

## None can hinder Bangladesh's advancement as AL is reelected: PM

STAFF REPORTER

Prime Minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said none can hinder the advancement of Bangladesh towards prosperity since her party is voted to power again. "I firmly believe none can impede the advancement of Bangladesh as the Awami League is voted to power again," she said. She also said the absolute victory of the AL in the 12th parliamentary polls has proved again that the power of the people is the main thing. "So, none can

play ducks and drakes with the fate of the people," she said. The Prime Minister made the remarks while presiding over an AL grand rally at the historic Suhrawardi Udyan here marking the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The AL is also observing the Day as the day of jubilation for the landslide victory of the party in the 12th parliamentary election held on January 7 bagging 222 parliamentary seats out of 298. Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh got the

status of a developing nation in 2021 when the nation was celebrating twin mega events, the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation and golden jubilee of the independence. "The country could not march ahead if the Awami League was not voted to power again," she said. Bangabandhu, the supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to independent Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on 10 January 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail.

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Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administers the oath of office to the newly elected Awami League lawmakers on yesterday Wednesday

## Newly-elected all MPs sworn in

STAFF REPORTER

All 298 newly-elected lawmakers of the 12th parliamentary election took oath of office at Jatiya Sangsad (JS) here yesterday. Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury first took oath herself as per the rules of procedure and put signature on the letter of oath. The Speaker then administered the oath of office to the Awami League MPs, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Oath Room of Sangsad Bhavan. Later, the 62 independent candidates who won

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## New cabinet to take oath today

STAFF REPORTER

The new cabinet led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be sworn in at 7pm today at Bangabhaban here. "President Mohammed Shahabuddin will administer the oath to the new cabinet members," President's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin told last evening. Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain will conduct the new ministers' oath-taking ceremony at Durbar Hall of the Bangabhaban, the Bangabhaban spokesman added. On the occasion, the Bangabhaban has taken preparation to arrange the ceremony with as

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## South Asia remains fastest among emerging market, developing economy regions: WB

NEWS DESK

Growth in South Asia (SAR) is estimated to have slowed slightly to 5.7 percent in 2023, yet it remains the fastest among emerging market and developing economy regions. This is largely attributed to a robust expansion in India, which accounted for more than three-fourths of the regional output in 2023. Excluding India, however, activity was more subdued. to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report, in Bangladesh, growth is estimated to have slowed in FY 2022/23 (July 2022 to June 2023), as activity was hampered by import restrictions and rising material and energy costs, as well as mounting external and financial pressures. The impact of earlier import restrictions, which were subsequently lifted, along with previous monetary policy tightening, weighed on growth in Nepal. The World Bank said Bangladesh's economic growth is forecast to slow to 5.6 percent in

the current fiscal year of 2023-24, the World Bank said. However, the country's economy is likely to pick up at 5.8 percent in the next fiscal year (FY25). "Inflation is likely to remain elevated, weighing on private



consumption. As foreign exchange reserves are likely to stay low, import restrictions are expected to continue and impede private investment," the WB said. In contrast, public investment is envisaged to remain resilient. The economic growth is expected to rise in the next financial year as inflationary pressure recedes,

the report said. In India, despite some slowing, a strong performance in 2023 was driven by robust public investment growth and vibrant services activity. Output in Pakistan is estimated to have contracted during FY 2022/23 (July 2022 to June 2023). Inflation remained elevated, partly reflecting large currency depreciation in early 2023. However, towards the end of 2023, Pakistan's currency exhibited signs of stabilization. Growth in SAR is expected to edge slightly lower to a still-robust 5.6 percent pace in 2024, before firming to 5.9 percent next year. Domestic demand, including public consumption and investment, will remain major drivers of economic growth. A pickup in external demand, albeit still subdued, is also expected to contribute to growth. In India, growth is expected to edge up to 6.4 percent in FY 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025) after softening to 6.3 percent in FY 2023/24. The outlook in

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## Australia urges Bangladesh govt to prioritise strengthening its democratic institutions

NEWS DESK

The Australian government has urged the Bangladesh government to "prioritise" the strengthening of its democratic institutions, which "underpin" the protection of human rights, rule of law and the promotion of development. "As a close partner, Australia remains committed to working with Bangladesh to achieve our shared vision for an open, stable, prosperous and inclusive region," said the Australian government in a statement on Bangladesh elections. Australia noted the results of the parliamentary election in Bangladesh on January 7. "While we welcome the fact that millions of

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## Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day observed

STAFF REPORTER

The historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest Bangalee of all time, was observed yesterday across the country amid different programmes. Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to the sacred soil of Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on January 10 in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail. Since then, the nation is observing the day as the Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation. The ruling Awami League began its programmes with hoisting of the national and party flags at its central office, Bangabandhu

Bhaban and party offices across the country in the dawn. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his historic Homecoming Day. She paid homage to the great leader by placing a wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi here at 8.30am. Bangabandhu's younger daughter and prime minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana was present at that time. After laying the wreath, the prime minister stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu, the architect of Bangladesh's independence.

