



Tigers bowled out for 164

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another dismal batting display saw them get bundled out for 164 in the second session on Day 2 of the second Test against the West Indies at the Sabina Park in Jamaica today.

The Tigers were able to bat for 71.5 overs and were in utter discomfort against the pace battery of the West Indies. Thirty overs were played on Day 1, meaning the Tigers could only bat for 41.5 overs in the second day.

Shadman Islam topscored with 64, while skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz added 36.

The Tigers went to Lunch at 122-6, with Miraz and Taijul Islam unbeaten on 18 and eight, respectively, but the latter fell after a 66-ball 16-run resistance, bringing an end to a 41-run stand for the seventh wicket in the second session. The dismissal exposed Bangladesh's tail as it brought Taskin Ahmed to the crease.

A 20-run stand followed SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A vast swathe of floodplain is being filled with sand to make houses in Madinabagh area of Khalishpur, Khulna. Experts say poor management of the landscape and building on floodplains are key factors that lead to severe floods in Khulna city almost every monsoon. The photo was taken recently.

27YRS OF CHT PEACE ACCORD

Key promises still unfulfilled

Indigenous rights advocates say successive govts ignored pact

MD ABBAS

Twenty-seven years have passed but four key promises of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord remain unfulfilled, said indigenous leaders and rights activists.

These are rehabilitation of repatriated and internally displaced indigenous people, demilitarisation, empowering district and regional councils, and making the Land Commission effective.

They alleged that the full implementation of the accord is elusive due to the unwillingness of successive governments to carry it out.

The government claims that 65 out of the 72 sections of the treaty have been fully implemented. However, leaders of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) said only 25 sections have been fully implemented and 18 partially, adding that 29 others are untouched.

The CHT Peace Accord was inked on this day in 1997 between the then Awami League government and PCJSS leaders, ending the armed conflict, as PCJSS leaders surrendered their firearms to the government.

Talking to The Daily Star, Devasish Roy, the king of the Chakma Circle, said he does not evaluate the status of the CHT Peace Accord by the number of clauses implemented.

"I focus on the qualitative aspects. From that perspective, four key elements rehabilitation of returnees from India and internally displaced indigenous RELATED STORY ON PAGE 5 SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Hasina's allies have properties worth Tk 6,000cr in UK

Finds joint probe by **British Observer, TI**

STAR REPORT

A joint investigation by British newspaper The Observer and Berlin-based anti-corruption organisation Transparency International has revealed that close associates of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, including former ministers and business owners, hold properties worth over £400 million (approximately Tk 6,000 crore) in the UK.

Allegations suggest these assets were purchased with laundered money siphoned off Bangladesh, reports the

The findings, published in a report by The Guardian on Saturday, indicate ownership of nearly 350 properties ranging from luxury apartments to sprawling mansions. Many of these were reportedly acquired through offshore companies and shell entities linked to Sheikh Hasina's

Among those implicated are Salman F. Rahman, former private sector adviser to Sheikh Hasina and vice-chairman of Beximco Group; Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, chairman of Bashundhara Group; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, former land minister; and Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairman of Nassa Group.

Salman F Rahman

Rahman, currently imprisoned in Bangladesh on money laundering charges, and his family are alleged to own several high-value properties in London's prestigious Mayfair area. These include seven luxury apartments in Grosvenor Square, primarily acquired via offshore entities. In March 2022, Rahman's son, Ahmed Shayan Rahman, reportedly purchased an apartment for £26.75 million and owns another flat valued at £35.5 million.

Legal representatives for the family have denied

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Distressed loans equal to cost of 22.5 Padma bridges

Discovers committee for preparing white paper on economy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON AND AM JAHID

Distressed assets in the banking sector have reached a whooping Tk 6,75,030 crore, an amount bigger than the cost of building 22 bridges across the Padma or 13.5 metro rail systems in Dhaka, according to a White Paper released yesterday.

The amount is the sum total of nonperforming loans (NPLs), rescheduled and restructured loans, and outstanding written-off loans. These account for 31.7 percent of the total bank loans as of

Attributing the crisis to systemic regulatory failures the report said a fragmented regulatory system enabled widespread malpractice, leaving banks under-provisioned and ill-prepared to withstand the current financial stress.

"It's not the economy, stupid. Bangladesh's financial sector distress did not emerge from economic disruptions or financial crises or even political instability. Economic factors such as trade, remittances, investments, inflation, commodity prices, exchange rates, and interest rates cannot explain the sustained drain in balance sheets and trust in market makers and regulators,"

reads the White Paper. The details reveal Tk 2,11,391 crore in recognised NPLs, Tk 2,72,856 crore in rescheduled and restructured loans, Tk 75,389 crore in written-off loans, Tk 39,209 crore in special mention accounts, and Tk 76,185 crore in loans pending under court orders.

