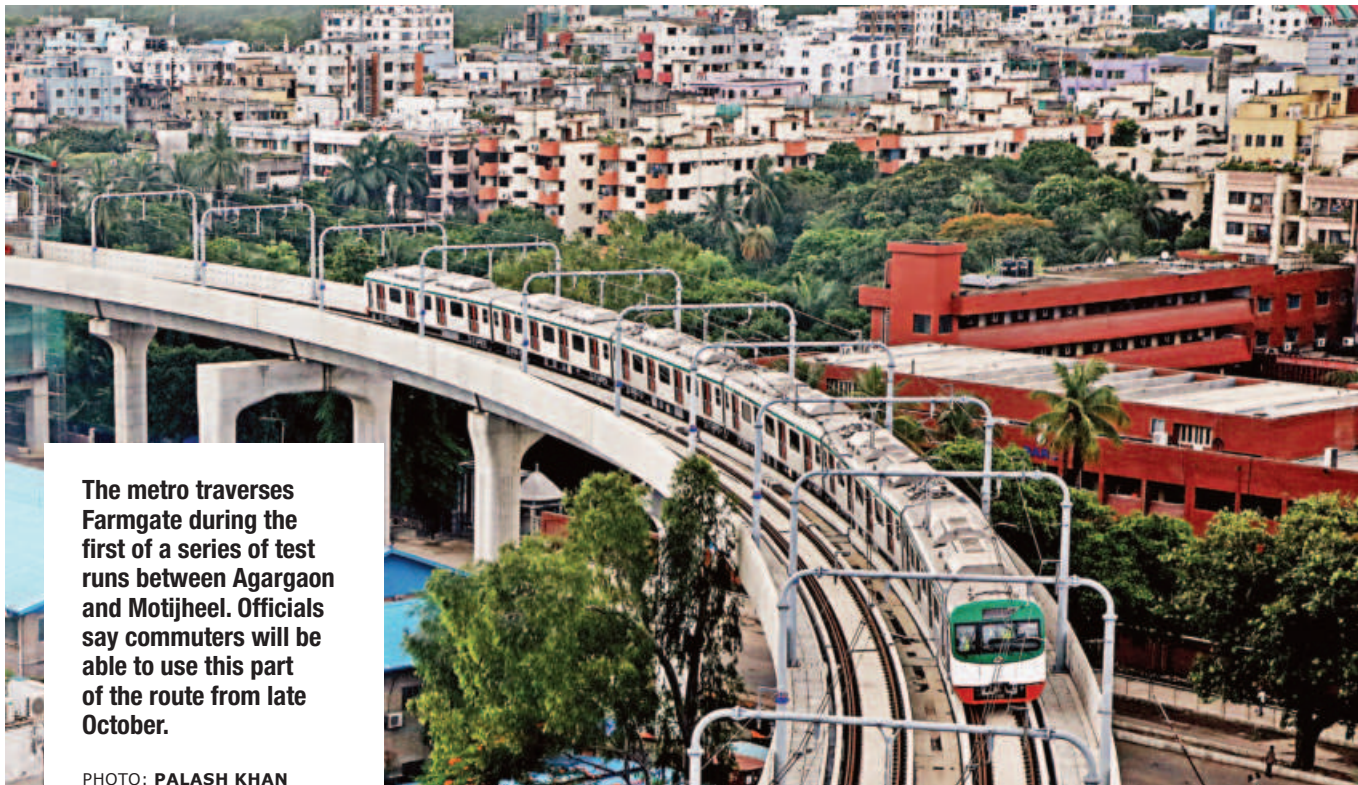
The Prime Minister had invited Tamim to Gono Bhobon, instructing former skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to get her in touch with the Bangladesh's incumbent ODI captain. Tamim and his wife Ayesha Siddiqua, accompanied by Mashrafe, entered the residence around 2:30 PM and BCB president Nazmul Hassan came in at around 4:10 PM.

Following a three-and-a-half-hour meeting, Tamim came out to announce that he was withdrawing his retirement.

"The honourable PM invited me to her home this afternoon. We discussed for a long time with her and she instructed me to return to the game. So, I am withdrawing my retirement from this moment because I can say no to everyone, but it's impossible to say no to the greatest leader in the country," Tamim told the media on Friday.