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## New govt's challenge to uproot arson terrorism build 'Smart Bangladesh': Hasan

STAFF REPORTER

Information and Broadcasting Minister and Awami League Joint General Secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud today said the first challenge of the new government will be uprooted the arson terrorism and to build 'Smart Bangladesh'. The minister told reporters after placing glowing tributes at the portrait of mFather of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in city's Dhanmondi-32 marking the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu. "Bangladesh achieved victory in 1971 through the surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces. But, this victory was incomplete until Bangabandhu, the great hero of the victory who was imprisoned in Pakistan, was released and returned home," Dr



Hasan said, adding that the victory of Bangladesh got completion on January 10, 1972. The minister also paid rich tributes to all martyrs including Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib who were brutally killed on August 15 in 1975. About the national polls on January 7, Hasan Mahmud said the election was held in a free, fair and neutral manner with the huge participation of the countrymen. The voting

turnout was 42 percent while it was about 70 percent in some constituencies, he said. The AL Joint General Secretary said the observers who are from the United States of America (USA), the European Union countries and the other countries have claimed that the poll was held in a free, fair and transparent manner. In fact, the EU, USA and UK have said that they

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## HC rejects Fakhru's bail in case over vandalising Chief Justice's residence

STAFF REPORTER

HC rejects Fakhru's bail in case over vandalising Chief Justice's residence. The High Court today rejected the bail petition of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in a case filed over vandalising the Chief Justice's residence on October 28 during the party's grand rally. The HC bench of Justice Md Salim and Justice Shahed Nuruddin passed the order after hearing a rule. Advocate Joynul Abedin, Fakhru's lawyer, said the decision to file an appeal will be taken after discussion. Deputy Attorney General BM

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## WEF invites Hasina to attend annual meeting in Switzerland

NEWS DESK

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend its 54th annual meeting to be held in Davos-Klsters, Switzerland, on January 15-19, wishing continued work with her government congratulating on her party's win in national polls. "On behalf of the World Economic Forum, please accept my congratulations on leading your party to a historic win in the 12th National Elections. I wish you and your colleagues every success for the new tenure," WEF Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab said in a message

sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday, reports BSS. He said the World Economic Forum looks forward to working closely with Sheikh Hasina and her government to



support in achieving its full growth potential. Inviting the Bangladesh premier to the 54th World Economic Forum annual meeting under the theme, "Rebuilding Trust," Schwab said, "I would like to take the opportunity to

invite you to the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, which will take place in Davos-Klsters, Switzerland, from January 15 to 19, 2024." "I truly look forward to engaging you in this effort and, hopefully, to welcoming you in Davos," he continued. As usual, over 100 governments, all major international organizations, the 1000 most important global companies, relevant civil society and academic institutions, as well as the global media will interact at the highest level. Wishing Sheikh Hasina's every success in her new leadership role, he said that Bangladesh will be

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WED	

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**Day 96 of genocide**

**Dozens killed by Israeli forces in Gaza**

Wafa

Dozens of Palestinian civilians were killed, and others were injured, in missile and artillery shelling and gunfire by the Israeli occupation forces in various areas of the Gaza Strip, on the 96th day of the aggression against Gaza. Wafa correspondent said that six civilians were killed and others were wounded by bullets from Israeli occupation forces stationed on the coastal road in the Sheikh Ajlin area, southwest of Gaza City. They were taken to Al-Shifa Hospital, west of the city. 15 civilians were killed and dozens were injured as a result of Israeli warplanes bombing with a missile an inhabited house belonging to Nofal family, west of the city of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip. The majority of them were transferred to



Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital in the city. Israeli warplanes bombed a house in Deir al-Balah camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip, causing dead and wounded, the majority of whom were displaced from Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip. The occupation artillery shelled violently and intensively the eastern and southern areas of the city of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip, and dozens were killed and wounded, the majority of whom were displaced from Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip. The occupation artillery also bombed Al-Bureij and Al-Maghazi camps in the middle of the Gaza Strip, killing at least twenty civilians, the majority of whom were children, women, and the elderly. A number of civilians were killed and others were injured as a result of the occupation

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**EU calls for ensuring probe of polls irregularities**

NEWS DESK

The European Union has called upon Bangladesh authorities to ensure a timely and full investigation of all reported election irregularities in the spirit of transparency and accountability. The EU condemned the acts of violence that occurred during the electoral period and urged everybody to refrain from violence in the post-election period. It is also key that the rule of law, judicial independence, due process and the right to peaceful assembly are respected and upheld in this period and beyond. In this regard, detention of opposition figures is highly concerning. The EU strongly encouraged all stakeholders to respect political pluralism, democratic values and international human rights standards and to engage in peaceful dialogue. It is essential that the media, civil society and political parties can carry out their work without censorship or fear of reprisals.

The EU will continue to SEE PAGE-2

**Distribution of Bangladesh Army winter clothes in Chapainawabganj**



Bangladesh Army has distributed 400 blankets among the poor and needy people in Karbala High School and College grounds of Maharajpur Union of Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila. On Wednesday, January 10, at around 12 noon, 9 Veer (Mechanized) blankets under 11 Infantry Division Headquarters 93 Armored Brigade of the Army distributed the blankets. Under the direction of the Army Chief, the Bangladesh Army is doing various public service works apart from distributing winter clothes among the cold people. At this time, the commander of 93 armored brigade, Brigadier General Md. Mohsin Reza OSP, AFWC, PSC, Captain of 9 Vir (Mechanized) Lt. Colonel Md. Khalekuzzaman PSC. Meanwhile, the local people expressed deep gratitude for this humanitarian action of the army.

