

Sheikh Hasina's return as PM was urgent for Bangladesh's future: ADB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: Asian Development Bank country director Edimon Ginting today said Sheikh Hasina's return as Prime Minister was very much urgent for the good future of Bangladesh. "For the good future of Bangladesh, her (Sheikh Hasina) return was very much needed," PM's deputy press secretary K M Shakhawat Moon told reporters quoting the ADB country director as saying. The meeting was held at the PM's official Ganabhaban residence. He said that the ADB country

director congratulated the Prime Minister for reelecting as the Prime Minister for the fourth consecutive term. "ADB is very much happy," Edimon Ginting told the Prime Minister. He mentioned that ADB has been working with Bangladesh as a development partner for long. "We are always ready to do the same in the coming days, and we are always ready to work with Bangladesh," Edimon Ginting said. He expressed interest in working with Bangladesh in the energy sector and climate change

issues. The ADB country director also said that they wanted to expand their programme on the Climate Rehabilitation Project in Cox's Bazar. The Prime Minister requested them to do the same in the hill districts also. She mentioned ADB's continuous support is needed for Bangladesh, saying "Hopefully you will continue your support." Sheikh Hasina thanked ADB for continuously supporting Bangladesh in its development endeavours undertaking value-adding projects in its

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2



ADB Country Director Edimon Ginting meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban Yesterday Wednesday — PID Photo

Dhaka, Washington agree to deepen ties, expand business, combat fanaticism
Hasan Mahmud
STAFF REPORTER

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud Yesterday Wednesday said Dhaka and Washington have agreed to deepen bilateral ties, work together on expanding trade and tackle terrorism and fanaticism. "We (Bangladesh and the US) have expressed our willingness to work together to deepen our ties, to increase our cooperation in expanding business and tackle anti-terrorism and fanaticism," he told reporters. The minister was briefing

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Govt taking yearlong programme to prevent dengue: Tajul

STAFF REPORTER

Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Tajul Islam Yesterday Wednesday said the government is taking yearlong programme to prevent dengue disease as the mosquito-borne disease has spread across the country. "Last year, dengue patients were found in all districts of the country, since the detection of dengue patient for the first time in 2000," he told the first meeting of the National Committee for prevention of mosquito-borne disease in the conference room of Local Government Division (LGD) here.

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Business heads see Red Sea tensions causing lengthy trade dislocation

REUTERS

Business chiefs warned on Wednesday that disruption to shipping in the Red Sea caused by attacks by Houthi militants in Yemen could affect supply chains for months and lead to a shortage of tankers needed to transport fuel. Attacks by the Iran-allied Houthi militia on ships in the region since November have slowed trade between Asia and Europe and alarmed major powers -- an escalation of Israel's more than three-month-old war with Palestinian Hamas militants in Gaza. The Houthis say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians and have threatened to expand attacks to include US ships in response to American and British strikes on their sites in Yemen. Maersk and other large shipping lines have instructed hundreds of commercial vessels to stay clear of the Red Sea, sending them on a

longer route around Africa or pausing until the safety of vessels can be assured. "This is extremely disruptive because you have close to 20% of

Attacks by the Iran-allied Houthi militia on ships in the region since November have slowed trade between Asia and Europe

global trade that transits through the Bab al-Mandab Strait (to the Red Sea)," said Maersk CEO Vincent Clerc. "It's one of the most important arteries of global trade and global supply chains and it's clogged up right now," he told Reuters

Global Markets Forum in Davos. Freight rates have more than doubled since early December, according to maritime consultancy Drewry's world container index, while insurance sources say war risk premiums for shipments through the Red Sea are also rising. Banking executives have said they were worried the crisis might create inflationary pressures that could ultimately delay or reverse interest rate cuts.

US STRIKES

The alternative shipping route around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope can add 10-14 days to a journey when compared to a passage via the Red Sea to the Suez Canal. Prolonged attacks by the Houthis on ships would lead to a shortage of tankers, the CEO of Saudi oil giant Aramco said.

"If it's in the short term, tankers might be available ... But if it's longer term, it might be a problem," CEO

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Bangladesh, China agree to expand scale of bilateral trade

STAFF REPORTER

Bangladesh and China have agreed to expand the scale of bilateral trade, especially the export of Bangladeshi high-quality specialty products to China. The developments came when Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen called on State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam at the Ministry of Commerce at Bangladesh Secretariat here Yesterday Wednesday. The two sides spoke highly of the major achievements in trade and investment between China and Bangladesh and agreed to expand the scale of bilateral trade, especially the export of Bangladeshi high-quality specialty products to China, said a Chinese

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Thai firework factory blast kills at least 23

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Twenty-three people have died after an explosion at a fireworks factory in central Thailand on Yesterday Wednesday, the provincial governor said. Images shared by the local rescue service showed metal debris littered on the ground, and a huge plume of black smoke. The blast occurred at around 3:00 pm near Sala Khao township, in central Suphan Buri province. "We received reports from EOD team that there were 23 confirmed dead," Nattapat Suwanprateep, Suphan Buri province governor, told AFP, referencing the Explosive Ordinance Disposal group. There was no indication of what may have caused the explosion. However, Nattapat said officials were investigating what

may have triggered the incident. "The factory was operating legally with valid licences," he said. Police officers said the surrounding area had not been damaged. "Glass windows on one house have been affected by the explosion but no other reports," Nattapat said. Police Lieutenant General Naiyawat Phademchid told AFP Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin -- currently in Switzerland for the World Economic Forum -- had been informed of the incident. "Estimate of 20 deaths, however, we cannot confirm the official death toll," said the police officer, who is responsible for lower western Thailand. He said that officials were sealing the surrounding area, and would begin to identify the

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2



Yesterday Wednesday Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury presided over a meeting held with officials of the Ministry and related private organizations to formulate a 100-day priority action plan in the meeting room of the Ministry — PID

Fakhrul, Khasru get bail in sabotage case

STAFF REPORTER

A court in Dhaka has granted bail to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a case filed with the city's Paltan Police Station on charge of sabotage. Besides, the court granted bail to the party's standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in two cases simultaneously. Dhaka's Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Tahmina Huque passed the order on Wednesday granting bail to Mirza Fakhrul after a hearing on his bail plea. Earlier on January 10, Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Sohag Uddin granted bail to Mirza Fakhrul in