Tamim also informed that he was taking a one-and-a-half-month's leave from the game in order to get required treatment for his injury.

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The metro traverses Farmgate during the first of a series of test runs between Agargaon and Motijheel. Officials say commuters will be able to use this part of the route from late October.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AGARGAON-MOTIJHEEL

3 metro rail stations to open in Oct

Test run begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities are planning to open three stations on the Agargaon-Motijheel route at the beginning of commercial operations, which is likely to be in October.

The three stations are Farmgate, Secretariat (Jatiya Press Club), and Motijheel, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while launching the test trip on the route yesterday.

The rest of the four stations will be opened later in phases, he added.

"We have completed first performance on viaduct SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

A project riddled with anomalies

Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur railway expansion project taken without feasibility study, revised and delayed several times leading to cost escalation

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur railway expansion project was taken up without any feasibility study and approved without a fixed work scope, leading the authorities to revise the project several times, a government monitoring report said.

The project, which was supposed to be completed in 2015, will now take till June 2027 – a whopping 12-year delay – and will cost Tk 3,342.55 crore, almost four times the original estimate.

Besides, 20 percent of the ballast used

by the project contractor were oversized, going against design specifications, while the project authorities showed negligence in the concrete cube testing, said the report.

The in-depth monitoring report of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has asked the authorities to retest the qualities of the ballast, rail and sleeper at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Bangladesh Railway undertook the project in November 2012 to increase the

capacity of a vital section that connects the capital with most of the country's rail network.

The Tk 848.60 crore project, aimed at constructing third and fourth dual-gauge railway lines on the Dhaka-Tongi route and a second dual-gauge line on the Tongi-Joydebpur route, was supposed to be completed within June 2015.

However, the physical work of the project began in February 2019 due to complications over design and the tender process. As per the latest revision, the

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EU for 'genuine' talks among key political parties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union wants "genuine" talks among the main political parties in Bangladesh and ample space for the civil society as the next national election is getting closer.

It also wants all parties and citizens of Bangladesh to exercise their political rights and participate in the parliamentary polls to build confidence in the election process.

The high representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy, Josep Borrell, said this in response to a

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A woman breaks down in tears as her 22-year-old son who has dengue shivers in fever and pain at Mugda Medical College Hospital. Since the hospital is at capacity, the patient is being treated on the floor. As of yesterday, deaths caused by the disease were 65, according to official records.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UKHIYA ROHINGYA CAMP

5 killed in gunfight between 2 gangs

Body of another Rohingya man recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five Rohingya men were shot dead yesterday in what police said was a gunfight between two gangs at a refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

Four of the victims are Anwar Hossain, 24, Muhammad Hamim, 16, Nazibullah, 28, and Nurul Amin, 24, said Amir Zafar, commanding officer of Armed Police Battalion 8, adding one other victim had not been identified yet.

The gunfight took place between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) around 6:15am in Balukhali, he added.

"We came to know that the victims were ARSA members. Three of them died at the scene while two others were pronounced dead at a hospital," the APBN official said.

Police recovered a firearm and a bullet from the scene, he said, adding that police were looking for the suspects.

The incident happened only a day

after a Rohingya community leader was killed at a camp in Ukhiya despite the security measures taken for a visit by International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim AA Khan.

In another incident at the same camp, police around 5:00pm recovered the body of a 45-year-old man named Sanaullah. His throat was slit and there were multiple stab wounds on the body, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station.

Officers are trying to find out whether the two incidents are linked, he added.

According to police and Rohingya leaders, at least 57 Rohingyas, including 17 community leaders and 11 ARSA members, got killed in clashes over the last six months.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas are living in the camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar. Most of them came here fleeing a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017.

DEFAMATION CASE

HC rejects Rahul's plea to stay conviction

REUTERS, New Delhi

A high court in western India yesterday rejected an appeal by opposition leader Rahul Gandhi to suspend his conviction in a defamation case, quashing for now his hope of returning to parliament and contesting national elections due next year.

Gandhi can now take his appeal to a larger bench of the same high court and then to the Supreme Court, his last option.

Gandhi was convicted in March in a case brought by a Gujarat state lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya

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