

## Hungary, Kyrgyzstan greet PM Sheikh Hasina on her re-appointment

STAFF REPORTER

Hungary and Kyrgyzstan have extended greetings and felicitations in messages to Sheikh Hasina recently on her re-appointment as the Bangladesh prime minister. Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, in his message, said they greatly appreciate the development of Bangladesh in the past period and the responsible policy with which Sheikh Hasina contributes to the stability of her region.

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## BNP will soon realise its mistake of not joining polls: Quader

STAFF REPORTER

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader Yesterday Friday said BNP will realise soon that it did a big mistake by not joining the January 7 general elections. "If BNP wants to wage a movement, there will be no obstruction. But if the party creates any violence in the name of movement, it will be strictly resisted," he told a blanket distribution ceremony in city's Dhanmondi area. Following the instructions of AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, AL relief and social welfare sub-committee organised this programme to

distribute blankets among the cold-hit people. Speaking on the occasion, Quader said the opposition BNP is a dummy party in Bangladesh as frustration gripped BNP leaders. The country's people laugh hearing the BNP's call for movement while BNP is making itself a fake party, he said. Claiming that BNP has no hope at the moment as no sanction and visa policy is coming from the United States, the AL general secretary said BNP has now black flag procession, meaning that it is a mourning procession, and the BNP leaders themselves are telling the

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Judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rule on emergency measures against Israel following accusations by South Africa that the Israeli military operation in Gaza is a state-led genocide, in The Hague, Netherlands, Yesterday Friday. — REUTERS

## Top UN court stops short of ordering cease-fire in Gaza

DW News

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Netherlands on Friday ruled on South Africa's request for "provisional measures" against Israel amid claims of state-led genocide. Court President Joan Donoghue said the court was extremely worried by the loss of life in the Gaza Strip. "The court is acutely aware of the extent of the human tragedy that is unfolding in the region and is deeply concerned about the continuing loss of life and human suffering," she said. The judge said that, in the court's view, at least some of Israel's actions in Gaza brought forward by South Africa fell within the provisions of the UN's Genocide Convention. Donoghue said the court could not "accede to Israel's request that the case be removed from the general list."

The judge said the court ordered

Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent genocide and the incitement of genocide. She also ordered Israel to report to the court on all measures to give effect to the court's orders within a month.

**What was the court asked to decide?**

The Hague-based court was asked to



rule on nine measures, including an order compelling Israel to suspend its military operations in Gaza. The ruling did not deal with South Africa's core accusation in the case as to whether Israel is committing

genocide in the Palestinian enclave. Instead, the measures sought by South Africa were intended to "protect against further... harm to the rights of the Palestinian people" under the Genocide Convention. The provisional measures requested by South Africa were essentially requests to be put in place before a final ruling on the main case, which could take years.

While the ICJ's rulings are binding on all parties, it has no mechanism to enforce them.

**What was the response to the court's decision?**

"Today marks a decisive victory for the international rule of law and a significant milestone in the search for justice for the Palestinian people," South Africa's international relations department said in a statement. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded, denouncing the genocide case as "outrageous"

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## PM to inaugurate Amar Ekushey book fair on Feb 1

STAFF REPORTER

The month-long "Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela 2024", the country's largest book fair, is going to begin on its traditional date of the first day of February this year. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the fair to be held under the auspices of Bangla Academy on its premises and Suhrawardy Udyan on February 1 at 3 pm," Member Secretary of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair Committee Dr KM Muzahidul Islam told. A total of 895 stalls have

## Saber for proper waste management to build clean country

STAFF REPORTER

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury Yesterday Friday called upon all to come forward towards building a clean and waste-free country by properly managing wastes. "The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced a 100-day work plan to build a clean country. If the people of the country work together with the initiative of the government, it will be possible to build a waste-free country," he told a function here. The function was organised at Manda Haider Ali School and College ground to distribute blankets among the cold-hit people of the area. Speaking as the chief,

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## Govt to intensify efforts to bring back fugitive convicts: Anisul