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

CPD for introducing integrated financial system

STAFF REPORTER

Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) today laid emphasis on introducing an integrated financial and transaction system combining all kinds of financial and banking operations among the banks, NBFIs, stock exchanges, foreign exchange dealers, and land and other asset related offices. The think tank also suggested that public procurement system should be thoroughly revised both at pre-procurement and post-procurement levels, revising the existing e-procurement system, harmonizing with international standards, engaging citizen's in all

public procurements and engaging citizens in project implementation. CPD made the suggestions at a media briefing on "Bangladesh Business Environment Study 2023: Findings from the



Executive Opinion Survey" at CPD office in the city. CPD Research Director Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem briefed the journalist about the outcome of the survey. In his speech, Khondaker

Golam Moazzem said all public offices should immediately announce their 100-day, one-year, three-year and five-year plan of action based on the political commitments. This announcement should be made public as well as available in their websites, he added. He said all action plan should be "outcome-oriented, time-specific, proper delegation of responsibilities and monitor able". Moazzem also mentioned that the government should take initiative for setting up an independent office of Ombudsman or Ombudsperson with proper legal, institutional and operational responsibilities and

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

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Iran fires missiles into Pakistan as Israel-Hamas war tension spreads

CBS News

Tension fueled by the Israel-Hamas war was broadening across the Middle East and beyond Wednesday, as U.S. ally Pakistan condemned its neighbor Iran for launching what Pakistani officials

in the strikes were brought to a regional hospital, along with the bodies of the two slain children, as rescuers sifted through the debris searching for any other victims. Iran missile strikes in Pakistan "We heard the blasts and sound of missiles," he said, adding that the

and Iran," adding that "Pakistan's strong protest has already been lodged with the concerned senior official in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran." Pakistan later recalled its ambassador from Tehran and expelled the Iranian ambassador to Islamabad.

The Iranian strikes came just a day after Iran's Revolutionary Guards fired missiles at targets in Iraq and Syria, with Tehran claiming those were also against "anti-Iran groups" operating in the region. Houthis keep attacking ships in Red Sea

Iran's direct military action against regional foes comes after weeks of attacks by its proxy group in Yemen, the Shiite Houthi rebels, on international commercial shipping. Video has emerged of Houthi militants celebrating — even dancing — aboard cargo ships they have seized off Yemen's coast in the Red Sea. The attacks on commercial vessels have continued, disrupting global trade and regional stability, despite strikes launched Friday by the U.S. and British militaries, with other allies, targeting Houthi missile sites in Yemen. For months the Houthis have attacked the vital Red Sea shipping routes, claiming the drone and



called an unprovoked attack on their territory. Iran said its Revolutionary Guard struck bases of the Sunni Muslim militant group Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan, but Islamabad angrily condemned the attack as a "blatant violation" of its airspace and said two children were killed in the strikes. A local police officer told CBS News' Sami Yousafzai that two women injured

houses targeted were near his home, and that he had never "seen any kind of military activists" in the area over the last five years.

A spokesperson for the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Tuesday that it was "even more concerning that this illegal act has taken place despite the existence of several channels of communication between Pakistan

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Russian missiles hit Ukraine's Kharkiv 17 injured

Reuters

Two Russian missiles struck a residential area in the centre of Ukraine's second city Kharkiv on last Tuesday, injuring 17 people, two of them seriously, and badly damaging homes, local officials said. Rescue teams were sifting through piles of rubble to establish whether others were hurt. The city's mayor described two "powerful explosions" and said at least 10 dwellings had been damaged.

Ukraine's Emergency Services, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said one of the missiles had hit a three-storey building that had previously housed a medical centre. Fires were extinguished in two buildings and residential and other buildings sustained damage.

Regional Police Chief Volodymyr Tymoshko told public broadcaster Suspilne that one of the missiles had hit a roadway. Emergency services posted online photos showing rescue teams poring over piles of

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

MP Azad said in an exchange meeting with journalists that development is possible through joint efforts



JAMALPUR CORRESPONDENT:

Abul Kalam Azad, the newly elected Member of Parliament of Jamalpur Sadar Constituency, said that it is possible to develop more in Jamalpur Sadar with your joint efforts. You will support me to do good work, no wrongdoing. Just give support. Praise me for my good work. If you don't like the work, ask me as a brother or friend. He said these things during the chief guest's speech during the post-election greetings and exchange of views meeting with journalists at Jamalpur Press Club auditorium at 7 pm last Tuesday (January 16). MP Abul Kalam Azad said to the journalists, you are also agents of development. Your aim is to develop the

same country. But did not come for the purpose of yellow journalism? You want good development of the country, you want people to take responsibility honestly and fairly. This is why journalists are called the conscience of the nation and the fourth pillar of the state. He also said that you and I have the same goal of developing the country. If we work together, we can make progress more than ever before. He requested the cooperation of journalists in the development activities. Jamalpur Press Club President Jamalpur Press Club President Channel Eye District Representative Md. Hafiz Raihan Sada presided over the exchange meeting. Jamalpur Press Club General Secretary

Md. Lutfar Rahman spoke under the direction of Jamalpur District Awami League President and District Council Chairman Advocate Muhammad Baki Billah, District Awami League Joint General Secretary and Jamalpur Municipality Mayor Alhaj Chanwar Hossain Chanu, Jamalpur District Awami League Joint General Secretary Sal Shafi Genda, Organizing Secretary A.B.M Zafar Iqbal Jafu spoke among the journalists, Jamalpur Press Club Senior Journalist Anwar Hossain Mintu, Jamalpur Press Club Joint General Secretary Anwar Hossain, Senior Journalist Daily Palli Kanth PAIKAR Editor Nurul Haque Jangi, Senior Journalist

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Jamalpur District Police held a farewell reception for the promotion of DIO-1

