

BNP searching for dark ways to assume power: PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday Tuesday said BNP did not participate in the January 7 election in fear of defeat and has been searching for dark ways to assume power being rejected by the people time and again. "They know they are boycotted by the people. That is why, they don't want to take part in the election. So, they are searching for different ways to go to regain power by destroying the electoral process. They are now looking for the ways of

darkness bypassing the path of light which is election," she said. The Prime Minister was addressing expatriate Awami League leaders and activists at her official Ganabhaban residence here. Sheikh Hasina asked the expatriates to stay alert against conspiracies saying that the plots are still being hatched. "They (BNP-Jamaat clique) are now demanding to cancel the election," she said. Referring to 2008 parliamentary election, the premier said the BNP-Jamaat alliance got only 30 seats while the AL alone

bagged 233 seats. "Since then, they don't want any election. They have been setting fire on buses, launches, trains and burning people to death. The more they do terrorist activities and arson violence, the more the people reject them," she said. Sheikh Hasina came down heavily on the BNP as they have been doing politics with their party office. "They lock their office and then unlock it. They have lost the keys of their office and ways also and they are now becoming pedestrians of

► SEE PAGE-2



Yesterday Tuesday Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses several hundred expatriate AL leaders from across the globe gathered at her official residence Ganabhaban — PID

Dhaka Elevated Expressway to be completed in 2024: Quader

STAFF REPORTER

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday Tuesday said the construction works of Dhaka Elevated Expressway will be completed within this year (2024). He made the announcement at a press conference at Setu Bhaban in the capital. Quader, also the Awami League (AL) general secretary, said about 50 percent works of Dhaka Elevated Expressway has already been completed, while

► SEE PAGE-2

Environmental clearance process will be simplified: Saber Hossain

STAFF REPORTER

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday Tuesday said the process of issuing the environmental clearance will be simplified to minimise the suffering of the people. "Necessary initiatives will be taken so that the people can get the related services properly and on time," he said while speaking at a meeting with the officials of the ministry and the Department of Environment (DoE) on the process of issuing environmental clearance. The meeting was held at the conference room of the ministry at

► SEE PAGE-2

WHO seeks \$1.5 bn for urgent health aid in 2024

NEWS DESK

The UN health agency on Monday said it needed \$1.5 billion in 2024 for life-saving aid to tens of millions of people trapped in health emergencies, including in Ukraine and Gaza. The World Health Organization warned that nearly 300 million people across the globe were expected to require humanitarian assistance and protection this year. Among them, "an estimated 166 million people will need life-saving humanitarian health assistance," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a launch event in Geneva, reports AFP. He said his agency was aiming to reach around 87 million of those most in need, and would require \$1.5 billion to do so. "As 2024 starts, WHO is already

responding to 41 health crises, including 15 of the highest-level emergencies," he said. Those caught up in such crises, he warned, are facing a "traumatic start to a new year, and it comes on the back of



lived in or fled from a conflict zone in 2023". Tedros also highlighted the worsening climate crisis, with last year determined to have been the hottest in human history. This, he warned, had "grave implications for health", from "catastrophic hunger" sparked by drought in the Horn of Africa, to deadly disease outbreaks spurred on by changing climate patterns. Tedros stressed that "for those facing emergencies, disruptions to essential health services often mean the difference between life and death". In 2023, funding appeals to provide health aid in different settings received on average just 12 percent of the requested funds, he said. "This is heartbreaking, and it is avoidable," Tedros said. "It is why in 2024 we must step up."

Uninterrupted gas supply to be ensured by 2026: Nasrul

STAFF REPORTER

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid today said uninterrupted gas supply will be ensured in the country by 2026. He said this in response to a question from journalists during his first exchange of views at the secretariat, after taking the office as the state minister for the second time following the 12th National Parliament Election. "We are preparing to supply 6,000 million cubic feet of gas to meet the daily demand in 2026. Our priority in the current period will be to build the gas pipeline from Bhola to Barisal and increase utilizing our own

► SEE PAGE-2

EU releases €300,000 for fire affected Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar camps

STAFF REPORTER

In response to the recent fire in one of the Rohingya camps, hosting nearly 1 million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, the European Union has released €300,000 to assist the affected population. The incident left over 5,000 people without shelter. The funding would serve to provide immediate emergency assistance to address the most urgent needs, notably in terms of shelter, water and site development, said the EU Embassy in Dhaka on yesterday Tuesday. It will be implemented by the UN Refugee Agency and complement efforts of other humanitarian partners. In the early hours of 7 January, a large fire broke out in one of the most congested camps,

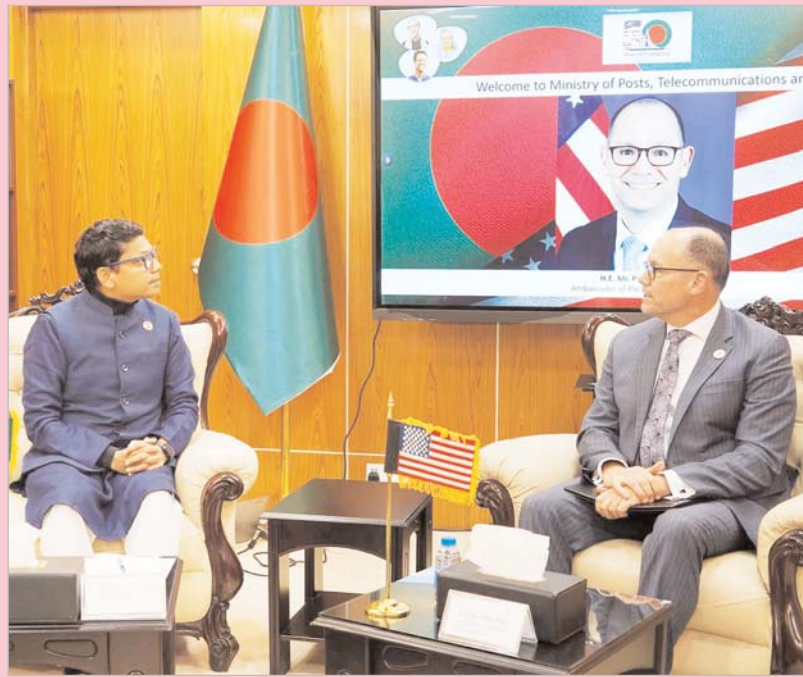
Camp 5, where it quickly spread. Close to 950 shelters burned down or were partially destroyed. The fire also damaged communal facilities, including one health centre, 15 learning centres, as well as numerous latrines and washrooms. Despite the extensive damage, no casualties have been reported so far, thanks to the rapid intervention of the fire brigade with the essential help of Rohingya community volunteers. Since fires are frequent in the congested camps, EU-funded disaster preparedness programmes have helped humanitarian partners strengthen camp structures and better prepare for such risks. This new funding comes in addition to the over €8

► SEE PAGE-2

Peter Haas calls on Palak at secretariat office

STAFF REPORTER

The United States (US) Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas yesterday Tuesday paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak at his office at the secretariat here. During the meeting, they exchanged views on various issues related to bilateral interests, especially data security, artificial intelligence, internet of things (IoT), robotics and how the two countries can work together to modernize the postal system, a press release said. Highlighting the excellent relations between Bangladesh and the United States, especially in the development of the information and communication technology sector, Palak said that with the advice of



architect of Digital Bangladesh Sajeeb Wazed Joy and the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Digital Bangladesh program has been implemented in the last 15 years. Thus, Bangladesh has started a

revolutionary change, he added. They also talked about increasing cooperation between two countries in building Smart Bangladesh, boosting investment and creating employment, according to the release.