NEWS DESK

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq Yesterday Friday said the government will intensify its efforts to bring fugitive convicts like Tarique Rahman back in the country. "We will surely take initiatives to bring the people, who have been convicted here in the country, back to the country. We would also intensify the initiative in this regard," he said while talking to newsmen at Akhaura Railway Station Friday morning. While replying a question on labour amendment bill, the law minister said the bill will be passed in the next

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## Britain's King Charles III admitted to hospital for prostate surgery

AFP

King Charles III was on Friday admitted to a London hospital for scheduled surgery, Buckingham Palace said, a week after revealing the British monarch would be treated for an enlarged prostate. "The king was on Friday morning admitted to a London hospital for scheduled treatment," the palace added in a statement. "His Majesty would like to thank all those who have sent their good wishes over the past week and is delighted to learn that his diagnosis is having a positive impact on public health awareness." Royal officials took the unusual step last week of issuing a bulletin on the 75-year-old monarch's health, disclosing that he had an enlarged prostate but the

condition was benign. It came soon after a separate statement that the king's daughter-in-law, Catherine, Princess of Wales, 42, had undergone successful abdominal surgery for an unspecified condition. Kate, married to Charles's elder son and heir to the throne Prince William, is facing up to two weeks' recuperation at the private London Clinic, then several months away from public duties. British media reported that Charles was being treated at the same clinic as Kate and is understood to have visited her there ahead of his treatment. Charles travelled to his private Sandringham estate in eastern England last Friday to prepare for what royal officials said would be a "corrective procedure", before

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## Bhola can be 2nd biggest port in Bangladesh: Industries Minister

STAFF REPORTER

Considering the location of Bhola, it can be the second biggest port in Bangladesh after Chittagong, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said on Friday. "Since there is gas in Bhola, our main aim is to create entrepreneurship and employment there by utilizing that resources," the minister said at the inauguration ceremony of the construction of a gas connection line in the BSCIC Industrial area of Bhola Sadar. 9 more wells to be drilled in Bhola to expedite local gas production: Nasrul Hamid He also said that the small cottage industry is playing a vital role in our rural economy. "Specially during the Covid pandemic, we have seen that small entrepreneurs



saved the lifeline of the rural economy. They kept running markets providing their products." The industries minister also said that Bhola's BSIC is currently running in small scale and its areas can be expanded in future, he mentioned. Nurul Majid said Bhola is rich in gas, big companies have already started coming here. "Big companies like Celltech are producing ceramics here. Others are also showing interest in the

industry. All in all, Bhola is a very promising place to invest," the minister added. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Arifuzzaman, Senior Secretary Zakia Sultana, BCIC director Akhil Chandra Poddar, District Parishad Chairman Abdul Momin Tulu, Additional Superintendent of Police Asaduzzaman, District Awami League General Secretary Mainul Hossain Biplab, Bhola BCIC also spoke.

## 40,000 MRT passes sold in five days

STAFF REPORTER

Metro Rail passengers parched around 40,000 MRT pass cards in the last five days to avoid long queues at the metro rail stations. MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), informed this to a local television channel on Friday. Dhaka metro rail attracted a large number of enthusiast people after the inauguration of its daylong operation from Uttara to Motijheel on Saturday. The DMTCL sources have attributed the passenger pressure at the terminals to the unavailability of adequate rapid travel passes. They

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## Saudi Arabia to open first alcohol shop

Saudi Arabia plans to allow alcohol sales to non-Muslim diplomats for the first time, two sources familiar with the plan said on Wednesday, modifying strict rules governing liquor in the conservative country.

Alcohol 'will be sold to non-Muslim diplomats' who previously had to import alcohol via a diplomatic pouch, or sealed official package, one of the sources said. The sales will take place in a store in Riyadh's Diplomatic Quarter,

a neighbourhood of foreign missions and residences west of the city centre, according to a document seen by AFP. Access to the store will be restricted to people who register on an

application known as the Diplo App, and monthly quotas will be enforced, the document said. Prohibition has been the law of the land in Saudi Arabia since 1952, shortly after one of King Abdulaziz's sons got drunk



and, in a rage, shot dead a British diplomat. Rumours have swirled for years that alcohol would become available in the Gulf kingdom amid a wave of social reforms

introduced as part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 agenda, among them the introduction of cinemas and mixed-gender music festivals. A Saudi government statement on Wednesday said

authorities were introducing 'a new regulatory framework... to counter the illicit trade of alcohol goods and products received by diplomatic missions'. The statement added: "The new process will focus on allocating specific quantities of alcohol goods when entering the Kingdom to put an end to the previous unregulated process that caused an uncontrolled