Md. Ruhul Amin Raju

"We cherish the memory of working together" in front of this motto, Mr. MM Moinul Islam, DIO-1, Jamalpur, who has recently been transferred from Jamalpur district police, was given a farewell reception on his promotion to the post of Assistant Superintendent of Police. Last Wednesday 17th January at 12.00 pm Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman BPM, Superintendent of Police, Jamalpur presided over a farewell reception organized by the district police in the conference room of the office of the Superintendent of Police. In the event, police officers of various ranks of the district police gave commemorative speeches highlighting various aspects of his colorful career in Jamalpur district as the outgoing guest as a professional and enlightened officer. The outgoing guest is showered with love from colleagues and the colleagues wish the outgoing guest success in his next workplace. The Superintendent of Police in his speech described the outgoing guest as an

honest, talented, promising, smart, hardworking, professional officer with efficient qualities. He wished him continued success in his personal and professional life and wished him good health and long life by expressing the hope that his streak of success will continue in the progress of Bangladesh Police as well as the country by reaching the doorsteps of the people in the new workplace from Jamalpur District Police. Later, floral greetings, mementos and gifts were given to the outgoing guest by Jamalpur District Police. It is noted that Mr. MM Moinul Islam joined Bangladesh in 1992 as a cadet sub-inspector. Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime and Ops), Jamalpur; Mr. Suman Kanti Chowdhury, Additional Superintendent of Police (Dewanganj Circle), Jamalpur; Mr. Swajal Kumar Sarkar, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Madarganj Circle), Jamalpur (promoted to the post of Additional Superintendent of Police);

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

The vessel capsized after reportedly being hit by a cargo ship amid thick fog near the terminal

NEWS DESK

A ferry carrying several vehicles has capsized in the Padma River after a collision with a cargo ship near the Paturia terminal in Manikganj. The incident, involving the BIWTC-operated Rajanigandha-7 ferry, occurred around

currently missing, he said. "I haven't received any information indicating there were passengers other than the truck workers and ferry crew. All of them have been rescued, except for the assistant driver of the ferry, who remains unaccounted for." Abdus Salam, assistant

official narrative. "The ferry wasn't hit by any cargo boat. Instead, water started seeping in from below, causing the ferry to sink. Some people, including myself, were rescued by a trawler." Shahidul Islam, another truck worker, attributed the sinking to the ferry crew's negligence. "The ferry sank about 200 metres from the wharf. Water was leaking in from below, but the crew did not alert anyone," he said.

RESCUE EFFORTS UNDERWAY

Two BIWTC rescue vessels have been dispatched to assist in the rescue efforts for the submerged ferry, according to Jahangir Alam, a spokesman for the shipping ministry.

A team from the Aricha river port is conducting a rescue operation. Another Fire Service diving team from Dhaka's Siddique Bazar was also deployed to assist. BIWTC Chairman Commodore Arif Ahmed Mostafa, along with senior officials, have also made their way to the location to oversee the rescue efforts. According to Anwarul, six people have been rescued so far, and there are no reported casualties. A

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2



8:15 am on yesterday Wednesday near Paturia's terminal No. 5, according to Anwarul Islam, an official from the Fire Service. Ferry loaded with vehicles sinks in Manikganj's Paturia

The utility ferry was anchored near the terminal with at least seven trucks aboard when it was struck by a small cargo ship, according to State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury. The ferry's assistant driver is

general manager of BIWTC at Paturia, said there were nine vehicles on board the ferry.

The vessel left the Daulatdia terminal for Paturia around 1 am but was stranded mid-river due to heavy fog, he said. The ferry resumed its journey in the morning but was involved in the accident before it could dock at the jetty.

However, Nazmul Hasan, a truck owner who was on the ferry, refuted the

Pitha festival celebrated in Nawabganj Government College



Shaheen Aktar

Chapainawabganj Government College has organized pitha festival. On Wednesday 17th (January) at 10 am, Nawabganj Government College was inaugurated by Honorable Member of Parliament of Chapainawabganj Sadar Constituency Md. Abdul Odud MP. The event was also attended by the principal of Nawabganj Government College, Mozaharul Islam Taru, vice-principal. Md. Aminul Islam. A total of 14 departmental students

participated in this day-long event with stalls. At each stall, they prepared and displayed pithas from different regions of the country, including the traditional rural pithas of the district. After visiting each stall, Chapainawabganj Sadar Constituency Member of Parliament Md. Abdul Odud MP said, "I was impressed by this pitha festival of Bengal." Three also said, "I feel very fortunate to have come to this program. Nawabganj Government College Principal

High hopes for Japan's 'Moon Sniper' mission

AFP

Japan's "Moon Sniper" spacecraft will attempt a historic touchdown on the lunar surface this weekend using pinpoint technology the country hopes will lead to success where many have failed. With its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) mission, Japan wants to become the fifth nation to pull off a fiendishly tricky soft landing on the rocky surface. Only the United States, the Soviet Union, China and India have accomplished the feat, and Japan's lander -- equipped with a rolling robot developed by a major toy company -- is designed to

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Sonali Bank Principal Office Business Narsingdi Review and discussion meeting held

Holdhar Das

Sonali Bank PLC Principal Office Narsingdi Business Review and Exchange Meeting 2024 was held yesterday Tuesday at Narsingdi Press Club Auditorium. Sonali Bank Plc Head Office Dhaka Deputy Managing Director Kazi Md. Wahidul Islam, Sonali Bank Plc Dhaka South General Managers Office Ghiyas Uddin Mahmud were the chief guests in the meeting. Bishjit Acharya, Deputy General Manager of Sonali Bank Plc Principal Office Narsingdi presided over the event. Sonali Bank Plc Dhaka South General Managers Office Deputy General Manager Md Mizanur Rahman, Sonali Bank PLC Principal Office Narsingdi Assistant General Manager Md

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Mymensingh sweet potato lifting and field day

Ayub Ali

High yielding cancer risk reduction, control of diabetes, blood pressure and body weight and resistance to infant night rot disease BAU Mymensingh sweet potato -5, variety field day was observed and potato was picked, BAU sweet potato -5 was lifted from the plot established at Chargobadia village of Sadar Upazila today at noon. The yield of this variety of sweet potato per hectare is almost twice that of normal potato at 33 metric tons. BAU VC Professor Dr. Emdadul Haque Chowdhury was the chief guest on the occasion. Chief researcher of sweet potato -5 variety Dr. ABM Arif Hasan Khan Robin was present., Student Affairs



Adviser Prf Dr. Mohammad Haroon Or Rashid, Head of Genetic and Plants Breeding Department. Dr. Mohammad Rashid Hossain,

Associate Pr. Dr. Chayan Goswami, Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department. Sushant Kumar

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

4 gamblers arrested in police raid in Thakurgaon

Shamsul Alam

Thakurgaon District Police arrested 4 gamblers. On Wednesday, Sadar police station SI (Re): Md. Arif Mahmood Appel filed a case naming 11 people as plaintiffs and 5/6 unknown people. According to the details of the case, a team under the leadership of Sadar Thana SI (Re): Md Arif Mahmood Appel conducted an anti-narcotics operation in Kahpara area of Nargun Union of Sadar Upazila yesterday. At this time, 4 people were arrested from the gambling event. The