► SEE PAGE-2

Secondary schools to remain closed if temp drops below 17°C

STAFF REPORTER

The secondary schools in the districts, where the temperature falls below 17 degrees Celsius, will remain closed. The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education on yesterday Tuesday provided essential directives in this regard. It said, "Severe cold waves are flowing in different districts of the country. It is being learned that regular academic activities are disrupted due to the ongoing cold waves. For instance, the secondary schools in the districts, where the temperature falls below 17 degrees Celsius, will remain closed." The regional deputy directors of the

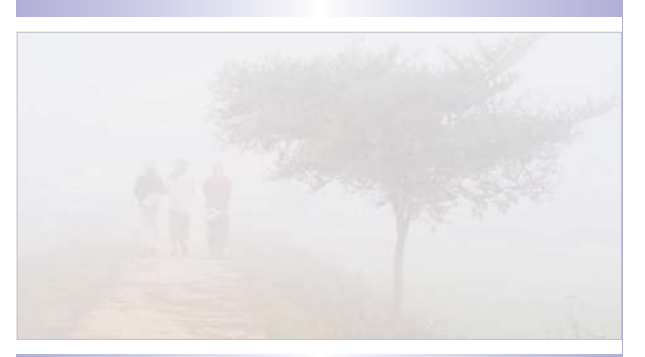
► SEE PAGE-2

Cold wave continues, Bangladesh's lowest temperature recorded in Sreemangal

Sreemangal district experienced yesterday Tuesday's lowest temperature at 9.7 degrees Celsius, indicating a mild cold wave impacting several regions across Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department anticipates this cold wave to persist. The weather bulletin highlighted the contrasting temperatures across the country, with Sreemangal witnessing the lowest, while Cox's Bazar reported the highest at 24.5°C. According to meteorological standards, temperatures ranging from 8 to 10 degrees Celsius signify a mild cold wave, 6 to 8 degrees Celsius a moderate one, and below 6

degrees Celsius a severe cold wave. Moreover, moderate to thick fog is expected to envelop the country from midnight to

temporarily. The weather forecast suggests dry conditions with temporary partly cloudy skies across the country, with no



morning, possibly extending until noon in some areas. This foggy condition is likely to disrupt air navigation, inland river transport, and road communication

significant change in night and day temperatures expected. The cold wave's impact is palpable among the populace, with Dhaka residents and others

► SEE PAGE-2

MOBILE APP
DOWNLOAD NOW

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Stretching Wings TO NEW HORIZON

DAILY FLIGHT TO DUBAI

DHAKA → DUBAI		DUBAI → DHAKA	
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
06:30 PM	10:00 PM	11:30 PM	06:00 AM+1
MON, THU, FRI & SUN			
05:30 PM	09:00 PM	10:30 PM	05:00 AM+1
TUE			
03:55 PM	07:25 PM	08:55 PM	03:25 AM+1
WED			

*FALL IN LOCAL TIME

Israel Says War to Wind Down in Southern Gaza as Toll Tops 24,000

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Israel has said its operations against Hamas in southern Gaza will soon enter a less intensive phase, after the group's health ministry reported the death toll in the territory had surpassed 24,000. More than 100 days into the war, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under intense international pressure to end the fighting as civilian deaths soar and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepens, AFP said. At the same time, deadly violence in the occupied West Bank, exchanges of fire over Israel's border with Lebanon, and strikes by US forces on Iran-backed Yemeni rebels acting in solidarity with Hamas have all raised fears of an escalation beyond the Gaza Strip. UN chief Antonio Guterres on Monday reiterated calls for a stop in the combat, saying: "We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to ensure sufficient aid gets to where it is needed, to facilitate the release of the hostages, to tamp

down the flames of wider war -- because the longer the conflict in Gaza continues, the greater the risk of escalation and miscalculation." Fighting has ravaged Gaza since October 7, when Hamas carried out



an unprecedented attack on Israel that resulted in about 1,140 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Hamas also dragged about 250 hostages back to Gaza that day, 132 of whom Israel says are still there, including at least 25 believed to have been killed. As of Monday evening, at least 24,100 Palestinians, around 70 percent of them women, young children and adolescents, had been

killed in the Gaza Strip in Israel's bombardment and ground offensive, according to the Hamas government's health ministry -- a figure that would represent roughly one percent of the territory's population.

Hamas's press office said Tuesday morning that Israeli strikes had killed another 78 people overnight. The Israeli military also announced early Tuesday the death of one more soldier in Gaza, bringing the total number killed since its ground invasion began to 189.

The next phase With the army having shifted its focus from Gaza's devastated north to the southern cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah in recent weeks, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told a news conference on Monday that intense operations would soon be winding down there as well.

"We made it clear that the intensive maneuvering stage would last for approximately three months," Gallant told a news conference, adding that stage was already being reached

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Dense fog disrupts flight, train operations in India

NEWS DESK

Low visibility due to intense fog has been causing significant travel disruptions in Delhi and its adjoining areas during the last couple of days forcing thousands of travelers to wait for hours at the airports and railway stations yesterday Tuesday. More than 30 flights departing from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) were delayed and 17 flights were cancelled due to low visibility amid dense fog, news agency ANI reported citing the airport officials.