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## DAILY FLIGHT TO DUBAI

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## China presses Iran to rein in Houthi attacks in Red Sea, sources say

**REUTERS**  
Chinese officials have asked their Iranian counterparts to help rein in attacks on ships in the Red Sea by the Iran-backed Houthis, or risk harming business relations with Beijing, four Iranian sources and a diplomat familiar with the matter said. The discussions about the attacks and trade between China and Iran took place at several recent meetings in Beijing and Tehran, the Iranian sources said, declining to provide details about when they took place or who attended. "Basically, China says: 'If our interests are harmed in any way, it will impact our business with Tehran. So tell the Houthis to show restraint,'" said one Iranian official briefed on the talks, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity. The attacks, which the Houthis say are in support of Palestinians in Gaza, have raised the cost of



shipping and insurance by disrupting a key trade route between Asia and Europe used widely by ships from China. The Chinese officials, however, did not make any specific comments or threats about how Beijing's trading relationship with Iran could be affected if its interests were damaged by Houthi attacks, the four Iranian sources said. While China has been Iran's biggest trading partner for the past decade, their trade relationship is lopsided. Chinese oil refiners, for example, bought over 90% of Iran's crude exports last year, according to

tanker tracking data from trade analytics firm Kpler, as U.S. sanctions kept many other customers away and Chinese firms profited from heavy discounts. Iranian oil, though, only accounts for 10% of China's crude imports and Beijing has an array of suppliers that could plug shortfalls from elsewhere. The Iranian sources said Beijing had made it clear it would be very disappointed with Tehran if any vessels linked to China were hit, or the country's interests were affected in any way. But while China was important to Iran, Tehran also had proxies in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, besides the Houthis in Yemen, and its regional alliances and priorities played a major role in its decision making, one of the Iranian insiders said. Asked for comment about meetings with Iran to discuss the Red Sea attacks, China's ministry of foreign

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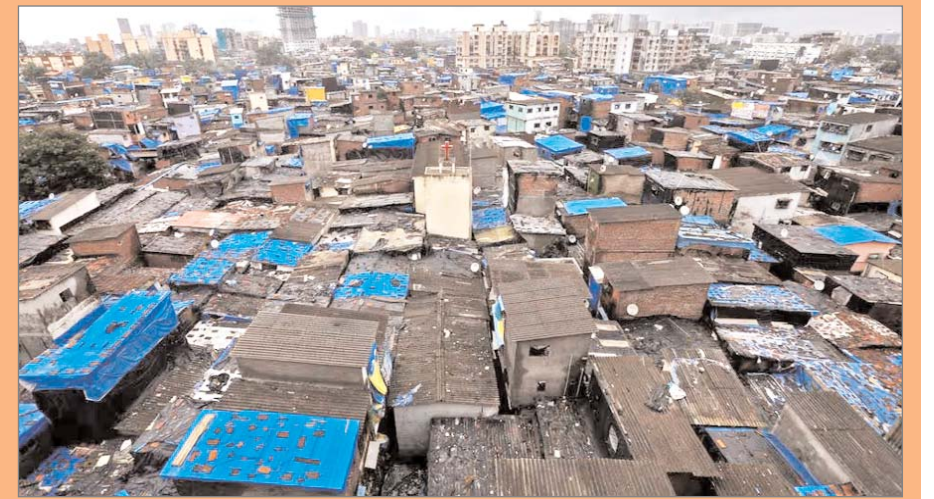
## India fetes France's Macron at annual military parade