**Temperature has decreased in Kurigram, cold has increased low income people are suffering from cold in Konkan**

KURIGRAM REPRESENTATIVE:

The northerly cold wind and the severity of winter are gradually increasing in Kurigram. The day laborers and the people who are working hard have been overcome by the force of winter. Cold in Konkan disrupts normal life. The minimum temperature recorded in the district was 11.6 degree Celsius on Wednesday (January 10) at 9 am. Due to the increase in the incidence of cold, the working people, the marginalized and the very poor people are in trouble. Children and the elderly have become cold. Due to the increase in the severity of winter due to the northerly frosty winds, the people of Char and Dwip Char on the banks of 16 rivers flowing over the district are in the most trouble. In addition, children and elderly people are being treated in hospitals due to winter-related diseases due to cold and Konkan. Yesterday, 20 children were admitted to the diarrheal ward of Kurigram General Hospital due to diarrheal. Meanwhile, 43,000 blankets have been distributed by the district

administration through the Upazila Nirbahi Officer for the cold people, according to the district administration sources. Rashida Begum, the mother of a child named Randhia, admitted to the diarrheal ward of Kurigram General Hospital, said that the child was admitted to the hospital five days ago with diarrheal. Now the diarrheal is better. However, after testing yesterday, pneumonia was diagnosed. God knows how many more days you need to stay in the hospital. Badshah Mia, a van driver at the edge of Bhogdanga Union field in Sadar, said that the fog is falling like rain for two days. Can't work in such fog. Didn't get up in the sun all day yesterday. The problem is currently working. Subal Chandra Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Rajarhat Agricultural Meteorological Office in Kurigram, said the temperature will remain like this for a few more days. However, another cold wave may sweep over the district this month. Dr. Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Kurigram General Hospital, Shahinur Rahman Sarardar

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**Cane trees and cane fruits disappear from Palligram**

MD RIAZUR RAHMAN

This village is made of gold surrounded by love, Fields full of green grass looks pretty Kavu is the form of Gram-Bangla I don't see the end This village is on the bank of Padma river Meghna is also in the mix. Fisherman busy fishing; Farmers are also cultivating crops Cane trees are disappearing soon, along with cane fruits.

The fruit of the cane tree is called betfal, bettun, bethun, bethul, betul, betgula,



betguti, bettun etc. Recently, the scientific name of cane is Calamus tenuis, which belongs to the Areaceae family of Bengal. However, it is a forest plant native to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Java and Sumatra. Usually the cane flowers come in the month of Ashwin-Kartika. And the fruit

ripens in the months of Chaitra, Baisakh and Jaishtha. Although it is an unconventional fruit, it is loved by many young and old. This fruit is very well known as Betfal or Betun in rural Bengal. It is nutritious as well as tasty and rich in medicinal properties. Basically, depending on the soil condition, this fruit is very sweet. It is also slightly sour depending on the place. Ripe beetroot is very tasty when eaten with chilli chutney. At one time, this cane tree was known as a very necessary tree for the village farmer. Various cane handicrafts such as chair, table, mora, dala, kula, changari, dhushi, hatpakha, chalon, toka, gola, doti, doola, auri, chanch, dhama, pati, bookshelf, sofa, swing, cot, basket, table lamps, lampshades etc. were manufactured by some art. It is also used in house construction. It is also widely used as a decorative partition for restaurants or offices. Apart from this, long cane strips are also used for tying various things. But over time, people have reduced the number of bushes and trees for their needs. After searching the local markets, it is known that even a few years ago, farmers used to come to sell cane in different markets of Patuakhali. A 20-22 cubit long cane used to sell for Tk 20 to Tk 25. But today, even if he pays 150 to 200 rupees, it is not available. Md. Rashid Uddin, Abdur Rahim and Sakur Mahmud, residents of Patuakhali, Rangabali, Galachipa and Kalapara upazila Bhavlatlar villages said that last few

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**203 dead, 68 missing in Japan's quake-hit Ishikawa amid secondary hazard fears**

INTERNATIONAL DESK

The death toll reached 203 in the central Japanese prefecture of Ishikawa as of 9:00 a.m. local time on yesterday Wednesday, with 68 people unaccounted for, nine days after a series of strong quakes of up to 7.6 magnitude jolted the Noto region and its vicinity,

according to local authorities. The prefectural government on Wednesday confirmed seven disaster-related deaths, six in Suzu city and one in Noto town, national news agency Kyodo reported. They were not killed by the quakes but passed away due to deteriorating injuries or illnesses caused by physical and mental

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**Human chain demanding the arrest of those involved in the murder of Barun Ghosh in Jhenaidah**

Khairul Islam Nirob

In Jhenaidah, Awami League activist Barun Ghosh's murder has been organized to demand the arrest and punishment of those involved in the human chain program. Students of SSC 94 batch Jhenaidah organized this program at post office junction of the city on Wednesday morning. His classmates, friends, relatives and local people

took part in it with banner festoons. In this hour-long program, friends of late Barun, MA Latif Shahriar Prajjal, Mir Fazle Elahi Shimul, Enamul Haque Enam, Kajal Chakraborty, Nimai Chakraborty, Robin Adhikari, Shamim Ahmed, Sohail Rana, Feroz Hossain, Mohammad Ali and others spoke. At that time, the speakers demanded to reveal the main facts of Barun