However, train services were disrupted significantly across the India due to low visibility as foggy weather engulfed the country. At least 30 Delhi-bound trains were delayed by up to five-six hours this morning due to cold and dense fog. The city's Palam and Safdarjung Airports recorded visibilities within 500 metres in the morning, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). However, at least 15 air

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Japan to double emergency funds after New Year's Day quake



INTERNATIONAL DESK

Japan plans to double a fund used for disaster relief and other contingencies to \$6.8 billion after a devastating New Year's Day earthquake, the government said yesterday Tuesday, as snow worsened conditions for survivors. The 7.5-magnitude quake and powerful aftershocks killed at least 222 people in central Japan, laying waste to houses and infrastructure. In the Ishikawa region on the Sea of Japan coast, about 16,700 people were still stuck in limbo in shelters, many without running water. "Uninterrupted support is necessary for the reconstruction and recovery of the disaster-hit areas," Hiroshi

Moriya, deputy chief cabinet secretary, told reporters. In the fiscal year from April, the government will raise its reserve fund -- used for emergencies from disasters to economic downturns -- from 500 billion yen (\$3.4 billion) to one trillion yen (\$6.8 billion), he said. The revised draft budget is expected to be approved by ministers later Tuesday and will then be submitted to parliament for enactment. Separately, around 100 billion yen (\$680 million) from the current fiscal year's reserve fund was set to be earmarked for a relief package for the New Year's Day quake, he added. Fears are rising of further deaths due to worsening health conditions in shelters as a

cold front blankets the coast in snow. TV footage showed a long line of evacuees with heavy coats and umbrellas waiting for food rations, while others sifted through donated winter clothing. Officials are trying to move people to secondary shelters in other regions with water, electricity and heaters, but progress has been slow. On Tuesday, the quake-ravaged city of Wajima said it had made prolonged accommodation arrangements for displaced residents at hotels elsewhere in the country. "Our infrastructure has been decimated, and full-fledged reconstruction is still nowhere in sight," the city said in a

▶ SEE PAGE-2

5,024 killed in road accidents in 2023: BRTA

STAFF REPORTER

At least 5,024 people lost their lives in 5,495 road accidents across the country last year, according to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). Besides, at least 7,495 people suffered injuries in

published by the Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samiti earlier this week, a total of 6,261 road accidents killed at least 7,902 people in the bygone 2023 and injured at least 10,372. The organisation said they collected the data from media reports published in various newspapers. However,

deadliest month on the road last year. At least 533 people were killed in 566 road accidents that month. Another 934 were injured in the accidents. June saw the second most casualties with 504 deaths and 785 injuries in 562 accidents. With 470 people killed and 581 injured in 559 accidents, November ranks as the third deadliest month in terms of road accidents. Among the other months, January saw 333 deaths, 336 injuries in 322 road accidents; 303 were killed and 416 were injured in 308 accidents in February; 415 were killed and 688 were injured in 387 accidents in March; 459 killed and 705 were injured in 476 accidents in April; 394 were killed and 649 were injured in 483 accidents in May; 376 were killed and 695 were injured in 458 accidents in August; 410 were killed and 609 were injured in 454 accidents in September; 394 were killed and 492 were injured in 437 accidents in October; and 433 people were killed and 641 were injured in 483 accidents in December. According to the BRTA data, a total of 7,837 motor vehicles were involved in road accidents

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Bangladesh plans to administer 250m COVID vaccine shots in two years

STAFF REPORTER

The government has announced plans to administer 250 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine over the next two years. Half of these doses will be administered as a fourth dose this year, while the remainder will be used in 2025. The vaccination drive will prioritise frontline workers, the elderly, and individuals with health vulnerabilities, Md Jahangir Alam, secretary of the Health Services Division, said during a meeting with the Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum on yesterday Tuesday. Bangladesh has alerted the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) to its vaccine requirements, and the organisation has assured that the shots would be available from April. "We aim to vaccinate 250 million

people, including frontline responders, children, those with health issues, and the elderly," Jahangir said. "While we have some vaccine doses in stock, we are coordinating with GAVI to secure the additional quantities required for the campaign." Prof ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, added that the country currently has a stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Pfizer, which are valid until next year. Newly appointed Health Minister Samanta Lal highlighted ongoing concerns about COVID-19, noting that hospitalisations are still occurring in various countries. He urged the elderly and those with underlying health conditions to avoid large gatherings and to continue wearing masks as a precautionary measure.



the said accidents, BRTA Chairman Noor Mohammad Majumdar disclosed at a press conference in the capital's Banani yesterday Tuesday. The data released by the agency has been collected from across the country through its divisional offices. However, the BRTC data on road accident casualties vastly differs from data published by other transportation-related organisations. According to data

termining the Jatri Kalyan Samiti's data as 'exaggerated', BRTA Chairman Majumdar said the road accident data collected by BRTA is regularly published on the BRTA website. "All concerned are requested to inform BRTA if any information is found other than the information provided by BRTA or any inconsistency is found." According to the BRTA data disclosed by Majumdar, July was the

5 of a family suffer burn injuries as miscreants set house on fire in Keraniganj

NEWS DESK

Five members of a family suffered burn injuries as miscreants set a house on fire in Dhaka's Keraniganj early yesterday Wednesday. Aminul Islam, additional superintendent of police, said miscreants set the house of one Julhas on fire by pouring petrol at 4 am. They also locked the door from the outside. Read: Karwan Bazar slum fire: Firefighters recover 2 burnt bodies Julhas along with his two children and two other family members sustained burn injuries in the fire. Hearing their screams for help, neighbours rescued them

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Magura Lawyers Association President Kallol, Secretary Shaheen

TASIN ZAMAN:

Candidates supported by Awami League have won the post of president and general secretary in the 2024 elections of Magura Lawyers Association. Held on Monday Advocate Mahbub Akbar Kallol, supported by Awami League, was elected as President and Advocate Rashed Mahmud Shahin

as General Secretary in the annual election. Voting ends on Monday, January 15 from 9 am to 4 pm. 24 candidates contested against total 15 posts. Out of 278 voters of Magura Bar Association, 224 lawyer voters exercised their franchise in the election. Election Commissioner Advocate Shivprasad Bhattacharya

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Ukraine says shot down two Russian command aircraft in blow to Moscow

The A-50 and IL-22 play a central role in orchestrating Russian battlefield movements in Ukraine.

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Ukraine has said it shot down an A-50 Russian reconnaissance plane and an IL-22 airborne command post in a potentially significant blow to the Kremlin's forces. Ukrainian army chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi announced the aircraft had been hit on the Telegram messenger on Monday, posting a video of a tracking map suggesting the planes were struck over the Sea of Azov, which lies to the east of the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula. "I am grateful to the air force for the excellently planned and conducted operation in Azov region!" Zaluzhnyi wrote. Hours after Zaluzhnyi's statement, a

Russian military blog posted an image of the shrapnel-riddled tail section of an IL-22 standing on the tarmac and lauded the crew as "real heroes". Kyiv's Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ignat reposted the image, saying the plane appeared to have made it to the Russian town of Anapa but that it was beyond repair as it had been on fire. He added that the A-50 had been Kyiv's priority target. The A-50 is a Russian reconnaissance plane, equivalent to the AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) plane, used by NATO. Topped with a large radar, it typically has a crew of 15 and can scan an area of several hundred kilometres for enemy aircraft, ships and missiles.

