

Super 8 brings about batters' resurgence

ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

The end of the first round and the commencement of the Super Eight phase has seemingly brought an end to bowlers' domination in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup, posing a fresh challenge for the teams that are vying for a spot in the semifinals.

In the first round of the T20 World Cup, which took place jointly in the USA and the Caribbean, the balance between the ball and bat was overwhelmingly tilted towards the former, in a surprising change from what usually transpires in the shortest format of cricket.

In the 37 completed games in the first round, the average run rate of teams was a mere 6.71. A record 10 times bowlers bowled 20 or more dot deliveries in a spell, a feat that had only happened twice before in the past eight editions of the tournament, once each in 2010 and 2012.

The four lowest successful defences in T20 World Cups have all come in the ongoing edition. Three of them happened in New York, with India



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Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after claiming the first of his three wickets against Afghanistan, which helped India bundle out the Afghans for 134 and secure a convincing 47-run win in their Super Eight match of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval in Barbados yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NAF RIVER 'We'll retaliate if boats come under fire' Says Asaduzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would retaliate if the Myanmar military or the Arakan Army continued firing at Bangladeshi boats on the Naf river, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday.



The warring parties in Rakhine State have been warned about it, he said at a press briefing at the Secretariat.

"Occasionally, they [warring parties] have opened fire on our Border Guard Bangladesh by mistake. We have conveyed our concern to them. They said if our vessels clearly display the Bangladeshi flag, no one will fire at them."

Reaching Saint Martin's Island from the mainland by boat has become a challenging task due to poor navigability at certain parts of the Naf river, Asaduzzaman said.

This compelled Bangladeshi boats

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BANGLADESHI NATIONALS, BANKS 'Swiss banks not so lucrative now to park money'

Their deposits fell in 2023 for second year in a row

SOHEL PARVEZ and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladeshi nationals and banks kept 17.71 million Swiss francs (CHF) in deposits last year in the banks of Switzerland, the lowest on record, reflecting the fading attractiveness of the country among the wealthy to park money.

This was a 68 percent decrease from the 55.2 million CHF Bangladeshi citizens and banks deposited in 2022, according to figures released yesterday by the Swiss National Bank (SNB), the central bank of the western European nation.

This is the second year in a row that deposits kept by Bangladeshis fell in Swiss banks. However, it does not mean that illicit outflows of capital from the country have come to an end, said two analysts.

"Of course, illegal money siphoning out of the country has increased, and it is taking place. But Swiss banks are not a favourite destination anymore. It is not a place to keep the identity secret anymore," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, a local think tank.

"Now, Dubai and Singapore are the new havens. Money is laundered and is invested in real estate and businesses in the US and England too."

At a programme in Dhaka yesterday, Shamsul Alam, a former state minister for planning, said \$7 billion to \$8 billion are laundered from Bangladesh every year.

Swiss banks began to lose their lustre nearly a decade

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Putin seeks 'security architecture' for Asia

Visits Vietnam; Moscow, Hanoi sign around a dozen cooperation agreements



Putin shakes hands with Vietnam's President To Lam at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, Hanoi

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wanted to build a "reliable security architecture" in the Asia-Pacific region during a state visit to Vietnam yesterday, part of a trip to Asia seen as show of defiance to the West.

A day after signing a mutual defence agreement with North Korea, Putin received a 21-gun salute at a military

ceremony in Vietnam, was embraced by two of its Communist leaders and lavishly praised by one of them.

Putin had contributed to "peace, stability and development" in the world, Vietnam's president said.

Putin's visit has drawn criticism from the United States and its allies, who treat the Russian leader as a pariah and have protested that he

received a 21-gun salute at a military

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Summer vacation cut short

Schools, colleges to open June 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to shorten the summer vacation for educational institutions by a week to make up for learning losses caused by unexpected closures earlier this year due to cold waves and heat waves, among other reasons.

The last day of the summer vacation will be on June 25 (Tuesday) and educational institutions will reopen on June 26 (Wednesday), said MA Khair, the public relations officer at the Ministry of Education.

According to the academic calendar, this year's Eid-ul-Azha and summer vacation started on June 13 and were scheduled to continue until July 2.

Meanwhile, the ministry also decided to resume the two-day weekend -- Friday and Saturday -- for educational institutions.

In May, the education ministry announced that academic activities at all secondary-level educational institutions would resume on Saturdays to compensate for the sudden closures due to the heatwaves.

Elderly couple murdered at a Jatrabari home

Police say it was a planned killing, motive not clear yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly couple were hacked to death at their residence at Momenbagh in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Shafiqur Rahman, 62, a retired driver of Janata Bank, and his wife, Farida Yasmin, 55.

Their son, Al Amin Emon, is a sub-inspector in the Special Branch of police. He joined the force in 2021.

Police recovered Shafiqur's body from the ground floor of the four-storey building and Farida's body from a bedroom on the first floor around 6:00am, Inspector (Operations) Ohidur Haque Mamun of Jatrabari Police Station told The Daily Star.

The bodies of both victims had multiple injuries inflicted by sharp weapons, the inspector added.

Emon said his parents lived with him on the first floor, and the second and third floors were rented out.

On Wednesday, Emon went to their village in Feni's Dagonbhuiyan, while his wife went to her father's house in Jatrabari's Matuail.

According to Emon, it was his father's routine to wake up at 4:00am every day, switch on the water pump, and perform the Fajr prayer at a local mosque.

Yesterday morning, his father went to the ground floor to switch on the water pump as usual. The killers, who were already there, first hacked his father to death in the garage, then went up to the first floor and hacked his mother, who was asleep at the time, before escaping through the roof.

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OF BROKEN WINGS & EMPTY EYES

Tangled in a protective net, a black drongo hangs dead above a fish enclosure in Madhabhakhata village in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. Farmers and fishery owners have set up such nets over enclosures and crop farms to ward off pests. When the birds come by to look for food, mainly insects, they get trapped, tangled and strangled to death. However, little do the people know that these birds play an important ecological function in controlling pests and thereby, help maintain a balance benefitting the farmers and the ecosystems. As a matter of fact, black drongos are sometimes even referred to as "symbols of good fortune" owing to their ecological role. This photo highlights the importance of awareness about the vital role these birds play in maintaining natural harmony and why they should be protected.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

US, UK, EU voice worry over conflict in Rakhine State

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As many as 15 countries -- including the US and the UK -- and development partners yesterday expressed concern over the worsening situation in the Rakhine State of Myanmar and the cross-border implications.

"Today we reiterate the importance of protecting all civilians," they said in a joint statement on the occasion of the World Refugee Day yesterday.

The intense fighting between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army in Rakhine State since November last year has left hundreds of thousands of people, including the Rohingya, displaced.

Another several thousand also took shelter along the Naf river close to the Bangladesh border.

Several hundred Myanmar border security personnel and Myanmar military along with some of their family members had also crossed the border and taken shelter in Bangladesh. They were later repatriated.

Transport through the waterway between Teknaf and St Martin's Island has remained suspended after bullets were fired targeting boats last week.

The 15 countries in their statement recognised Bangladesh's generosity in hosting more than a million Rohingya who fled their homes in 2017 and earlier.

The other signatories of the statement are Japan, Germany, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Norway and Italy.

The donor countries said they will continue to make

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