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**Will protest against corruption: Barrister Sumon**

NEWS DESK

Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon, who has been elected as an independent candidate from Habiganj-4 constituency, said that he will protest against corruption and speak up for the oppressed in the Parliament. Barrister Sumon said this after taking oath as an MP at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan at 11:30 am yesterday. "My role will remain the same as before. Protesting against corruption, speaking up for oppressed people and realizing Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla," Barrister Sumon said. When asked what challenges he might face, he said, "Not one or two. No one wants to work in Bangladesh. Still, if Prime

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**Ten killed, gangs unleash terror as Ecuador declares state of emergency**

AL JAZEERA

At least 10 people have been killed in Ecuador in a series of attacks blamed on armed gangs, as the country plunges into chaos in what the new president has called an "internal armed conflict". President Daniel Noboa, 36, declared a 60-day state of emergency and nightly curfew on Monday following the escape of Jose Adolfo Macias, aka "Fito", the leader of Ecuador's biggest gang, Los Choneros. Macias was serving a 34-year sentence at the La Regional prison in the port city of Guayaquil. Gangsters unleashed a wave of terror across the country and in several overcrowded prisons after eight people were killed and three were injured in attacks in Guayaquil, while two officers were "viciously murdered by armed criminals" in the nearby town of

Nobol, police said late on Tuesday. In retaliation, local gangs took several police officers hostage and set off explosions in several cities. Armed and hooded gang members stormed a studio of state-owned TC Television in



Gunmen storm TV station during live broadcast, more than 20 violent incidents reported as country lurches into crisis.

Guayaquil with guns and explosives while cameras were rolling on Tuesday. The 13 gunmen were subsequently arrested. Guayaquil, a coastal city that is Ecuador's largest, is considered the country's most dangerous, with its ports a hub for drug smuggling. "Authorities say there have been at least 23 different violent incidents in eight provinces, including a number of car bombs going off," Al Jazeera's Alessandro Rampietti reported from the capital, Quito. "A number of police cars were incinerated and at least seven police officers were kidnapped by

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**Field day and technical discussion held at Akkelpur**

AKKELPUR CORRESPONDENT:

A field day and technical discussion meeting was held at Akkelpur of Jaipurhat with 120 farmers under the project to increase the production of oil crops in the financial year 2023-2024. On yesterday Wednesday at noon in Mahitu village of Gopinathpur union of the upazila, the field day and technical discussion meeting on the implementation of the Akkelpur upazila agricultural extension department was chaired by the upazila agricultural officer agriculturist Md. Imran Hossain and the deputy director of the Joypurhat Khamarbari agricultural extension directorate Mocha Rahela Parveen spoke as the chief



guest. Esayom spoke as a special guest, Joypurhat district seed certification officer agriculturist Md. Shamim, district training officer agriculturist Md. Enamul Haque, Bogra region monitoring officer agriculturist Md. Akherur

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**Adam Tamizi denied bail in defamation case**

STAFF REPORTER

A Dhaka court on Wednesday rejected the bail petition in the defamation case filed against Adam Tamizi Haque, managing director of Haque Group of Industries, under the Digital Security Act. Simultaneously, the court also asked the authorities to explain why Adam Tamizi Haque was not produced in court even after 15-20 days of arrest. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Arfatul Rakib court gave the order after the hearing on yesterday Wednesday afternoon. On

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None can

Bangabandhu's Home Coming day is being observed today across the country in a befitting manner. Sheikh Hasina, also Awami League president, thanked the people of the country for taking part in the last general polls spontaneously and voting her party to power again confronting every sort of fear, arson terrorism and conspiracies.

Newly-elected

national polls from their respective constituencies were sworn in. The Speaker also administered the oath to 11 MPs of Jatiya Party. Two MPs of Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, who won the election with the Awami League electoral symbol Boat took oath as well.

New cabinet

many as one thousand guests along with dignitaries. On January 7, the 12th JS election was held in 299 seats. Bangladesh Awami League won 222 seats, Jatiya Party won 11 seats and independent candidates 62 seats, partners of the Awami League-led 14-party combine - Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasod) got one seat each. Bangladesh Kalyan Party won in one seat in the polls.

South Asia remains

Pakistan remains subdued for FY 2023/24. Monetary policy is expected to remain tight to contain inflation, while fiscal policy is also set to be contractionary. The outlook in Sri Lanka remains uncertain, amid debt restructuring negotiations, particularly with private creditors. Investment related to the tourism sector will support growth in Maldives, while the commissioning of a new hydro plant in Bhutan is expected to contribute to a pickup in growth in the next fiscal year.

growth prospects.