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Want a single authority for all organizations in urban management - Professor Rehman Sobhan

Abu Bakar

after the pre-published... A conference on "Sustainable Urbanization Problems and Solutions" was held at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh Auditorium at Khamar House in the capital on Saturday. A total of 16 papers were presented in six sessions of the conference. Dr. Nazrul Islam, the founder of BEN, read the keynote speech at the opening ceremony. He

said that Dhaka city is growing at the rate of three and a half percent per year, which is the highest growth rate among the big cities of the world. Mega projects like big buildings, big roads, metro rail and flyover are happening here. It is becoming the largest center of garment factories. More than 13% of the country's total population lives here. The main article also states that one manifestation of the

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Sheikh Hasina's

prioritised sectors. She also thanked the ADB for reaching its commitment to ever highest amounting to US\$ 3.6 billion in the last year. Presently, ADB is funding 61 projects in 7 (seven) major sectors of Bangladesh economy: Transport, Water and Urban Infrastructure and Services, Energy, Human and Social Development, Agriculture, Food, Natural and Rural Development, Finance, Public Sector Management and Governance.

Sheikh Hasina requested the ADB to undertake projects catering to the needs of graduation challenges of Bangladesh economy where improvement of logistics infrastructure and service delivery should be utmost priority. She said that given the climate vulnerabilities and climate emergencies, Bangladesh expects to have a larger share of ADB's climate finances. The premier requested the ADB to scale up its grant and concessional climate finances for Bangladesh to develop a pipeline of high-quality climate projects and programs to support climate outcomes in alignment with its national aspirations, manifested in "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041", "National Adaptation Plan" and "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100".

She thanked ADB for its recent approval of \$400 million.

Dhaka, Washington

journalists on his meeting with the US ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas and European Union Ambassador Charles Whiteley at his office at the foreign ministry here. Replying to a question, the minister said that they had discussed oil exploration in the Bay of Bengal as an American company discovered the potentiality of oil reserves on Bangladesh's offshore. "We have discussed that Bangladesh will be economically benefited if such oil reserves are extracted," he added. During the meeting, the foreign minister said the US ambassador neither raised the election issue nor made any questions about polls. However, the minister said, he himself briefed the US envoy about the arson attacks carried out by BNP activists before the January 7th free and fair election that saw a good voters' turn-out. Mahmud conveyed to the US ambassador that around 42 percent of votes were cast, and it could have been 10 percent more if there was no fog and cold. The minister said he thanked Haas as election observers from the US oversaw Bangladesh's national election. The observers from the US and other countries found the polls free and fair. "There were different opinions from different countries regarding the elections. But, the important factor is they are working with the new (Bangladesh) government. We are working together to advance our relations ahead... we talked about the matter, and we had a very fruitful discussion," said the foreign minister. Regarding the current status on withdrawal of the US sanctions on RAB, Mahmud said, they discussed the issue, "We have been working on that".

Govt taking yearlong

LGD Secretary Muhammad Ibrahim and senior officials of relevant organizations, among others, were present at the meeting, an official release said. Tajul said, "We have to take preventive steps particularly destroying breeding sources of Aedes mosquito to stop outbreak of dengue disease." He said people's awareness is also a crucial factor in both urban and rural areas to bring the mosquito-borne viral disease under control as the authorities registered record number of dengue patients last year. The minister said city dwellers must be cautious about stagnant water which is the main source of breeding of Aedes mosquito.

According to the health experts, a small quantity of water can grow Aedes mosquitoes leading to such deadly disease.

Even if a small quantity of water is left stagnant in any broken pot, tyre, vas or container inside and outside homes and offices, they can be breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes. Last year, the authorities recorded 1,705 dengue deaths, the highest in a year since dengue was detected in 2000, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) sources said. The total number of dengue patients stood at 3,21,179, which were also highest figures in a year, the DGHS added.

Business heads

Amin Nasser said in an interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. The US military carried out new strikes in Yemen on Tuesday against anti-ship ballistic missiles in a Houthi-controlled part of the country as a missile struck a Greek-owned vessel in the Red Sea.

In a bid to cut off their funding and supply of weapons, US President Joe Biden's administration plans to put Houthi rebels back on a US list of terrorist organisations,

two US officials told Reuters.

In a sign of the tensions, a Malta-flagged container ship was approached on Wednesday by three skiffs and a drone 10 miles southwest of Yemen's Dhubab. No damage or casualties were reported, British maritime security firm Ambery said in an advisory note.

A Malta-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier was struck by a missile while northbound in the Red Sea 76 nautical miles northwest of the Yemeni port of Saleef on Tuesday. The Zografia was sailing from Vietnam to Israel with 24 crew on board and was empty of cargo when attacked. No one was injured and the vessel was not badly damaged.

In Greece, a makeshift explosive device went off on Wednesday morning outside the offices of shipping company Zim, Israel's main container shipping line, police sources said adding that minor damage was caused by the blast. The unknown attackers threw leaflets reading "Free Palestine" at the scene of the attack, the first such incident since the Gaza conflict started.

Bangladesh, China

Embassy press release. They also deeply discussed on promoting China-Bangladesh FTA negotiation, providing more financial support for bilateral trade and attracting more Chinese enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, so as to help Bangladesh realize its export diversification strategy and benefit the Bangladeshi people.

Thai firework

bodies once the situation had stabilised, without going into further details.

"There were on average about 20 to 30 people working at this factory every day," he said. In an official statement posted online, Prime Minister Srettha expressed his sorrow for the families of those killed. Srettha also ordered an investigation into whether the workshop was operating illegally, as well as the cause of the incident. Explosions at workshops producing firecrackers and other pyrotechnics are not uncommon in Thailand. At least 10 people died after an explosion in a fireworks warehouse in Sungai Kolok town in southern Narathiwat province last year. The blast was believed to have been caused by welding during construction work on the building, and police later sought the owners on charges of negligence. Last year 11 people were also injured when a fireworks factory exploded in the northern city of Chiang Mai. The Southeast Asian kingdom also has a poor safety record in the construction sector and deadly accidents are common. (AFP)

Fakhrul, Khasru

nine, out of 11 cases, filed with the city's Ramna and Paltan police stations. At that same time, the court set January 10 for further hearing on his bail plea.