**AFP**

President Emmanuel Macron was guest of honour Thursday for India's pomp-filled annual military parade, in a state visit aimed at bolstering France's strategic ties with the world's fifth-largest economy. The annual Republic Day event in the heart of New Delhi is a highly choreographed spectacle featuring tank columns, fighter jet fly-pasts, acrobatic motorbike stunts and mounted camel units. This year it coincides with a two-day diplomatic tour that reflects a growing partnership between India and France, after Macron hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at last year's Bastille Day celebrations in Paris. Macron has pushed for greater French involvement in the Asia-Pacific at a time when Washington and its Western allies are courting India as a military and economic counterweight to China. Before his arrival in India, Macron's

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## Adani to start data collection for Mumbai slum redevelopment in February



**NEWS DESK**

A firm led by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani will start in February to collect the data and biometrics of up to 1 million poor residents as part of the redevelopment of a slum in Mumbai that is considered one of Asia's largest. The survey will be crucial in deciding who among the residents of the Dharavi slum will be eligible to receive a free home in the area that is being redeveloped. However, authorities have struggled for decades to fix up the area, which covers 640 acres (260 hectares), with Adani Group finally winning the bid to redevelop the area together with the state of Maharashtra, though legal disputes over the awarding of the contract are outstanding. Only residents that have lived in Dharavi before the year 2000 will be eligible for the free housing. The last survey of the area was conducted 15 years ago and some estimates show about 700,000 ineligible inhabitants could be relocated outside Dharavi, which has sparked worries of lost livelihoods or high rent payments for those people. In the door-to-door survey exercise the Adani-led firm will

use questionnaires to gather details of Dharavi occupants, whether they use the premises for residential or commercial purposes, proofs of ownership and biometric data, said S.V.R. Srinivas, head of Dharavi Redevelopment Authority which is overseeing the project. "Teams will go to each and every house ... biometric data will be collected," Srinivas said in an interview. "Objective is that all eligible people should get houses and no ineligible people should get undue advantage." Indian opposition parties have protested the redevelopment saying the state government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party, and other allies unfairly favoured Adani when the company won the \$614 million redevelopment bid. The state and Adani deny any wrongdoing. Adani has hired global teams for the project and Srinivas said he expects the redevelopment to start within a year. The survey will be done in two parts with a pilot phase first executed within three to four weeks with a few hundred residents. The full exercise will take nine months. The final eligibility of the residents

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## Legendary Tagore singer Bannya wins 'Padma Shri'

**STAFF REPORTER**

Legendary Tagore singer and Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya was awarded with "Padma Shri", the India's fourth highest civilian award for her distinguished service in the field of Art. The award was announced for the year 2024 on Thursday on the eve of India's Republic Day, according to a statement issued by Indian ministry of home affairs last evening. The eminent Tagore singer Bannya also won numerous awards including Bangladesh's highest civilian award-the Independence Day Award in (2016). Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of India, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards this year. These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions to be held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in March or April. The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and

the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners and 9 posthumous awardees. Born in Bangladesh's Rangpur district in 1957, Bannya took her early singing lessons from her uncle Abdul Ali that continued later under the tutelage of Sanjida Khatun and Atiqul Haque at Chhayanaut and Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) in Dhaka. Then she received a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to study in Sangit Bhavana at Santiniketan, the university that was founded by Tagore himself. She took lessons from eminent Rabindra singers Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Nilima Sen, Sailajaranjan Majumdar, Santidev Ghosh, Gora Sarbadhikary, Manju Bandyopadhyay and Aresh Bandyopadhyay. Years after receiving her master's degree from Visva-Bharati, she trained under Kanika Banerjee in private sessions for an extended period of time. In 2021, she completed her research on Rabindra Sangeet at the University of Dhaka, for which she received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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## US warned Iran of terror threat ahead of twin suicide bombings in Kerman

*ISIL (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack in the southeastern city that killed nearly 100 people and wounded scores.*