Australia urges

Bangladeshi voters exercised their right to vote on election day, it is regrettable that the elections took place in an environment where not all stakeholders could participate meaningfully and substantially," it observed. As a longstanding friend of Bangladesh, Australia said they are concerned about the violence and the arrests of political opposition members that took place in the lead-up to the elections. Australia has consistently highlighted to Bangladesh the importance of free and fair elections, said the statement issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Bangabandhu's

Flanked by central leaders of Bangladesh Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, also the president of the party, placed another wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu on behalf of her party. AL advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, general secretary Obaidul Quader, presidium members Begum Matia Chowdhury, Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Shajahan Khan, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Abdur Rahman, joint general secretaries-information and broadcasting minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Mahbul Alam Hanif, AFM Bahauddin Nasim and education minister Dr Dipu Moni, Organising Secretaries Ahmed Hossain, Afjal Hossain and Mirza Azam were present. After laying the wreaths, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader told journalists that the country's victory became complete after Bangabandhu's return to home.

New govt's challenge

will work with Bangladesh government, he added. Envoys of about 31 countries including India, China, Russia and Japan met with the Prime Minister and congratulated her, the minister said, adding: "Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi phoned our Premier and congratulated her." On the other hand, Hasan Mahmud said the countrymen have rejected BNP- Jamaat's call of boycotting election.

HC rejects Fakhru's

Abdur Ruffel represented the state. Earlier on December 7, 2023, the High Court issued a rule asking the government to explain why Fakhru should not be granted bail in the case. The government was asked to respond to the rule within a week. On December 17, the High Court set January 3 for hearing on the rule. On October 29, 2023, police filed a case with Ramna Police Station on charges of vandalism and attack on the Chief Justice's residence during a BNP rally on October 28. Fakhru was arrested in the case on October 29 and has been in jail since then.

WEF invites

able to fully realize its economic potential and become a developed country by 2041. "The bold reforms taken forward under your leadership have helped raise Bangladesh's economic and social standing," Schwab said.

Dozens killed

targeting a house belonging to the Asalia family in the town of Jabalia, north of the Gaza Strip. Israeli gunboats fired dozens of rocket shells towards citizens' homes in Al-Waha and Sudaniya areas and the outskirts of the Beach Camp, west of Gaza City and off the central sea and south of the Strip, resulting in dozens of injuries. The toll of dead and wounded as a result of the Israeli bombing in the central Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours reached 58, and dozens of wounded. The Israeli air, land and sea aggression against the Gaza Strip continues, leaving more dead and wounded among civilians and major destruction of homes, buildings, apartments, property and infrastructure.

EU calls for

work with the government of Bangladesh on the priorities that characterise our longstanding relations in the political, human rights, trade and development spheres including the country's possible future access to the GSP+ preferential trade scheme, EU said in a statement.

203 dead, 68

strain in the aftermath of the disaster. In a breakdown of the death toll, 91 had been confirmed in Suzu City, 81 in Wajima City, 20 in Anamizu Town, five in Nanao City, three in Noto Town, two in Shika Town and one in Hakui City. In the affected areas, there is a heightened focus on the risk assessment of building collapses, with continuous rainfall since Tuesday, raising concerns about the potential for secondary hazards such as landslides, prompting the prefectural authorities to issue warnings. The atmosphere remains unstable due to the influence of pressure troughs and cold air aloft, increasing the possibility of ground loosening in the Noto region due to the cumulative effects of previous earthquakes and rain-induced snowmelt. Kyodo reported citing the regional meteorological observatory of Kanazawa. As per the prefectural authorities, over 26,000 people are taking shelter in evacuation centers, amid surging spreading risks of infectious

diseases such as COVID-19 and influenza. Approximately 3,100 individuals, meanwhile, remain isolated due to road disruptions. In response to the confusion triggered by sudden changes in the number of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown, local authorities said that the number is constantly updated by integrating information collected through different channels.

Temperature has decreased

said that currently 365 patients are admitted in the hospital. 71 of them are children. However, the number of cold-related patients has not increased yet.

Cane trees

years, I have seen a lot of cane plantations in various abandoned places of the village with bushes around our house. But these gardens are no longer seen today as the demand for these has decreased. Today people have destroyed these gardens due to urbanization and urbanization. But we have seen in our childhood that the betel fruit is round or a little elongated round, small and grainy sour sweet but the shell is hard but inside the soft seeds are hard. But the unripe fruit is green and when ripe it is greenish ghee or white in color. This results in overcrowding. There are up to 200 fruits per bunch. Cane blossoms in October and fruits ripen in March-April. Although it is an unusual fruit, it is very popular and delicious. Generally the cane is thin, tall, thorny and very tough in nature. It grows in the form of a dense thorn bush forest. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Deputy Director of Patuakhali District Agriculture Extension Department, said that once upon a time, cane was one of the accessories of the rural tradition of making daily useful items in the urban life. But now people have reduced the number of bushes for their needs. As a result, the traditional villages of Bengal, betel fruit and trees, have been lost.

Human chain demandin

Ghosh's murder and bring those involved to justice. Later a protest march was taken out from there. The procession went through different streets of the city and ended at the same place. Barun Ghosh of that area went

to Majhipara to have tea from his house in Hamdah area of the city on Wednesday evening. When he reached the highway, a group of miscreants cut him off and left him. He was rescued from there and taken to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital where the doctor on duty declared him dead.

Will protest against

Minister Sheikh Hasina considers me, I will be able to do a lot of work," he said. "You're only an MP for five years. If I perform poorly, people will throw me out," he said. Barrister Sumon thinks that he has been given a responsibility by the people for five years.