CPD for

facilities. All public offices should introduce an office of Ombudsman or Ombudsperson to address the governance related issues, he added. He also laid emphasis on setting-up short-term commissions for banking, stock market and financial sector reform and take measures according to their suggestions. He recommended setting-up office for regulatory, institutional and operational reforms that affect the operations of the businesses. He called for strengthening public offices which has a role in market competition: Competition Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Financial Reporting Commission, Financial Integrity and Customer Services Department, Financial Intelligence Unit etc.

Want a single

geographically uneven characteristics of the urbanization of Bangladesh is the overgrowth of the city of Dhaka. Its population reached 2032 million in 2023 from 32 lakh 60 thousand in 1980. Although 25 percent of the total area of roads is needed for smooth movement of city residents, the capital Dhaka has only 8%. 52 percent of them are unfit for motor vehicles. As an example of proper urbanization, Sri Lanka was transformed into an upper-middle income country by keeping eighty percent of its population in villages. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Maqsood Kamal read the main article in the technical session on urbanization and disaster management in the conference. He said, due to the complex geological structure of Bangladesh, there is a danger of strong earthquakes. And the biggest risk is the possibility of building collapse as well as fire. But 65 percent of our disaster management money is spent on wildlife management. Then allocation to prevent river erosion. Only 4 percent of the allocation is for dealing with earthquakes. This disparity in allocation will further increase the risk of earthquake hazards. General Secretary Alamgir Kabir, Joint Secretary and General Secretary of Conference Preparation Committee Prof.

Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumdar delivered welcome speech under the chairmanship of BPA President Prof. Noor Mohammad Talukdar. Water Aid Bangladesh Country Director Hasin Jahan and others also spoke.

Iran fires missiles

missile strikes and seizures are in support of Iran's other allies, the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which is currently facing the full might of Israel's military in the Gaza Strip. The U.S. has been a staunch supporter of Israel's offensive against Hamas, launched in response to the group's unprecedented Oct. 7 terror attack. Hamas has long been designated a terrorist organization by Israel, the U.S. and the European Union.

Last week, U.S. Navy SEALs raided a small vessel that was allegedly headed for the Houthis in Yemen. America's Central Command said advanced weaponry from Iran was discovered on the boat. Two Navy SEALs fell overboard during the Jan. 11 operation and remained missing on yesterday Wednesday.

Hamas-Israel tension spills into Iraq, Syria In addition to Pakistan and the Red Sea, hostilities have been boiling over in the greater Middle East, with Iran launching attacks this week in Iraq and Syria — including a missile strike that killed four people in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil, very close to a still-under-construction U.S. consulate. The U.S. condemned the Iranian strike as "reckless."

All of the flashpoints show the risk of the war between Israel and Iran's Hamas allies spiraling further out of control. All of the tension was sparked by the Hamas massacre in southern Israel on Oct. 7, which Israeli officials say left some 1,200 people dead and saw the Palestinian militants kidnap about 240 others. The war in Gaza sparked by that attack has killed more than 24,000 people in the small, densely populated Palestinian territory, according to its Hamas-run Ministry of Health.

"My house was bombed and I fled here without bringing anything with me, not even money," said Gaza resident Youssef Abu Ishaq as he arrived at one of the enclave's few functioning hospitals. "We need food, bread, and blankets."

More humanitarian aid of that kind is on the way thanks to a deal brokered between Israel and Hamas on Tuesday. The agreement calls for the delivery of additional aid to Palestinians in exchange for medicine being allowed to reach the roughly 130 Israeli hostages who are believed to remain in captivity in Gaza.

That deal was brokered by Qatar, which was behind a weeklong cease-fire in November that saw the release of about half of the Israeli hostages in exchange for dozens of Palestinian prisoners being freed by Israel. The hope on Wednesday was that the new agreement could lead to another halt in the fighting, and the release of more hostages.

MP Azad said in an

Daily Kaler Kanth Paikar Jamalpur District Representative Mustafa Manju, Daily Savaman Kanth Paikar Editor Senior Journalist Md. Bajlur Rahman, Treasurer of Jamalpur Press Club Weekly Ranga Palash Paikar Editor Senior Journalist Kafi Parvez, Achit Jamalpur Paikar Executive Editor Eminent Poet Journalist Sajjad Ansari, District Representative of Bangla Vision Television, Zulfikar Zahid Habib, Jamalpur representative of Machhanga TV and daily Jugantar Paikar, distinguished journalist and lecturer Mahfuzur Rahman Mafuz, president of Jamalpur Online Journalists Association Syed Shaukat Zaman, general editor poet Zakaria Jahangir, district representative of 71 television Anshari Suman, member of Jamalpur Press Club Taufiqul Islam Sharif, daily daily Eminent Journalist Md. Munjurul Haque, District Representative of Sangam Paikar, District Representative of Ekushey TV Abul Kashem Mukta, Jamalpur Representative of Baishakhi Television, Anwar Hossain Mukta, Jamalpur Representative of Daily Star Paikar Nirav etc. were present. Earlier, journalist leaders congratulated newly elected MP Abul Kalam Azad on behalf of Jamalpur Press Club.

Jamalpur District

District Intelligence Branch OC Kazi Shahnewaz Emon along with the officer in charge of all police stations and senior officials of the district police were present.

The vessel capsized after

search operation is underway to find the ferry's second driver, 39-year-old Humayun Kabir, said Talha bin

Jassim, an officer of the Fire Service Central Media Cell. "After the ferry overturned, a large portion of it remained afloat for a while before sinking completely. The Fire Service subsequently arrived at the scene and rescued six people."

Previously, a Ro-Ro ferry carrying 17 trucks, one car, and eight motorcycles had capsized at the Daulatdia terminal in October, 2021.

Pitha festival

Professor Dr. Mozaharul Islam Taru said that for the first time, teachers, students and people from different levels have received a great response to the pitha festival. He expressed hope that such arrangements will continue in the future. Finally, all the invited guests of the event were introduced to different types of pithas.

High hopes for

do so with unprecedented precision. The descent of the lightweight SLIM craft, nicknamed the "Moon Sniper" by space agency JAXA, is scheduled to start at midnight Japan time on Saturday (1500 GMT Friday).

If all goes to plan, the touchdown will be around 20 minutes later.