**AL JAZEERA**

The United States government had privately warned Iran that ISIL (ISIS) was preparing to carry out a terrorist attack ahead of the coordinated suicide bombings that killed nearly 100 people in the southeastern city of Kerman. The confidential alert came after the US acquired intelligence that ISIL's affiliate in Afghanistan was plotting to attack Iran, a US official said on Thursday. "The US government followed a longstanding 'duty to warn' policy that has been implemented across administrations to warn governments against potential lethal threats," said the official, who requested anonymity. "We provide these warnings in part because we do not want to see innocent lives lost in terror attacks." On January 3, two suicide bombings in Kerman were carried out during a memorial for slain commander Qassem Soleimani, killed in a US drone attack in 2020. Soleimani, the head of the elite Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was killed in a strike in Iraq ordered by then-US President Donald Trump. The ISIL armed group claimed responsibility on January 4 for the attack in Kerman, about 820km (510 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran. After the bombings, at least 35



people were arrested across the country, Iran's Ministry of Intelligence said. Authorities said they had identified the alleged ringleader as a Tajik national known by his alias Abdollah Tajiki. He had entered Iran in mid-December by crossing the southeastern border and left two days before the attack after making the bombs, according to a statement from the ministry. Iranian forces subsequently struck targets in Iraq and Syria, allegedly linked to ISIL. The IRGC said the targets hit included the alleged headquarters of the Israeli spy agency Mossad in Erbil, capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region. Tehran frequently alleges that both Israel and the US support anti-Iran armed groups involved in past attacks. In 2022, ISIL claimed responsibility for an attack on an Iranian Shia shrine that killed 15 people. Earlier attacks attributed to ISIL include 2017 twin bombings targeting Iran's parliament and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the republic. Violence has flared across the Middle East since Hamas's October 7 attacks on Israel and the subsequent bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces, which has now killed more than 26,000 Palestinians. The US accuses Iran of backing the Palestinian group Hamas, Yemen's Houthi rebels.

## RAB detain 14 of train ticket black market syndicate

**STAFF REPORTER**

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in separate drives arrested two kingpins and 13 members of railway ticket black market syndicate from different areas of the capital. The arrestees are- ticket blacker gang leaders Uttam Chandra Das, 30, and Md Selim, 50, gang members Anwar Hossain alias Kashem, 62, Abani Sarker Sumon, 35, Md Harun Miah, 60, Md Mannan, 50, Md Anwar Hossain, 50, Md Faruk, 62, Md Shahidul Islam Babu, 22, Md Jewel, 23, Md Abdur Rahim, 32, Md

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## In Thakurgaon, there is fear of spoilage of Boro paddy due to winter and fog

**Shamsul Alam**

Boro paddy seed bed is being destroyed due to severe cold and fog in Thakurgaon for several days. Potato, maize, pepper fields are also affected by fog. In several areas, it can be seen that the seed bed of Boro paddy has turned yellow at the beginning of the season, and the farmers are worried. Various areas of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila can be seen, this year as a precautionary measure, farmers are covering seedbeds with plastic in some places. They think that the amount of damage will be reduced by this. In Thakurgaon, the cold weather has increased since several days. The temperature varies between 8



and 27 degrees Celsius. In this situation, the farmers of the district are in trouble due to the destruction of the seed beds of Boro rice. According to the District Agriculture

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## Advanced flowering predicts bumper mango yield in Rajshahi

**NEWS DESK**

Although there are a couple of weeks more to optimum time for setting flowers, some of the mango trees have started sprouting early in the Rajshahi region in the last few weeks. Mango trees are sprouting early at various places like Vatapara, Raipara, Kasiadanga, Police line, Malopara, Meherchandi and Bhadra in the city. But the extent of flowering is comparatively less than that of the normal time. Golan Mourtoza, 55, a mango trader of Baneswar village under Puthiya upazila, said that the farmers are seen very busy nursing mango trees at present to protect the flower from dropping. Usually, he added, mango flowers are not seen to sprout so early amid the cold temperature; rather the blooming of mango in some early varieties is seen to occur during the last week of January and continues till middle of March. Motaleb Hossain, a mango grower of Charghat upazila, said he has over 200 mango trees in his orchard. He has cultivated a large variety of mangoes this season.