Field day

Rahman etc. Organizers said that only 12 percent of the country's edible oil demand is produced. The remaining 88 percent has to be imported from other countries. Encouraging farmers to increase production of oil crops by using modern technology. At the same time, the idea is given to convert the two-cropped land into three-cropped land by changing the crop arrangement in the land. Besides, farmers are also introduced to new varieties of crops. Aman paddy is cut and the land is left till Iri-Boro paddy is planted. Farmers are encouraged to cultivate oil crops on abandoned land.

Adam Tamizi

this day, lawyer Abdullah Al Mamun asked for bail on behalf of Adam Tamizi Haque. During the hearing, lawyer Abdullah Al Mamun, representing Adam Tamizi Haque, requested bail on behalf of his client, citing Tamizi's mental health issues. According to Mamun, Tamizi, who is undergoing treatment at the Beacon Point Drug Addiction Treatment Centre, was arrested on December 11, 2023.

Ten killed,

gang members," he added. This is the first big test for Noboa, a businessman who took office in November promising to crack down on soaring levels of violence in the South American country. "I have just signed a state of emergency decree so that the armed forces have all the political and legal support for their actions," Noboa said. "The time is over when drug trafficking convicts, hitmen and organised crime dictate to the government what to do."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Manikganj www.lged.gov.bd Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.190.001.23- G I Date: 04/01/2024 Invitation for Tender (works) e-Tender Notice No.61/2023-2024 (LTM) e-Tender's are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following packages. Table with 4 columns: SL No., Tender ID & Package No., Name of Works, Tender Proposal Document last selling & Submission Date and Time.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Nilphamari. Memo No. 35.01.7364.456.07.012.23-46 Date: 10-01-2024 e-Tender Notice: No. 13/2023-2024 (OTM) e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following public procurement. Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Tender ID No., Name of work, Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time, Tender Closing Date and Time.

পঞ্চাঙ্গাঙ্কী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিজ্ঞাপন বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর। "পুনঃইজারা বিজ্ঞাপন" এ মর্মে সকলকে অবগত করা যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত কর্মসূচী নির্বাহী হিসেবে বর্নিত এবং ইজারা বিজ্ঞাপন শর্ত মোতাবেক সীলমোহিত হতে উপযুক্ত পদ্ধতির নিচে হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। Table with 7 columns: বিজ্ঞাপন নং ও তারিখ, কাজের নাম, দরপত্র ঘূর্ণপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান, দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ, প্রতিটি ঘূর্ণপত্রের মূল্য (অনেকেরযোগ্য), দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়.



# Iowa State stuns No. 2 Houston 57-53 to hand Cougars first loss of the season

**SPORTS DESK**

Maybe it was the massive winter storm working its way through the Midwest or a resurgence of "Hilton Magic," but No. 2 Houston was not prepared for its first trip to Ames since joining the Big 12 conference. Unranked Iowa State flew past the Cougars early and held on late to pull off a 57-53 upset win Tuesday at Hilton Coliseum, marking Houston's first loss of the season. The Cougars (14-1) were the last remaining undefeated team in Division I men's basketball. Iowa State now has seven wins over top-10 opponents the past two seasons, the most in the country. The win was sealed with a wild shot from freshman Milan Momcilovic. After not scoring in the second half, Momcilovic caught a pass in the corner with the game tied and drilled a ridiculous, fadeaway, con-

Iowa State got the jump early. It opened the night on a 14-0 run and held Houston in single digits through the first 12:30 of the game. The Cougars were plagued by turnovers early, too, which is very uncharacteristic of Kelvin Sampson's group. They had eight of their 16 turnovers on the night in the first 10 minutes of the contest, despite entering the night averaging just 9.1 turnovers per game this season. They had 12 in the first half. "We peed down our leg," Sampson said, via the Ames Tribune's Travis Hines. State took a 31-21 lead into halftime, which marked the first time the Cougars trailed at the break this season and by far the fewest points they've scored in a first half. Star L.J. Cryer was held scoreless in the first half. Houston finally came alive in the second half. The Cougars tied the game after outscoring Iowa State

and set the tone of the game," Iowa State head coach T.J. Otzelberger said, via CycloneFanatic. "We talked about it, we needed to throw the first punch, we needed to be aggressive, we needed to set the tone. I think we set the tone right away. Certainly there was points in the game where it felt like we were hanging on, but I think our guys were able to dig deep." Emanuel Sharp led Houston with 20 points and five rebounds on the night, and he shot 5-of-10 from the 3-point line. Shead finished with 14 points. Cryer, who entered the game averaging more than 17 points per contest, finished with just five points and shot 2-of-9 from the field. The Cougars' schedule, after a relatively easy start, was always going to get significantly harder once conference play kicked up. The Big 12 had six teams ranked in



tested bucket with 31 seconds left to put the Cyclones back in the lead 55-53. He then hit a pair of free throws after Houston missed a 3-point attempt on the other end, which sealed the four-point win. Momcilovic finished with 11 points and three rebounds and shot 4-of-8 from the field for the Cyclones (12-3). Tamin Lipsy led Iowa State with 14 points. They were the only two to score in double figures for the Cyclones, who shot 3-of-15 from beyond the arc as a group.