Mymensingh sweet

Pramanik, local farmers and students involved in research. The program is organized by BAU Genetic and Plan Breeding Department. BAU VC said that food habits should be changed for cure and good health by reducing the pressure on rice. This agricultural scientist called for this type of potato to be included in the food list as an alternative to rice.

4 gamblers

arrested are Md Nazmul (45) son of deceased Zafir Uddin of Chhotakochabari Hatpara village of Sadar Upazila, Md Azim (32) son of deceased Janabul of Kaharpara village, Md Biplab (35) son of Md Mahjahan of Chhota Khochabari Emhat area and deceased Dabir Uddin of Fersadangi village. Son: Soleman Ali (35). The other accused in the case are Md. Abuli (40), son of deceased Abdul Majid of Kaharpara area, Md. Abdus Samad (36), Md. Mastan (40), Md. Samad (36), Moynul (40), Md. Ali (40) of the same area. 32) and Md. Kana (30) including anonymous 5/6 people.

Sonali Bank

Azizul Haque, Sonali Bank Narsingdi Branch Assistant General Manager Foton Chandra Sutradhar and branch heads of 21 branches of Sonali Bank Narsingdi region were present.

Russian missiles hit

smashed building materials, tackling fires, scrambling up ladders to damaged upper storeys and helping evacuees board minibuses. Kharkiv Regional Governor Oleh Synehubov, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said 17 people had been injured. Fourteen were in hospital, including two women who were seriously hurt. Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov, also writing on Telegram, said the missiles struck "precisely where there is no military infrastructure and precisely where there are in fact residences."

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কবি নজরুল সরকারি কলেজ ঢাকা এর পুরাতন ১তলা ও ২তলা জরাজীর্ণ ২টি ভবন অপসারণের জন্য হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদারগণকে দরপত্র []য়ের আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। সিডিউল []য়ে আর্থহী ঠিকাদারগণকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ২১/০১/২০২৪ থেকে ২৮/০১/২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে কলেজের হিসাব শাখায় যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। বিস্তারিত তথ্য ওয়েব সাইট (কবি নজরুল সরকারি কলেজ, ঢাকা, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, শিক্ষা প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা মেট্রো, ঢাকা,) এবং কলেজের নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে।
17.01.2024
(অধ্যাপক আমেনা বেগম-৪০৭)
অধ্যক্ষ
কবি নজরুল সরকারি কলেজ, ঢাকা
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ফ্যাক্স : ০৭৩২০-৭৪২২৯

Memo No. : BPS/Pab/Engr/2024/551

Date: 14/01/2024

e-Tender Notice No: 03/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of Goods and works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works ⁶	On-line (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	On-line(e-GP System) tender closing and opening date & time
935439	LGCRRP/Bera/2023-24/W-02	Upgrading Uni-block Surfacing Road Starting from Amaikula RHD to WDB Embankment via Primary School to Ghori House and Amaikula Baten House to Kawamara Bill (Ch.00-2300 m) at Ward No-10, under Bera Pourashava, Dist : Pabna.	15 January, 2024 at 10:00 AM	31 January, 2024 at 13:30 PM

These are an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for down loading the e-tendering documents for Tender ID No- 935439 from the national e-GP Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 30 January, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Harun-Ur-Rashid
Executive Engineer
Bera Pourashava, Pabna.
mail : egp.xen.bera.pab.pou@gmail.com

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Jamalpur.
www.lged.gov.bd
Memo No. 46.02.3900.000.07.001.23-176 Date:- 17-01-2024
e-Tender Notice No-77/2023-2024
e-Tender is invited the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of works details in table:

Tender Reference No	Name of work	Tender ID
JDRIDP/MAL/RD/2023-24/VR-25	(a) Improvement of Jhawgora Paschim Poirbari GPS via Kifat Sekher Barir Road with BC from Ch.: 00m -500m. (b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Construction of 01 Nos U-drain on the same road (d) Road Safety Work on the same road under Upazila: Melendah, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 3396150995]	928820
JDRIDP/MAL/RD/2023-24/VR-26	(a) Improvement of Sibha RID (Singarkanda)-Manki Bazar Road with BC from Ch.: 2000m -2500m. (b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Construction of 02 Nos U-drain on the same road (d) Protective Work on the same road (e) Road Safety Work on the same road under Upazila: Melendah, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339614107]	928821
JDRIDP/MAL/RD/2023-24/VR-27	(a) Improvement of Aleya Azam High School-Paschim Fulkochoa Road with BC from Ch.:00m -500m. (b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Construction of 01 Nos U-drain on the same road (d) Protective Work on the same road (e) Road Safety Work on the same road under Upazila: Melendah, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339615142]	928822
JDRIDP/SAD/RD/2023-24/UNR-02	(a) Improvement of Baschora UP - Kacondhara Bondhubazar Road with BC from Ch.: 00m - 1000m.(b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Construction of 02 Nos Box drain on the same road (d) Protective work on the same road under Upazila: Sadar, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339363035]	936956
DRIDP/SAD/RD/2023-24/VR-15	(a) Improvement of Khunuya Bazar - Kalibari Bazar Via Tabirchar Puraton Bazar and Rehaj Gajariya Government Primary School Road with BC from Ch.: 00m - 500m. (b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Road Safety Work on the same road under Upazila: Sadar, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339264144]	936958
JDRIDP/SAD/RD/2023-24/VR-16	(a) Improvement of Rehaj Gajariya - Tulshirchar Road with BC from Ch.: 00m - 500m.(b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Protective work on the same road under Upazila: Sadar, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339364020]	936960
JDRIDP/SAD/RD/2023-24/VR-17	(a) Improvement of Candapara Pacca Road More - Rangatiya Samiduler Barir Road with BC from Ch.: 00m - 500m.(b) Earth Work on the same road (c) Construction of 02 Nos Box drain on the same road (d) Protective work on the same road under Upazila: Sadar, District: Jamalpur. [Road ID - 339365272]	936963

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Only e-GP registered tenderer under LGED, Jamalpur District are eligible.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents form the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to 11:00 on 01-Feb-2024.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Teenager Mirra Andreeva stuns idol Ons Jabeur in Australian Open second round

SPORTS DESK
Russian 16-year-old demolishes sixth seed 6-0, 6-2
Mari Timofeeva defeats Caroline Wozniacki 1-6, 6-4, 6-1