He expects a handsome profit for the early blooming of mango trees this year. Abdul Washeque, a resident of Rajabari village, said mango flowers are not seen to sprout at this time. He said the impact of global climate change might be a cause of such early budding of mango trees. Prof Bidhan Chandra Das, a retired teacher in the Department of Zoology at Rajshahi University, told BSS that the length of winter has been reduced due to the adverse impact of climate change and that might be the reason behind the unusual mango flowering. He pointed out that the existing agricultural system has started facing a serious threat because of climate change that also leads to various natural disasters. Prof Bidhan Das said this is the time to change the system, not climate besides showing red-cards to the big carbon emitters. He referred to the enormous contribution of farmers to the region's agricultural development and said the farmers deserve the rights of getting all requisite privileges. There is no alternative to protect their interests as a whole.

## Mirza Azam wishes to be elected MP again for the seventh time

**Md. Ruhul Amin Raju:**

The leaders of Kulia Islamia Dakhil Madrasah of Kulia Islamia Dakhil Madrasa of Melandah Upazila Kulia Union have congratulated Alhaj Mirza Azam MP for being elected MP for the seventh time in a row, organizing secretary of Bangladesh Awami League. Several times chairman of Kulia Union Parishad Abdus Chalam, Vice President of Kulia Union Awami League Prof. MA Mannan, Joint General Secretary of Kulia Union Awami League and convener of Kulia Central Committee Md Zakyul Islam Sonahar, Member Secretary Union

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## 52nd National Education Sports Competition Finale and Prize Distribution held at Joypurhat

**Mashiur Rahman Khan**

52nd National School, Madrasa and Technical Education Sports Competition was organized at Joypurhat district level and prize distribution ceremony. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) said the chief guest at the closing ceremony held at

Joypurhat District Stadium premises on Thursday afternoon. Mohiuddin Jahangir, District Education Officer presided over the event. Aman Uddin Mondal, Additional Superintendent of Police Ishaiq Alam, General Secretary of District Sports Association Morshedul Alam Lebu and

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## Hungary, Kyrgyzstan

Orbin said he is sure that the renewed confidence of the people of Bangladesh in Sheikh Hasina will enable her to continue her success. He assured that his government will continue to work in a committed way in the future to further deepen their cooperation that goes back to more than half a century. The Hungarian premier also wished her success and good health in discharging her highly responsible duties. In his message, Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Zhaparov said he believes that Sheikh Hasina's activities at the head of the government will contribute to the further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries and the development of multifaceted Kyrgyz-Bangladesh cooperation in trade-economic, scientific, technical, cultural and people-to-people spheres. He assured that they are ready to strengthen constructive cooperation on current issues of bilateral and international agenda that meet the interests of Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh. The Kyrgyz president also wished her good health, prosperity and success in her state work.

## BNP will soon

nation that they have accepted defeat. BNP is spreading confusion over the number of BNP activists detained in jail, he said, adding the 25,000 BNP men, who torched trains and buses, beat up cops and attacked the Chief Justice's residence, were sent to jail. "Let them face the trial. Let them face the legal battle." Quader said offenders are brought to justice in all countries, while Donald Trump is being tried on 91 charges in the USA. "How does the country, where a former president is being tried, tell us to release the criminals?" he questioned. Later, he distributed blankets among the cold-hit people.

## PM to inaugurate

been allocated to 573 organizations. Among them 786 are general stalls while 109 stalls will be dedicated to little magazine chattrar, said Muzahidul. Moreover, a total of 37 pavilions have been allocated this year. Last year, a total of 901 stalls were allocated in favour of 601 organizations. This year, the entire work of the fair is being done by Bangla Academy alone to avoid any criticism, said Muzahidul, adding, "In the previous years, some event management companies were involved in fair arrangements which faced some criticism last year". The preparation for the fair started soon after the end of the last fair and committees have been formulated in three-phase - committee for preparation phase, committee for inaugural ceremony and separate committees for conducting the month-long fair.

## Govt to intensify efforts

session of the parliament. Anisul further said the trial of Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus was held properly, adding, "As far as I know, as much documents as I read, I can tell you that the case was held in the trial court as per concerned sections. I would not say anything more." The law minister reached here to attend different programs, including a mass reception to be hosted to him by Akhaura upazilla Awami League.