20-10 to start the second period, a run capped by Jamal Shead when he came up with a second consecutive block and dropped it in on the other end. Shead then gave the Cougars their first lead of the night, 51-50, with a jumper from the free-throw line with just more than three minutes left. Yet that was as far ahead as they got. The Cyclones quickly retook the lead, and after Shead tied it up briefly, Momcilovic hit his clutch shot. "It was important that we came out

the AP Top 25 this week, which is the most in the country. Houston will take on TCU — which went down to the wire with No. 3 Kansas last week — next on Saturday. The Cyclones are now 12-3 on the season. This victory came on the heels of an eight-point loss to No. 9 Oklahoma on Saturday and marked their first win over a ranked opponent this season. They'll host Oklahoma State on Saturday before traveling to No. 18 BYU next week.



# Timo Werner: Tottenham complete loan signing of Germany forward from RB Leipzig

**SPORTS DESK**

Tottenham Hotspur have signed Germany striker Timo Werner on loan from RB Leipzig until the end of the season. The 27-year-old's move includes an option to be made permanent in the summer. He bolsters Tottenham's forward options with Son Heung-min away with South Korea for the Asian Cup and James Maddison sidelined with injury. "I spoke with the [Spurs] manager [Ange Postecoglou] and it was a really good talk," said Werner. "He gave me straight away the feeling what I need to join a club and what I want to feel when you talk to a manager. "Also, that tactics and style, how he wants to play. For me, I thought

straight away that it fits perfectly." "Big risk" or "great business" - will Werner thrive at Spurs? How good a signing is Werner for Tottenham? Have your say here Get Spurs news notifications Werner has Premier League experience with Chelsea after joining the Blues in a £45m move from Bundesliga club Leipzig in 2020. He scored 23 goals in 89 appearances for Chelsea, winning the Champions League, Super Cup and Club World Cup, before returning to Leipzig in 2022. He has scored two goals in 14 appearances this season but missed Saturday's friendly with St Gallen because transfer talks were taking place with Tottenham. Werner has 57 Germany caps but last played for

his country in a friendly defeat by Belgium in March 2023. His move is subject to international clearance but Werner could be available when Spurs play at Manchester United in the Premier League on Sunday, 14 January (16:30 GMT). Tottenham are fifth in the top flight, six points behind leaders Liverpool. "I hope I can be the best player I can be here," added Werner. "I can play every position up front - that's one of my strengths. "My aim is to fight for another win in this league and also maybe for titles. "When I joined my old club [Chelsea] I also said I wanted to be a winner and win titles. In the end we won the Champions League, so I think it should not be too bad to also win titles and to win something."



# Pochettino unable to build Chelsea team from an incoherent mess

**THE GUARDIAN**

For Chelsea, the club that blew a billion, the Carabao Cup has appreciated to a value beyond its usual worth. A winner's pot of just £100,000 and a Europa Conference League playoff spot are part of an underwhelming package but even Chelsea's current ownership must recognise there is more to football than mere money. Beating Newcastle in the quarter-final had been celebrated in a fashion rarely viewed in Chelsea's post-Abramovich times. Perhaps something could be rescued from a second successive wreck of a season, though for that to happen, another second-leg rescue mission at Stamford Bridge is now required. Hayden Hackney scores Middlesbrough's goal against Chelsea in the Carabao Cup semi-final first leg Hayden Hackney gives Middlesbrough Carabao Cup After the Riverside, Middlesbrough's hopes of returning to the final of the competition they won in 2004 cannot be dismissed. Neither can the fecklessness of the current Chelsea. A club where trophies once arrived as a matter of course have entered the type of drought and self-doubt for which their fans previously mocked rivals. Nine years ago, when at Tottenham, reaching the League Cup final - and losing against Chelsea - helped to gain Mauricio Pochettino admirers among initially questioning supporters. The Pochettino of old, the chest-beating mystic of White Hart Lane, is yet to show himself at Chelsea. At the Riverside, arms crossed, he was as unimpressed as the away fans who barracked his players at full-time. Perhaps experience smooths the edges, the ageing process lowers the testosterone output. This is probably a harder job, too, given the incoherence of Chelsea, where recruitment fulfils accounting principles before team-building. Who to answer to? Beyond the Spurs fans, there used only to be Daniel Levy, not a room full of sporting directors and venture

capitalists, each throwing around their own bright blue-sky thinking. In placing trust in Cole Palmer there is something of the patronage that helped to convert Harry Kane into a modern great. Such has been Palmer's reliability that it came as a shock when he fired wide after Jonny Howson's first-half error, even more so after Tom Glover's goalkeeping mistake before half-time. There was something of Kane's doggedness in Palmer's refusal to hide thereafter but this is a player in his first full season as a first-team pro. He is permitted a dip when others have never risen to any sort of prominence. Djordje Petrovic makes a save from Middlesbrough's Emmanuel Latte Lath as Axel Disasi slides in desperately. Unproven players on long contracts are what Pochettino must work with. Beyond Palmer, Thiago Silva and Raheem Sterling, Pochettino struggles for the lieutenants to whom he has always turned. Injuries have been unhelpful, Christopher Nkunku, missing again, offered more in 152 minutes than most of his attacking colleagues have done all season. Reece James's repeated issues are troubling. What might Carney Chukwuemeka have offered? But even among a fully fit squad, there would be no Adam Lallana, who hit his peak at Southampton, for example. Chelsea have no such tier of talent. Conor Gallagher could be a floppy-haired Dennis Wise type, if only club suits would stop looking at his book value. On Teesside, that incoherence was evidenced in both attack and defence. In the absence of a striker, before Armando Broja's second-half arrival, Palmer was playing false No 9, while Silva, at 39, five years older than France's new PM, increasingly looks an ageing man amongst boys. Levi Colwill, yet to match the standards of his Brighton loan period, was achingly guilty in the buildup to Hayden Hackney's goal, Isaiah Jones twisting him in knots. The names of Malo Gusto and Axel Disasi engage little beyond