"The distress is even larger when the bad loans of the non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are accounted for,"

The White Paper states that the culprits within the banking system are all influential heavyweights and the concentration of non-performing loans (NPLs) closely aligns with the concentration of overall loans, revealing a deeper, systemic issue.

> The regulatory framework. particularly at Bangladesh Bank, has been compromised by collusion between top officials and influential outsiders, especially during the period from 2015 to 2024.

"The culprits within the banking system are all heavy weights. The big ones coincide with the bad ones. NPL concentration mirrors loan concentration and more."

An organised network of business conglomerates, bureaucrats politicians coalesced explicitly and implicitly to use the financial system to mine public money by capturing corporate

and regulatory governance, it adds.

"Laws and regulations were tailored and retrofitted to serve the interests of this troika in the spot and forward markets for local and foreign currencies. De jure accountability systems were de facto deposited in a deep fridge. The web of institutions to adjudicate disputes, regulate markets, and allocate resources largely exhausted the trust of the public."

Dominant business interests have captured regulatory safeguards, leading to operational inefficiencies that have stifled growth and excluded startups and entrepreneurs without tradable

"Big players siphoned big money. Embezzlement of big chunks of money from different banks by a number of groups through fake companies or without proper documentation became a privilege of large borrowers."

regulatory particularly at Bangladesh Bank, has been compromised by collusion between top officials and influential outsiders, especially during the period from 2015 to 2024.

The central bank failed to enforce orudential requirements on state-owned banks, allowing repeated violations without sanctions. Amendments to the Bank Company Act in 2018 and 2023 introduced a distinction between willful and un-wilful defaulters, with the former ambiguously defined as those who "fail to repay despite having the capacity".

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Bringing money launderers to book the govt's top priority Says CA press secretary

BSS, Dhaka

The government is committed to bringing those to justice who left the country in a terrible condition by looting public money, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said yesterday.

"The top priority of the government is to ensure justice and accountability for those involved in anarchy in the last 15 years," he told a press briefing at Foreign Service Academy.

Apart from holding trials for those involved in the mass killings and enforced disappearances, the looters must be tried,

"So, information and evidence will have to be collected to this end. The Anti-Corruption Commission is being restructured for this purpose. I hope it will start the process soon to bring these thieves to justice," Shafiqul said.

He said the white paper preparation committee, formed by the interim government to examine the overall situation of the country's economy, handed over its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

Debapriya Eminent economist Bhattacharya, who worked as the head of the committee, said after three months of investigation, their report was handed over to the chief adviser at a function at the Chief Adviser's Office.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Syria's Aleppo slips from govt control

Says monitor after surprise advance by rebels

AFP, Beirut

Syria's second-largest city Aleppo has fallen from government control for the first time since the country's conflict began more than a decade ago, a war monitor said yesterday, after a surprise advance by rebels.

An Islamist-dominated rebel alliance has pressed a lightning offensive against forces of the Iranian- and Russian-backed Syrian government since Wednesday, the same day a fragile ceasefire took effect in neighbouring Lebanon between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group after two months of all-out war.

The Syrian army -- supported by Russian air power had recaptured in 2016 rebel-held areas of Aleppo, a city dominated by its landmark citadel

Damascus also relied on Hezbollah fighters to regain swathes of Syria lost to rebels early in the war which began in 2011 when the government crushed protests. But Hezbollah has taken heavy losses in its fight with Israel.

The jihadist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and allied rebel factions "control Aleppo city, except the neighbourhoods controlled by the Kurdish forces," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told AFP.

For the first time since the conflict started, "Aleppo city is out of control of Syrian regime forces," Abdel Rahman said.



The son of local Palestinian journalist Mamduh Qantiya, who was killed in an Israeli strike, bids his father farewell ahead of his funeral at the Al-Maamadani Hospital in Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Outrage in Teknaf as 'minor held in father's stead'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The minor son of a Jubo League leader Rezaul Karim was detained and sent to a juvenile centre sparking outrage in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf.

According to police, Rezaul faces multiple drug-related charges.

The incident, which took place on November 26, sparked outrage among locals, students and rights activist, who are demanding the boy's release and the removal of Mohammad Gias Uddin as the officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Police said the 16-year-old boy was apprehended allegedly in possession of a foreign pistol and 46 rounds of ammunition, which belonged to his father, a member of the Hnila Union Parishad.

According the statement of the case, filed by Sub-Inspector Badiul Alam, police conducted a raid around 3:55am near Dargapara in Hnila.

Law enforcers reportedly detained a boy carrying a blue bag containing the weapon

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1