## Britain's King

returning to London on Thursday. Charles was told he had the condition, which is common in men aged over 50 and affects urination, last Wednesday after experiencing symptoms and having a check-up. He wanted to share his diagnosis publicly to encourage other men who may be experiencing symptoms to see their doctor. - 'Looking forward' - Charles's second wife, Queen Camilla, 76, described her husband's health last week as "fine" and said he was "looking forward to getting back to work", after being forced to cancel engagements.

## Top UN court

and saying Israel would continue to do "what is necessary" to defend itself.

### What has the court heard so far?

South Africa has contended that Israel's actions have breached the United Nations Genocide Convention and that they were intended to "bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group." "The acts in question include killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, and inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction," South Africa's writ says. "The acts are all attributable to Israel, which has failed to prevent genocide and is committing genocide in manifest violation of the Genocide Convention." Israel's lawyer Tal Becker has dismissed the South African case as a "profoundly distorted factual and legal picture" and a "decontextualized and manipulative description of the reality." Becker showed the court images of the brutal Hamas terror attack of October 7 and said that "if there have been acts that may be characterized as genocidal, then they have been perpetrated against Israel."

## Saber for proper waste

Saber Hossain said Mugda area will be a role model in the capital in terms of cleanliness. Emphasis will also be given on reducing the use of single use plastic in every area of Dhaka-9 constituency, he added.

## 40,000 MRT

hope the passenger pressure in the stations would reduce when single-journey-ticket users would convert to regular card-based passengers. The officials also expect the situation improvement after reducing the train arrival gap to 4 minutes from the present 10 minutes during peak hours and 12 minutes during off-peak hours. Since the time of two parts of the MRT-6 synchronised for operation from 7:10 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, pressure of passengers during both peak and off-peak hour increased to average 242,000 from 150,000.

## Saudi Arabia

exchange of such goods in the Kingdom.' The policy 'will continue to grant and ensure that all diplomats of non-Muslim embassies have access to these products in specified quotas,' it said. Access to the store in the Diplomatic Quarter 'is strictly restricted to non-Muslims', according to the document seen by AFP. 'No persons under the age of 21 are allowed inside the store' and 'proper attire is required', it says. Those who register with the app are unable to send relatives, drivers, assistants or colleagues in their place, it says. Use of mobile phones is prohibited in the store. Under the quota system, those authorised to access the store will be able to purchase 240 'points' of alcohol per month. A litre of spirits is worth six points, a litre of wine is worth three points and a litre of beer is worth one point.

## China presses Iran

affairs said: "China is a sincere friend of the countries of the Middle East and is committed to promoting regional security and stability and seeking common development and prosperity." "We firmly support Middle Eastern

countries in strengthening their strategic independence and uniting and collaborating to resolve regional security issues," it told Reuters. Iran's foreign ministry was not immediately available to comment.

### AXIS OF RESISTANCE

Military strikes by U.S. and British forces on Houthis targets in Yemen this month have failed to stop attacks on shipping by the group, which controls a large chunk of Yemen including the capital Sanaa and much of the country's Red Sea coast by the Bab al-Mandab strait. The Houthis, who first emerged in the 1980s as an armed group in opposition to Saudi Arabia's Sunni religious influence in Yemen, are armed, funded and trained by Iran and are part of its anti-West, anti-Israel "Axis of Resistance".

## India fetes France's

office said India was "a key partner in contributing to international peace and security". France also hopes to build on its military contracts with India, which is already a buyer of French-made Rafale fighter jets and Scorpene-class submarines in multibillion-dollar deals. India in turn has been working to modernise its armed forces and has solicited French help to grow its indigenous defence industry, allowing it to diversify arms purchases beyond its traditional supplier Russia. "The idea is to build defence supply chains that can meet India and France's defence needs."