bemusement, and as for the midfield cover provided in Hackney's goal by Moisés Caicedo and Enzo Fernández: can £200m-plus really only buy such positional callowness? How vulnerable to counterattacks were a Chelsea team that play against such tactics in the Premier League each and every week? Boro are a reminder no club should expect to stay around forever. Nothing is confirmed. They owed Chelsea one. More than one. Chelsea had won the teams' past nine meetings, including the May 2017 defeat at Stamford Bridge that relegated Boro when the team coach, stuck in Kings Road traffic, was late for its own funeral party. This competition, too, reminded of a different era, the 1990s when both clubs were pioneers in shipping in foreign talent but Chelsea won the 1998 League Cup to follow beating Boro in the 1997 FA Cup final. This was a meeting on a far more uneven levels. Michael Carrick was left without 13 first-team players once Emmanuel Latte Lath had limped off. The loss of Alex Bangura to a hamstring problem made it 14. Give or take Steven Gerrard's Saudi adventures at Al-Ettifaq, the former anchor midfielder is the remaining member of England's 2006 World Cup squad, the one-time golden generation, to be in frontline football management. Unlike a Gerrard, Lampard or a Rooney, he is no celebrity appointment and despite his team's setbacks this season there is faith in his coaching abilities. The chairman, Steve Gibson, who has underpinned the club's various rises and falls since 1986, knows a talented coach when sees one. Carrick's team responded admirably, wonderfully to their early setbacks. Pochettino would recognise it is easier to know the qualities of each player when there aren't so many of them. Teams can only play above themselves once they have been built with football in mind.

# Son Heung-min set to light up Asian Cup as Qatar takes centre stage again

**AFP**

The Asian Cup begins on Friday with defending champions Qatar the hosts, Japan favourites and Son Heung-min's South Korea vowing to win the title for the first time in 64 years. The 24 teams spanning Australia to Palestine will battle for regional glory over the next four weeks, culminating in the final at the 88,000-capacity Lusail Stadium on February 10. It will take something special to beat the last big game at Lusail -- the World Cup final 13 months ago when an Argentina side inspired by Lionel Messi defeated France on penalties. The 18th edition of the Asian Cup was supposed to have been held last summer in China but was moved to World Cup host Qatar because of China's Covid-19 rules. Qatar will mostly use stadiums that staged World Cup matches, a notable absentee being Stadium 974, the temporary arena made partly of shipping containers. In the lead-up to the World Cup, the Gulf state came under intense scrutiny over its human rights record and treatment of migrant workers. Rights groups say little has changed since, something Qatar disputes. There has been no such outcry ahead of the Asian Cup. Japan vow to erase 'frustration' - won plaudits for its organisation of the World Cup but the team flopped

on the pitch, their three straight defeats the worst performance of any World Cup host. That lingering pain will motivate them in the defence of their Asian crown, but Carlos Queiroz was fired as coach only last month, giving replacement Tintin Marquez little time to prepare. "I know the players, I know my mentality and I know... my idea for playing," said the Spaniard, who coached Qatar club side Al Wakrah for six years before taking over the national team. Qatar open the tournament against Lebanon at Lusail Stadium. There are six groups of four, the top two from each reaching the last 16, along with the four best third-placed teams. Japan, defeated 3-1 by Qatar in the 2019 final in the UAE, look the team to beat and are the most successful side in Asian Cup history with four titles. Japan have fond memories of Qatar, having stunned Germany and Spain

in the group stage of the World Cup before losing to Croatia on penalties in the last 16. Hajime Moriyasu's team have enjoyed a strong year since, losing only once in 12 matches and winning 4-1 in Germany in a friendly. Moriyasu named Kaoru Mitoma in his squad despite the Brighton winger suffering an ankle injury and said that Japan are determined to erase the "frustration" of their 2019 final loss. - All or nothing for Klinsmann - Korea, Iran, Australia and Saudi Arabia -- all of whom played at the 2022 World Cup and are former Asian champions -- are also teams to watch. Tottenham Hotspur attacker Son, South Korea have the best player in Asia and a world-class performer who is enjoying his football again under Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou. South Korean fans were sceptical about the appointment nearly a year ago of legendary German striker Jurgen Klinsmann, given his patchy record as a coach. But after a slow start his side have hit their stride, their last competitive match a 3-0 World Cup qualifying win in China with Son scoring twice and setting up the third. The 59-year-old Klinsmann has said anything other than winning the Asian Cup for the first time since 1960 will be a failure. "It's 64 years -- 64 years is a long time for Korea.

The Asian Cup begins on Friday with defending champions Qatar the hosts, Japan favourites and Son Heung-min's South Korea vowing to win the title for the first time in 64 years.