The Russian Air Force is thought to have nine of the planes in its fleet. Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for Ukraine's southern military command, told a briefing that Russia had used the plane extensively to prepare for and conduct long-range missile strikes on Ukraine. "We expect such a strike [on the A-50] to be fairly painful and, at least, to delay powerful missile strikes," she said. The IL-22, meanwhile, oversees military operations and sends radio signals to troops on the front line. The Russian Air Force reportedly has a dozen such planes. "No information" Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters he had "no

▶ SEE PAGE-2

Bumper crop of mustard in Akkelpur, smile on farmer's face

AKKELPUR CORRESPONDENT:

Mustard has been extensively cultivated in every village of 5 unions and 1 municipality of Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat. However, local farmers have planted the most mustard in Tilakpur, Raikali Union along with Akkelpur Municipality of the upazila. Farmers expect mustard to be more profitable than rice if the weather is favorable. They will start preparing the land for paddy cultivation by taking the mustard home. Now the farmers of these areas are spending a lot of time in the care of mustard. If you can collect ripe mustard from



the land, the worries of the farmers will go away. In the current season, the target was 2 thousand 4 hundred 10 hectares of land in the whole upazila. Since the price of mustard is high in the market and the Upazila Agriculture Office has encouraged the farmers to cultivate, mustard has been cultivated in about 300 hectares more than last

time. Even though the weather is favorable, the farmers are spending days counting the days in worry. According to the choice of the farmer, different types of mustard are planted, but among Bari 9, 14, 17, 18, Bina 9, Bari 14 and 18 varieties of mustard have been cultivated about 90 percent. Abdus Chalam, farmer of Narikeli village of Raikali union of Akkelpur upazila, said that last season I planted mustard on 4 bigha of land. A profit of about 9 and a half thousand taka has been made per bigha of land. Seeing the amount of profit obtained in last year's mustard cultivation, this time I cultivated

▶ SEE PAGE-2

BNP searching

the lost way," she said. BNP has one virtue and that is arson terrorism, she said. The premier said BNP are skilled to create trap to kill people referring to withdraw fishplates of the railway track in which several persons were killed. She said the BNP had distributed leaflets among the people urging people to boycott the election alongside with conducting the violence. But, the people have casted their balloting spontaneously rejecting their plea to not going to polling centres. "Not only this time (January 7 election), the people have rejected their time and again. They did not take part in the election fearing to lose," she said. The Prime Minister thanked the people as they voted spontaneously and sent her party to power again. She continued participation of women in large numbers in the election a great achievement of the AL awareness campaign to make people understand that casting votes is their constitutional and civic rights. In this connection, she mentioned that a 130-year-old woman exercise her voting franchise in the January 7 election. Quoting the old woman, she said, "I want to vote Hasina." She continued: "Getting the trust and confidence of the people in me is my great achievement." The premier said the victory of Awami League in the election is the victory of the people and democracy as well. "The victory is also the victory of continuation of the democracy and continuation of the development," she said. They have realized that the government is the servant of the people after Awami League assumed power, she said. "I will work as a public servant not as a Prime Minister to change the fate of the people being a daughter of the Father of the Nation," she said. She said there is no scarcity of food, reached electricity to every house and transformed Bangladesh into a digital Bangladesh since the Awami League had been in power in the last 15 years. Now, the people of Bangladesh want more developed and improved life. "We will turn Bangladesh into a poverty and hunger free developed and prosperous Bangladesh by 2041 in the spirit of the Liberation War as envisioned by the Father of the Nation," she said. The Prime Minister recalled with due respect the contribution of the expatriates in each of the democratic and progressive movement and in building the nation. She said the expatriates played great role in forming public opinions in favour of independent Bangladesh during the War of Liberation in 1971. "I thank you all as the remittance you send to Bangladesh is the main driving force of our economy," she said. The premier urged the all Bangladeshi expats to take part in the universal pension scheme to secure their future. Later, as many as expatriate Awami League leaders and activists from 29 countries that included the USA, the UK and Italy greeted their party chief Sheikh Hasina on her reelection as the Prime Minister for a record fifth term and fourth in a row.

Dhaka Elevated

traffic movement has begun from the airport to Farmgate section. The remaining part on Chattogram highway up to Kutubkhali will be completed by 2024, he said. Noting that Taka two crore toll is being collected from Padma Bridge per day, the road transport and bridges minister said so far, toll of 1,252 crore has been collected from traffic movement on the Padma Bridge. In addition, he hoped, the works of the BRTA project in Gazipur would be completed by June this year. Replying to a question, Quader said BNP leaders are now talking weird and absurd for their own happiness. "No one should be jealous seeing the country's prosperity. The country's interests should be considered first. The government that conducts development works should be appreciated but unfortunately this is not happening in Bangladesh," he said. Responding to the statements of BNP leaders that the grassroots AL leaders are in panic after the January 7 general elections, the AL general secretary said the BNP leaders threatened that they would not allow elections to take place, but the government held a peaceful poll with some sporadic incidents.

"But nothing like what BNP thought actually happened. The voter turnout was 41.8 percent in the polls. BNP claimed that the country's people did not respond to the election, but they (people) did not pay heed to them....that was why they (BNP leaders) are talking weird and absurd for their own peace in mind," Quader said.

Environmental

Bangladesh Secretariat here. Saber Hossain directed the officials concerned to issue environmental clearances systematically with the mindset of providing services, warning that no irregularity will be tolerated to this end. He said effective measures will be taken to check air pollution to protect public health and legal action will be taken against the brick kilns polluting air. The environment minister said air pollution will be checked in Dhaka city in coordination with relevant ministries and entities. Other factors responsible for air pollution will be scientifically controlled, he added. Environment Secretary Dr Farhina Ahmed, Additional Secretary (Administration) Iqbal Abdullah Harun, Additional Secretary (Climate Change) Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, DoE Director General Dr Abdul Hamid and senior officials of the ministry and the DoE were present, among others, at the meeting.

Uninterrupted

gas resources," he said. While asked about the current gas crisis, the state minister said, "People are facing gas shortage as a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) is going under regular servicing, but it will be over in a day or two." "Petrol is working on gas management planning. Hopefully, we will get good news on Bibiana gas field soon," Nasrul said.

EU releases €300,000 for

million provided by the EU last year in humanitarian aid to Bangladesh, notably in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, but also to reduce the impact of natural hazards. Last March, when another devastating fire caused substantial damage in Cox's Bazar camps, the EU released €1 million to assist the affected population.

Secondary schools to

directorates will give the order of closure after discussing the district education officers, it added.