As Mirra Andreeva first emerged at the top level of her sport last May, clinching her first grand slam win at the French Open, the 16-year-old had one humble goal beyond continuing her meteoric rise: she wanted a practice session with Ons Jabeur, her idol. Instead, their first meeting on a tennis court came in the most significant match of Andreeva's young career. Under the Rod Laver Arena roof on Wednesday afternoon, Andreeva demolished Jabeur 6-0, 6-2 to reach the third round of the Australian Open for the first time in her career. Left to right: Kimberly Birrell, Aryna Sabalenka, Coco Gauff and Jodie Burrage. "Of course I'm happy I played with Ons," said Andreeva. "It was one of my dreams to play against her, because I really like the way she plays. As I said before, I'm inspired by her. So it means a lot, today it

variety with her own guile. Across the net, though, Jabeur was dire. She bailed out of points with rash, low percentage shotmaking, moving sluggishly from the baseline as her backhand in particular sprayed a constant stream of errors. It took Andreeva just 20 minutes to sweep up the first set, with Jabeur managing to win just eight points in the entire set. Tunisia's Ons Jabeur slumps after losing her second round match against Russia's Mirra Andreeva at the Australian Open. Tunisia's Ons Jabeur slumps after losing her second round match against Russia's Mirra Andreeva at the Australian Open. Photograph: Tracey Nearmy/Reuters After seeking counsel from her team between sets, Jabeur immediately took her first game with a searing forehand winner before celebrating with a finger in the air. It proved to be one of her few positive moments all afternoon as Andreeva maintained her high level until the end while errors flowed from Jabeur's racket. Such a result has been coming for Andreeva ever since her

began this year with a statement, reaching her first WTA 500 quarter-final with a win over No 15 Ludmilla Samsonova. While she continues to battle with the best tennis players in the world, Andreeva still combines her work on the court with school. On Monday, the day she became the youngest player since Coco Gauff to win a match at all four grand slam tournaments, her new school semester began. "I still don't like chemistry," she said, smiling. skip past newsletter promotion Jabeur, meanwhile, remains in an extremely difficult part of her career following her crushing loss to Marketa Vondrousova in last year's Wimbledon final, her third defeat in a major final, a match she was heavily favoured to win. In a documentary released earlier this month, the Tunisian underlined just what a significant moment that was for her. If she had won Wimbledon, she had planned to take maternity leave from the sport. She came so close, yet she is again so far away from her ultimate goal. mA few hours after her victory, Andreeva was asked to explain why she looked up to Jabeur. She answered



meant a lot, this match that I won." Over the past eight months, Andreeva has emerged as the newest, brightest young star of her sport and the 16-year-old had already toppled a remarkable five top 20 opponents in just nine tour level events. Jabeur, though, is her first ever top 10 win, a monumental step in her career. Andreeva will face Diane Parry of France in the third round, a great opportunity to continue her run. Despite the significance of the occasion and a match-up she had dreamed of for so long, Andreeva was ready. She burst into the match playing at a high level from the first ball; she served well, she soaked Jabeur's first strike with her excellent defence while stepping inside the baseline whenever the opportunity presented itself and she responded to Jabeur's trademark

breakthrough last summer, with the Russian reaching the third round at the French Open and fourth round at Wimbledon from qualifying. At such a young age, Andreeva is already such an extremely well rounded player. An excellent athlete and an intelligent player, she also has the firepower to take control from the baseline, particularly with her excellent backhand. Her first serve already carries significant pace and much room for improvement. One of the reasons why she likes Jabeur so much is their shared affinity for drop shots and playing with variety. Although her schedule was significantly limited by the WTA's age eligibility rules, Andreeva continued to consistently push top players towards the end of last season, gaining experience with every win or loss. Andreeva then

immediately: "After the match, she said to me, she wished me luck," said Andreeva. "I just know that she is who she is and she never changed. That's what I like about her." Meanwhile, Coco Gauff, the fourth seed, continued her excellent form as she reached the third round with a 7-6 (2), 6-2 win over Caroline Dolehide. Caroline Wozniacki, however, was unable to establish any momentum in her comeback to professional tennis as she was defeated 1-6, 6-4, 6-1 by Maria Timofeeva, another Russian youngster, on Wednesday. "I'm really a bit speechless," Timofeeva said. "It's an honour play here against Caroline. I went into the match without any expectations, just wanted to show what I was capable of."

VAR Confusion as Saudi Arabia Roar Back to Beat Oman at Asian Cup

SPORTS DESK

Roberto Mancini's Saudi Arabia fought back to defeat Oman 2-1 in the dying seconds at the Asian Cup on Tuesday, but only after some VAR confusion. Also in Group F, Thailand beat Kyrgyzstan 2-0 with Supachai Chaided scoring both goals. The ambitious Saudis beat eventual champions Argentina in the group phase of the 2022 World Cup and returned to Qatar as one of the favorites for the regional tournament. They are seeking a record-equaling fourth Asian Cup, off the back of a recruitment drive that has lured the likes of Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo to the Kingdom's domestic league. Saudi Arabia is also set to host the 2034 World Cup. Their opening match at the Asian Cup started badly when they conceded a penalty -- and finished in farcical scenes in front of a bemused crowd of 41,987. Deep into injury time and with the Saudis pushing to make it 2-1, Ali Al-Bulayhi headed in following a

corner to spark pandemonium for what they thought was the winner. The goal was disallowed for offside by the assistant referee, and was checked by VAR. He appeared in replays to have been outside. Then came the confusion when it appeared that referee Shaun Evans had stuck with the original offside call and the game restarted, only for him to call back play and award the goal. Bulayhi, who celebrated by inflating a green balloon as his teammates mobbed him, afterwards called his winner "a gift to the Saudi people". "Scoring at the end of the match, this is what great players do," said the 34-year-old defender. Mancini, who took the Saudi reins in September, said his side made mistakes in the first half "but this is normal in the first game". His opposite number Branko Ivankovic said the "Saudi team deserved the victory", citing the tiredness of his players as a reason behind Oman's late collapse. Mancini's men went behind in the 14th minute when Evans gave a penalty for a trip on Oman forward Muhsen Al-Ghassani, having checked the VAR screen. Salaah Al-Yahyaie converted to give lower-

ranked Oman a surprise lead. Oman sat back for the remainder of the first half, but Saudi Arabia failed to apply any serious pressure. After the break the Saudis continued to huff and puff, but had only registered two shots on target by the hour mark. As the clock ticked down and jeers began to ring out from the Saudi fans, the men in green needed a moment of magic. And that was what they got, substitute Abdulrahman Ghareeb -- only on the pitch three minutes -- jinking his way through the Omani back line before stroking in the equalizer with 12 minutes left. The Saudis then pushed for the winner, leading to Bulayhi's dramatic late intervention. Earlier, Buriram United striker Supachai prodded in from close range on 26 minutes to give Thailand the lead over Kyrgyzstan. He got his second in similar style just after the break when the ball again fell his way with the goal gaping. Reigning champions Qatar return to action on Wednesday when they will look to seal their place in the last 16 with victory over Tajikistan. In the other game in Group A, China play Lebanon.