Cold wave continues

feeling winter's bite more acutely in recent days. The northern regions are experiencing even harsher conditions, where the intense cold has significantly hampered daily activities. Vulnerable groups, particularly day laborers, children, and the elderly, are the most affected by the severe cold. In summary, Bangladesh is currently facing a challenging winter, with

lower temperatures affecting daily life and transportation across various regions.

Israel Says War

in the northern Gaza Strip. "In southern Gaza we will reach this achievement and it will end soon, and in both places, the moment will come when we will move to the next phase," he said, without specifying a time frame. Israel's army confirmed that one of its four divisions operating in the territory completed its withdrawal on Monday. However, Israeli officials, including Netanyahu over the weekend, have repeatedly warned the fighting in Gaza will go on for months. Looking ahead to Gaza's eventual post-war administration, Gallant said: "Palestinians live in Gaza and therefore Palestinians will govern it in the future. The future Gaza government must grow out of the Gaza Strip." 'Only debris' The UN says the war has displaced roughly 85 percent of Gaza's population, many of whom have been forced to crowd into shelters and struggle to get food, water, fuel and medical care. "We were displaced with the people who fled, first to schools, then to Deir al-Balah," said Umm Jihad, who had returned to visit her home in central Gaza's Al-Bureij on Monday. "There's no life at all, there's no house, and there's nothing left," she added. "It's depressing and dismal, there is only debris - that's Al-Bureij." APFTV footage showed smoke billowing on Monday over Al-Bureij and Khan Yunis, southern Gaza's main city, and explosions could be heard from nearby Rafah, on the territory's southern border with Egypt. As temperatures plunge, families living in makeshift tents in Rafah have resorted to burning plastic to ward off the chill, despite the noxious fumes. "At night, I feel like we're going to die from the cold," said Haneen Adwan, 31, a mother of six children who was forced to flee from central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp. 'Psychological warfare'

The Israeli public, meanwhile, has kept up intense pressure on the government to secure the return of the hostages seized by Hamas on October 7, with the group on Monday announcing the deaths of two more captives. Hamas's armed wing released a video showing a woman hostage, speaking under duress, revealing that two men she was held with had been killed in captivity.

In a statement released with the video, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades blamed "the Zionist army's bombing" for the deaths of the hostages.

Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari rejected the cause of death as a "lie", but added: "We know that we hit targets near the location where they were held", saying an investigation was underway.

Hagit Chen, the mother of one of the hostages, said at an event in Berlin that it was "hard to live, to sleep, to breathe, to eat" because she had heard nothing from her son Itay, 19, since Hamas took him captive on October 7. Red Sea attack

Violence involving regional allies of Iran-backed Hamas -- considered a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union -- has surged since the war began.

Yemen's Houthi rebels, who say they act in solidarity with Gaza, claimed a missile strike on a US-owned cargo ship on Monday, just days after the United States and Britain bombed scores of targets inside the country in response to repeated attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. Early Tuesday, the British maritime security agency UKMTO reported a fresh incident in the sea, with a ship saying a small craft had circled it but departed after warning shots were fired.

Dense fog disrupts

ports faced flight delays amid poor visibility as dense fog engulfed several cities across North and East India and the cold wave tightened its grip, the reports added. The authorities have urged people to checkup their flights and weather conditions beforehand and prepare accordingly to avoid inconveniences. IMD said a fog patch can be seen over the northern and north-eastern states with low visibility areas recorded in the airports situated in those states. "Layer of fog is seen from Punjab to north-east India across Haryana, North MP, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar and West Bengal at 0530 hrs IST. The patches of fog are also seen along the east coast of India as shown in the attached Satellite Imagery," the IMD said in a post on X.

Japan to

statement. Even so, analysts said the impact of the disaster on Japan's economy will likely be limited, as the earthquake struck a remote area with few industrial sites. Takahide Kiuchi, an economist at the Nomura Research Institute, evaluated the cost of material damage at around 800 billion yen (\$5.5 billion) in a preliminary estimate.

That figure represents only 0.15 percent of the country's GDP, and less than five percent of the damage cost of the huge earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan in 2011.

5,024 killed

in 2023. Of them, 206 were cars or jeeps, 1,830 were buses or minibuses, 1,389 were trucks or covered vans, 370 were pickups, 226 were minibuses, 161 were ambulances, 1,747 were motorcycles, 230 were vans and 128 were tractors. Besides, 217 easy bikes, 415 battery operated rickshaws, 497 auto rickshaws and other 1,168 vehicles were also involved in the road accidents

Magura Lawyers

announced the election results. The members of the District Lawyers Association informed the winner President and General Secretary.

Thakurgaon Department

fined Tk 2,000. On that day, in different places of Sadar Upazila, the district office of the Consumer Rights Protection Department inspected the price list and

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
Magura District, Magura.
e-mail: ee.magura@dphe.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মুনীতি
গাম শব্বের উন্নতি

শেখ হাসিনার মুনীতি
গাম শব্বের উন্নতি

Invitation for Tender Notice No.02/2023-2024	
1. Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2. Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
3. Project / Program Name	Revenue Budget.
4. e-Tender ID	920652.920653
5. Description of Works :	Repair and Maintenance of Boundary Wall at Assistant Engineer Office, DPHE Sreepur Upazila & Executive Engineer Office, DPHE, Magura District, Magura FY-2023-2024.
6. Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	Md.Abu Bakar Siddique, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Magura District, Magura.Tel. 02477710069.
7. This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off-line/hard copies will be accepted. Interested person / firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

Md.Abu Bakar Siddique
Executive Engineer, DPHE, Magura.

conducted an operation on not selling goods or services at higher prices than the fixed price, not producing and selling adulterated and counterfeit goods. In this regard, various shops including the mentioned institutions are also warned not to commit such crimes. This kind of operation will continue, said the assistant director of the district office of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection. Sheikh Sadi.

Bumper crop

mustard on 5 bigha land. He also said that he has spent about 12,000 taka per bigha of mustard cultivation from the preparation of the land to the harvest. If the weather is favorable, then they expect to get a yield of about 35 maunds of mustard from these lands. Several farmers said that unlike other crops, mustard cultivation does not require much labor. Men as well as women members of the family work regularly to collect and thresh ripe mustard seeds from the land and take the crop home. Md. Emdad Hossain of Ward No. 5 of Akkelpur Municipal Council said that the yield of mustard can be raised at low cost and in a short time. Due to the lack of stormy rains, the yield of mustard has been good this season. He also said, I am sowing mustard on 8 bigha land. He commented that mustard can be sold at a higher market price if it is dried in the sun and stored. Md. Masum Billah, a farmer of Kanchpara village of Tilakpur union of the upazila, said that the profit made in mustard cultivation last year was not possible by cultivating rice before. So this time I planted early rice. I am sowing mustard in 15 bigha land after cutting paddy and the yield is very good. He said that 6 to 8 maunds of mustard are produced per bigha of land. After plowing the land, seeds are sown, fertilizers and irrigation are done. The average threshing cost per bigha of land is 11,000 taka. And each maund of mustard will be sold at 2500 to 3000 taka. It is possible to earn at least 12,000 to 14,000 taka by cultivating mustard per bigha of production cost. Akkelpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Agriculturist Md Imran Hossain said that only 12% of edible oil is produced in the country and the remaining 88% has to be imported from abroad. To reduce this import dependency, the government has set a target to improve the production to 40 percent in the next 3 years by increasing the cultivation of mustard crop. In continuation of that, mustard has been planted on 2 thousand 400 hectares of land this year in Akkelpur upazila, which is about 300 hectares more than last year. He also said that apart from distribution of fertilizer seeds among 3,600 farmers through promotion, motivational meetings, field days and technical discussions and yard meetings with farmers at the village level have been encouraged to cultivate mustard. A bumper crop of mustard is expected due to favorable weather conditions this season. Farmers get more profit with less cost by cultivating mustard. Along with other fertilizers to get good yield of mustard Boron fertilizer should be used. Mustard field should be sprayed with Roveral 50 WP or Ripcord or approved insecticides twice after flowering and after 10 days to protect against blight.

5 of a family

with burn injuries. On information, a firefighting unit rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire. The injured were taken to the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. Police are trying to arrest the arsonists, said Aminul Islam.

Ukraine says

information" on the attacks and that further questions should be directed to the Defence Ministry. Russia has largely maintained air dominance since launching a full-scale invasion of its neighbour nearly two years ago. The A-50 and IL-22 play a central role in orchestrating Russian battlefield movements in Ukraine. Their loss would be a landmark feat for Kyiv as well as a major blow to Moscow with fighting along the front line largely bogged down in trench and artillery warfare. Russian military bloggers with close army links did report an incident over the Azov Sea. "It will be another dark day for the Russian Aerospace Forces and Air Defense," wrote Rybar, a blogger with nearly 1.2 million subscribers who supports and provides running commentary on Russia's war in Ukraine. "There are not many A-50s. And the specialists operating them are generally rare. If an aircraft of this type is hit, the crew will not be able to escape." Telegram channel WarGonzo acknowledged that the A-50 had been destroyed. "Unfortunately war is never without tragedies, and the death of our fighters always hurts. We express our condolences to the families and close ones of the crew," it said. It too reported that the IL-22 was able to make it back to base. "According to reports, the pilots were able to land the damaged machine," it said. A February 2023 drone attack at an airfield in Belarus damaged a parked A-50 but Russian and Belarusian officials described the damage as minor.

China warns Philippines not to 'play with fire' over president's Taiwan remarks

Reuters

China summoned the ambassador from the Philippines on Tuesday and warned the country "not to play with fire" after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr congratulated Taiwan's president-elect Lai Ching-te on his election victory. China was "strongly dissatisfied with and resolutely opposes these remarks," its foreign ministry spokesperson said, referring to Marcos congratulating Lai on Monday for winning Taiwan's election and referring to him as its next president. "The relevant remarks of President Marcos constitute a serious violation of the One China principle and ... a serious breach of the political commitments made by the Philippines to the Chinese side, and a gross interference in China's internal affairs," spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular briefing. "China has lodged a strong protest with the Philippines at the earliest opportunity," and summoned its ambassador "to give China a responsible explanation", Mao said. "We suggest that President Marcos read more books to properly understand the ins and outs of the Taiwan issue, so as to draw the right conclusions." The Philippines' foreign ministry in a statement earlier on Tuesday reaffirmed the country's "One China policy" and said the message of Marcos intended to recognise the Philippines and Taiwan's "mutual interests", including 200,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the democratically governed island. It said the message "was his way of thanking them for hosting our OFWs and holding a successful democratic process. Nevertheless, the Philippines reaffirms its One China Policy." Asked by Reuters for comment on Beijing's summoning of the Philippine envoy and China's rebuke, the office of Marcos reiterated the earlier statement on the "One China policy". Beijing's fury over the remarks is the latest in a succession of clashes between the Philippines and China, which come as Manila bolsters ties with former colonial ruler the United States, including expanding an agreement on Washington's use of its military bases. Other leaders have also congratulated Lai on his victory, with many, including U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, calling for peaceful resolution of tensions in the Taiwan Strait. Separately, Taiwan's foreign ministry expressed its thanks to Marcos, saying Taiwan and the Philippines "share values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law" and Taiwan would further deepen cooperation and exchanges." The Philippines has unofficial ties with Taipei, with its Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan serving as a de facto embassy.

Artificial Intelligence will affect 40% of jobs worldwide: IMF

NEWS DESK

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) will impact 60 percent of jobs in advanced economies and some emerging markets around the world, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. Shortly before leaving for the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on Sunday, the IMF chief warned against the massive consequences the increased use of AI could have on the global labour market, deepening inequalities and leaving millions out of work. "Your job may disappear altogether - not good - or artificial intelligence may enhance your job, so you actually will be more productive and your income level may go up," she said in an interview with AFP in Washington. According to Georgieva, the impact will be slightly less in emerging markets, where 40 per cent of jobs would be impacted. In low-income countries, this number goes down to 26 per cent. These estimates can be found in an IMF report that says that half of the jobs will be negatively impacted by AI, while the rest might benefit from the introduction of the new technology. "For the other half, AI applications may execute key tasks currently performed by humans, which could lower labour demand, leading to lower wages and reduced hiring. In the most extreme cases, some of these jobs may disappear," Georgieva writes in the report. "In emerging markets and developing economies AI is likely to have less beneficial impact - something which could exacerbate the digital divide and cross-country income disparity," according to Georgieva. Older people are also expected to suffer the most from the impact of AI. This is the time to introduce new policies addressing these existing concerns, according to the IMF chief, like social safety nets and retraining programmes. "We must focus on helping low-income countries in particular to move faster to be able to catch the opportunities that artificial intelligence will present," she said. "In other words, embrace it, it is coming. So, artificial intelligence, yes, a little scary. But it is also a tremendous opportunity for everyone".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Department of Public Health Engineering, Feni.
ee.feni@dphe.gov.bd, dphe.feni@gmail.com

শেখ হাসিনার মুনীতি
গাম শব্বের উন্নতি

শেখ হাসিনার মুনীতি
গাম শব্বের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.203.3000.061.014.0014.24.727 Date:- 16/01/2024

Invitation for e-Res Tender notice-(2023/2024)

1. Ministry/Division	Local Government Division
2. Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
3. Project/Program Name	Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country
4. e-Tender ID	935138
5. Description of works:	(Re-Tender) Construction & Installation of Piped water supply scheme with 02 nos. Test Tube well, 02 nos. Production well, 02 nos. Pump House, 01 Nos R.C.C Over Head Water Tank, Mechanical works, Electrical Works, Pipe Line/water distribution Networks etc. under PSWSC of DPHE at Feni Sadar upazila in Feni District.
6. Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Haque, Executive Engineer DPHE, Feni District, Feni. Tel. No. 0331-74034
7. This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.	