Hotto Strikes as Namibia Shock Tunisia in Latest AFCON Upset

SPORTS DESK

Namibia produced the biggest shock so far in an Africa Cup of Nations full of upsets in the Ivory Coast by snatching a 1-0 triumph over former champions Tunisia on Tuesday. It was a historic first victory in the flagship African tournament for the Brave Warriors, who defeated and drew with another top team, Cameroon, in qualifiers for the 2024 edition. Deon Hotto headed the only goal of the opening match in Group E with two minutes of regular time remaining to raise the number of surprise results to six from 10 matches after only four days. Before Namibia made a mockery of the world rankings in the northern city of Korhogo, five other former title-holders failed to win their opening matches. The rush of unexpected results began on Sunday when Equatorial Guinea held Nigeria, then Egypt needed an added-time penalty from Mohamed Salah to snatch a draw against Mozambique. Cape Verde scored in

added time to defeat Ghana, the third most successful country in the African showpiece with four titles, AFP reported. Tunisia are currently ranked third of 54 African football nations, behind only 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco and Cup of Nations defending champions Senegal. They are also 87 places above Namibia in the world rankings, making them hot favourites to get their group campaign off to a winning start. While Tunisia qualified comfortably for the Ivory Coast, Namibia had to overcome a number of off-field obstacles before securing a place. Sub-standard stadiums in the largely desert southern Africa country meant playing home qualifiers against Burundi and Cameroon in Soweto on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Coach Collin Benjamin also had to contend with several "rusty" players because a dispute between national association and league officials halted competitions in Namibia for several seasons.

But a team captained by forward Peter Shalulile, who plays for South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns, defied the odds, with a 2-1 'home' win over Cameroon the highlight. Namibia next face neighbours South Africa in Korhogo on Sunday followed by Mali the following Wednesday in the southwestern port of San Pedro. Even one point from the two fixtures would almost certainly secure the Brave Warriors a last-16 place, either as top-two finishers or as one of the four best third-placed teams. Namibia lie second with three points behind Mali, who overcame disappointing South Africa 2-0 in the second match of a double-header to top the table on goal difference. Appearing in the Cup of Nations for only the fourth time in eight editions, Bafana Bafana missed a first-half penalty when Percy Tau blazed over. Mali won through two goals within six minutes early in the second half. Hamari Traore pushed home a rebound after a free-kick rebounded off

the bar and Lassine Sinayoko got the second. Out-of-favor Aston Villa forward Bertrand Traore came off the bench to convert an added-time penalty and give Burkina Faso a dramatic 1-0 Group D win over Mauritania in central city Bouake. It was an emotional victory for French coach Hubert Velud, finally making his debut at a Cup of Nations tournament 14 years after expecting to do so. Velud was in charge of the Togo squad forced to withdraw from the 2010 finals after gunmen attacked the team bus in host nation Angola and killed three occupants. He was foiled again when he qualified Sudan for the 2022 Cup of Nations only to be fired before the tournament. Burkina Faso top Group D with three points, Angola and Algeria have one each and Mauritania none. On Wednesday, the final two opening-round group matches will be staged with Morocco taking on outsiders Tanzania before the Democratic Republic of Congo face fellow former champions Zambia.

Comilla's BPL future uncertain

SPORTS DESK

Four-time champions Comilla Victorians are the most successful team in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). Under owner Nafisa Kamal, they have been able to establish some form of a brand value, something that the country's lone franchise T20 tournament is yet to see the light of day. Nafisa feels that BPL franchises do not get the rights that are afforded in other franchise leagues around the world, adding that it will not be possible for Comilla to play the next BPL without revenue-sharing rights, for instance. As things stand, the broadcasting rights are still difficult to sell and franchises do not have a share of tickets which hinders branding. "Not a ticket would remain unsold if we had 50 percent of the ticket selling rights. BCB does not give us the rights, neither media nor ground rights," Nafisa said during a talk with reporters. "The way a franchise tournament should run on paper, in concept, is not at all applicable to the BPL. We don't get any of the rights that a franchise should have," she added. At the time of filing this report, a title sponsor was yet to be announced for the BPL. There has been no continuity of title sponsors, unlike what is

seen elsewhere with Tata Indian Premier League or KFC Big Bash. "How does it not hamper? Our task would have been easier if BPL had proper brand value in the market, or had BCB gotten a consistent sponsor for 10 years," she continued. Nafisa regrets the fact that the leading team owners have not been able to sit with BCB, to discuss revenue-sharing rights among other things. "I have forgotten when they (BCB or BPL Council) last sat with us [regarding revenue sharing]. This year I just told them to do a meeting and sit face to face but that didn't happen. I am not sure whether I will do the BPL next year. I don't think, with the way it is moving, it will be possible

for me. "Last year after becoming the champions, in the press conference I said I wanted to have a meeting, where the owner of Rangpur and Chattogram will sit, Dhaka will sit. Everyone should be equally respected as they are all investing. "If Comilla Victorians are not playing the BPL what will be the future of BPL? It might be a different kind of BPL [this time]. You will understand in this BPL after the game starts as Comilla will be on one side and every other team will be on the other side," she said. Asked to reassess whether they will be leaving, she said, "Yes, hundred percent." She added that "ticket rights, ground rights and media rights" are things that they

need to discuss. "We will be very flexible in this regard and we are willing to give what is good for them. If they give the lowest even that is all right but let the structure at least start." Nafisa, however, expressed her willingness to enter BCB but not as BCB president if Nazmul Hassan's tenure eventually comes to an end. "Not the BCB president but want to work with Bangladesh cricket," she added. Given a large part of the BPL's success hinges on the success of its most successful team in Comilla, the nature of branding and lack of impetus from BCB to create a more professional structure continue to keep away fans and sponsors.