(Md. Shafiqul Haque)
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Feni District, Feni



Lionel Messi (front row) helped Inter Miami beat Nashville SC to win the Leagues Cup in the United States

Senegal enjoy winning start to Africa Cup defence, Cameroon and Algeria held

Lamine Camara scored a stunning brace as Senegal began their defence of the Africa Cup of Nations title with a 3-0 win over Gambia on Monday, but fellow heavyweights Algeria and Cameroon were both held in their opening matches.

SPORTS DESK

Sadio Mane's Senegal are hoping to retain the trophy they won in Cameroon two years ago and were too strong for their Gambian neighbours, who played the whole second half with 10 men. Marseille midfielder Pape Gueye swept home an assist by Mane to give the Lions of Teranga the lead inside four minutes in Ivorian capital Yamoussoukro. Quarter-finalists in 2022, they had Cardiff midfielder Ebou Adams sent off for a studs-up challenge just before the break. Senegal effectively killed off the game early in the second half when 20-year-old Camara, the African young player of the year, drilled a low shot into the far corner. He then completed the victory with an early contender for goal of the tournament in the 86th minute, expertly bending a shot into the top corner from just outside the box. Aliou Cisse's Senegal will likely face a tougher assignment in their next Group C match when they face five-

time winners Cameroon. The Indomitable Lions, champions in 2017, had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with 10-man Guinea in the second game of the day in Yamoussoukro, with Frank Magri equalising for Cameroon early in the second half. Guinea had taken an early lead through Mohamed Bayo, who was leading their attack in the absence of the injured Serhou Guirassy, the striker enjoying a fine season in Germany with Stuttgart. Cameroon, with Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana not in the team having not arrived in Ivory Coast until just before the match, were given a boost as Guinea's Francois Kamano was sent off with half-time approaching. Magri headed their level, but they could not find a winner in the sapping late afternoon heat. Algeria, who won the title in 2019, became the latest major nation to fail to win their opening game after Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt and Ghana, as they were held to a 1-1 stalemate by Angola in Bouake. Baghdad Bounedjah gave Algeria the lead after 18 minutes in Ivory Coast's second city, and the striker then had a stunning second goal disallowed for a tight offside call soon after. Angola equalised through a Mabululu penalty midway through the second half in the Group D game,

although they have now failed to win any of their last nine matches at the Cup of Nations, stretching back to 2012. Burkina Faso and Mauritania meet in the same group on Tuesday, also in Bouake. Monday's matches were played out before swathes of empty seats, which has quickly become a source of embarrassment for tournament organisers. Ivorian Prime Minister Robert Beugre Mamebe on Monday said measures would be taken to try to ensure full stadiums. "You will see the results in the next 48 hours," he said, in response to criticism after fewer than 37,000 fans attended Saturday's opening game between the hosts and Guinea-Bissau at the 60,000-seat Ebimpe Olympic Stadium. The game had been declared a sell-out, with many Ivorians complaining that certain people had bought tickets in bulk over the internet and had not managed to then sell them on. "Numerous supporters expressed their concerns about the fact the stadium was not totally full," acknowledged the Confederation of African Football and the local organising committee in a joint statement. Tuesday will see the opening games in Group E, with Tunisia meeting Namibia and Mali taking on South Africa in Korhogo.

Fifa Best Awards: Lionel Messi wins best male player, Pep Guardiola named best male coach

SPORTS DESK

Argentina forward Lionel Messi has won men's player of the year at the Fifa Best Awards, with Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola named best male coach. Messi edged out City striker Erling Haaland with Paris St-Germain attacker Kylian Mbappe third. City's Ederson collected the goalkeeper award ahead of Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois and Al Hilal's Yassine Bounou. City won the Treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in 2022-23. Wins by tightest margin Messi, 36, began 2023 at Paris St-Germain, before moving to Major League Soccer (MLS) club Inter Miami in June. He picked up the best men's player award for the third time since this format of the awards began in 2016, after

were based on. A mix of votes from national team managers and captains, journalists and fans on Fifa's website - with each counting for 25% - were used to decide the winners. Messi and Haaland finished on the same amount of points, with Messi getting the award as he had more first-place nominations from national team captains. Among the national team captains who voted for Messi were Harry Kane, Mbappe, Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson, Aaron Ramsey and Luka Modric, while Ilkay Gundogan and Casemiro voted for Haaland, as did Messi himself. England boss Gareth Southgate gave his vote to Haaland, while Wales' Robert Page and Scotland's Steve Clarke voted for Messi. Montserrat skipper Lyle Taylor opted for Arsenal

across a season and which Messi has won on eight occasions. However, this year, the men's Fifa Best Awards, and Puskas Award, were given from 19 December, 2022 to 20 August 2023, because the Qatar World Cup was included in last year's ceremony. This year's event took place at the Hammersmith Apollo in London with a host of the best players past and present in attendance. Manchester City players in team of the year Men's coach of the year was the first award of the night, with Guardiola winning it ahead of Luciano Spalletti and Simone Inzaghi. Spalletti guided Napoli to their first Serie A title in 33 years with a record-equalling five games to spare. Inzaghi was nominated after winning the Coppa Italia with Inter Milan and taking them to the

Haaland (both Manchester City), Kylian Mbappe (Paris St-Germain), Lionel Messi (Inter Miami) and Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid). Dias paid tribute to Guardiola and said: "He is intense. In the end he makes you play football in a way that no-one else is able to and somehow through that intensity he does get the best out of everyone. "You can have different personalities as coach but the one you want is the one that gets the best out of you." Guardiola added: "Thank you so much to our players for what they have done for eight years together. Thank you so much for this incredible journey." Enciso misses out on Puskas Award Brighton midfielder Julio Enciso was one of three nominations for the Puskas Award, handed out to the player that had scored the best goal. The award - named after Hungarian legend Ferenc Puskas - was decided by pundits. Enciso scored a spectacular long-range strike in the Seagulls' 1-1 draw at home against Manchester City on 23 May, but missed out on the award, which went to Brazilian Guilherme Madruga, who plays for second-tier Brazil side Botafogo after a spectacular 25-yard overhead kick. "has been robbed there" - what you said Hannah: How? I'd take Haaland over Messi right now any day. GK: Not a City fan by any means but Haaland has been robbed there. How can you give an award to someone scoring goals in the MLS over someone scoring goals against the best players in the world to win the treble? Andy: The awards had gone so well and have now lost all credibility. The continued obsession with Messi has now become embarrassing. Haaland's season will probably never be beaten. On the other hand... Ryan: Like he does on the pitch, Messi has come out of nowhere. The best sportsman of all time. Karl, South Africa: Lionel Messi is Thanos. He is inevitable.

India's search for Hardik Pandya's replacement: Shivam Dube emerges as a potential option

SPORTS DESK

Even as India's search for a player who can offer the same skillset as Hardik Pandya continues, the team is, for now, willing to look at Shivam Dube to do the job. In the second T20I against Afghanistan here, skipper Rohit asked Dube to bowl the 19th over. While he went for 20 runs, Dube, who finished with 1-36 from three overs, would be better off for the experience. Having lost a significant amount of weight, the tall man has improved his bowling coming into this series. He even took 6/23 in 17 overs for Mumbai against Bihar in a Ranji Trophy match in Patna. "The selectors and the team management want him to bowl more and more, as that adds immense value to Dube as a player. This is why he is bowling a fair bit during this series. If he can chip in with a few overs with the ball, he can cement his place in the side for the T20 World Cup. He is the ideal back-up to the injury-prone Hardik," a reliable source in the BCCI told TOI. Dube's career has seen an uptick since he started playing under MS Dhoni's captaincy in the IPL for Chennai Super Kings, who bought him in the IPL auction in 2022. The following 2023 IPL season was a breakthrough one for Dube. He played a key role in CSK's record equalling fifth IPL title win, smashing 418 runs in 16 matches at a strike rate of 158.33, including 35 sixes, the most by an Indian batter that season. On Sunday night, Dube again credited Dhoni and the CSK coaching staff for instilling confidence in him. "This credit goes to the CSK team and Mahi bhai. I always had the game, but what CSK did is take out that game from a player," Dube said. Dube smashed a 32-ball 63 not out against Afghanistan in Indore to add to the 40-ball 60 not out in Mohali in the first T20I. Jaiswal and Dube set to earn BCCI contracts soon The other player who shone with the bat on Sunday.



Israeli player leaves Turkey after detention over '100 days' message

Asharq Al Awsat

Israeli soccer player Sagiv Jehezkel left Türkiye on Monday, Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on social media platform X, after he was questioned by police over a message he displayed on his wrist during a match alluding to the passage of 100 days since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel. "Sagiv Jehezkel, the Israeli footballer of Antalyaspor, left our country at 5:15 p.m. (1415 GMT)," the minister said. Turkish police had detained Jehezkel overnight and freed him on Monday. Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc had said prosecutors were investigating Jehezkel on a charge of "inciting people to hatred and hostility" for displaying a note written on his bandaged wrist saying "100 days, 7.10", alongside a Jewish Star of David emblem. Israel's Foreign Ministry said Turkish authorities released Jehezkel from police custody and that he would return to Israel on Monday, and its defense minister denounced Türkiye over the detention, accusing it of acting like an arm of Hamas. Jehezkel's southern Turkish soccer team, Antalyaspor, also said he had been freed and a private jet would

take him and his family back to Israel, and that he was being kicked off the team for acting against Turkish national values. Jehezkel, 28, held his clenched fist aloft to display the message after scoring a goal for Antalyaspor against Trabzonspor in Türkiye's Super Lig on Sunday. Antalya prosecutors launched an investigation into Jehezkel "due to his ugly gesture supporting Israel's massacre in Gaza after scoring a goal", Tunc said on social media platform X. "I did not act to incite or provoke anyone. I am not a pro-war person," broadcaster NTV reported Jehezkel as saying. "There are Israeli soldiers held hostage in Gaza. I am someone who believes that this 100-day period should end now. I want the war to end. That's why I showed the message here," he was cited as saying through a translator during questioning. Militants from Gaza's ruling Palestinian group Hamas stormed through Israeli communities in a surprise cross-border assault on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and capturing 240 hostages according to Israeli officials. The subsequent war reached 100 days on Sunday, with Israeli tanks and aircraft hitting targets in southern and central Gaza amid fierce gunbattles in some

areas. The Gaza health ministry said on Monday that 24,100 Palestinians had been killed and nearly 61,000 wounded in Israeli strikes on Gaza since Oct. 7. Rallies in support of the hostages still being held in Gaza were held in Israel and elsewhere on Sunday. Türkiye has been a fierce critic of Israel's devastating war in Gaza launched in response to the Oct. 7 attack. After Jehezkel's detention, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant accused Türkiye of serving as a "de facto executive arm of Hamas". In a post on X, Gallant reminded Türkiye of Israel's swift assistance to it following last year's earthquake and called Jehezkel's treatment "a manifestation of hypocrisy and ingratitude". Antalyaspor's board has decided to exclude Jehezkel from its squad for "acting against the national values of our country" by displaying the message, a club statement said. Its spokesman, Murat Ozgen, said the club was awaiting court proceedings before terminating his contract. "I watched with sadness and surprise that Sagiv Jehezkel acted against the sensitivities of Antalya, Antalyaspor and our country," club Chairman Sinan Boztepe said on X.



doing so in 2019 and 2022. He scored nine goals for PSG as they won the French Ligue 1 title and 10 goals in seven games as Inter Miami won the inaugural Leagues Cup in the United States. Haaland grabbed a record 36 Premier League goals last season. In all competitions in 2022-23, he scored a club-record 52 goals - with 28 of them coming after the World Cup, plus another two goals this season before 20 August. France's Mbappe, like Messi, won the Ligue 1 title with PSG - and clinched a fifth consecutive Golden Boot. The 25-year-old netted 18 goals for his French club during the window of 19 December 2022 to 20 August 2023 - the period the awards

midfielder Declan Rice, Russia skipper Georgi Dzhikiya voted for Georgia and Napoli winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Portugal boss Roberto Martinez voted for ex-Inter Milan midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, now at Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia. The Fifa Best Awards as they happened, plus reaction and analysis goalkeeper Earps and manager Wiegman win awards City lifting the Champions League trophy City beat Inter Milan 1-0 in the 2023 Champions League final The Fifa Best Awards generally cover a calendar year and are different to the Ballon d'Or awards, which reflect performances

Champions League final, where they lost 1-0 to Manchester City. City celebrate historic Treble in pouring rain There were six Manchester City players named in the men's team of the year - defenders John Stones, Kyle Walker and Ruben Dias, midfielders Bernardo Silva and Kevin de Bruyne and striker Haaland. Real Madrid and England midfielder Jude Bellingham was also selected and was the only English player named in the side that does not play for City. Men's team of the year: Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid), John Stones, Kyle Walker, Ruben Dias, Bernardo Silva (all Manchester City), Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid), Kevin de Bruyne and Erling