## Adani to start data

who will get free homes or relocated will be decided by the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority, and more staff will be hired soon to oversee the survey and the project, Srinivas added. Source: Reuters

## Legendary Tagore

Currently Professor and founding chair of the Department of Dance at the University of Dhaka, previously, she had been a professor in the Department of Music at the same university. Bannya, a trailblazer in promoting Rabindranath Tagore's music, has founded "Shurer Dhara", a prestigious music school in Dhaka in 1992 with a focus on promoting Ranbindra Sangeet. In 2022, the government launched a dedicated website preserving 5,000 songs by Bannya, complemented by a comprehensive biography and photographs. During her career in the field of music, Bannya won numerous awards including the prestigious Independence Day Award for her contribution in the field of art and music. The other awards that she won included Ananda Sangeet Puroshkar for being the best female Rabindra Sangeet artist (2002), Gaane Gaane Gunijon Shongbardhona (2011), Sangeet Samman Puroshkar from the Ministry of Culture, India in 2013, Banga Bhushan (2017), Firoza Begum Memorial Gold Medal (2017), Sangeet Maha Samman (2017) by the Government of West Bengal, Doctorate of Arts honoris causa from Asian University for Women (2019) and Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by Oikko.com.bd Channel i.

## Mirza Azam wishes to

Awami Jubo League President Imdadul Haque Bachchu, Vice President Abdul Aziz, Labor Affairs Secretary Md Ziaur Haque, Union Awami League Cultural Affairs Secretary Former UP Member Md Chan Mondal, Forest and Environment Affairs Secretary Zafar Ali Mondal, 2nd Ward Awami League General Secretary Shahjahan Sajju, 3rd Awami League General Secretary Nuruzzaman Titu, Kulia, Union Krishak League joint general Abdul Quader Lal Mia and other leaders were present.

## 52nd National

others also spoke at this time. Later prizes and crests were distributed among the winners. District Sports Association General Secretary Morshedul Alam Lebu said that this time 314 contestants from 157 educational institutions of five upazilas of Jola

participated at the district level.

## In Thakurgaon,

Extension Department, information has already been provided to the farmers about three types of seedbeds: dry, wet, and floating. The farmers have been given various advices including space, land preparation, shed construction, fertilizer application, seed sowing, seed germination. They are also given detailed information about how many hours the dry seeds should be soaked in water continuously and at which national location. Along with this, guidelines are regularly provided on seed germination for the production of seedlings in the area. Abdul Bashir, a farmer in Bhaular Hat area of Sadar Upazila, said that every year he plants boro paddy on at least 4 bigha (200th century) land. This year also he has made boro paddy seed bed. Most of the saplings are dying in severe winter. He said that the seedlings are not growing due to winter. He expressed apprehension that if the intensity increases further, the saplings will suffer more. Mansoor Ali, a farmer of Velajan village in Chilarang Union of Sadar Upazila, said that every year he cultivates boro paddy on about 4 and a half bigha (225 cents) of land. Boro will start paddy planting this year as well. Boro has sown paddy for now, he said he is also facing problems due to winter. According to the sources of the Directorate of Agricultural Extension, Boro rice

cultivation is currently underway. Russell Islam, Agriculture Officer of Agriculture Extension Department, said that this year the target of boro cultivation has been set at 62 thousand 80 hectares of land. The production target is 280 thousand 632 metric tons. Boro has been planted on a total of 5 hectares of land in the district till Thursday. In the last year, the target of boro rice was determined on 60 thousand 150 hectares of land. The production target was fixed at 2 lakh 67 thousand 940 metric tons. Agriculture Extension Department deputy director agriculturist Sirajul Islam said that the agriculture department has already cooperated by providing various information to the farmers. Although minor cold injury to boro seedlings has been reported in several areas due to winter so far, it is not a major problem. Appreciating the covering of farmers in the district with plastic, he said that if there is no major natural calamity, he expects that Boro rice like Aman will have a bumper yield and exceed the target.

## RAB detain 14 of

Morshed Miah, 45, Abdul Ali, 22, and Md Zobayer. Teams of RAB-3 arrested them in separate drives from Kamalapur and Airport Railway Stations last night (Thursday). A total of 1,244 train tickets of different routes, 14 mobile phones, and Taka 20,000 in cash were seized from the arrestees.



## বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়



### Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.

### Invitation for Tender

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	V
2	Agency	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shahbag, Dhaka	V
3	Procuring Entity Name	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) & Chairman, Central Purchase Committee, BSMMU, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka-1000.	V
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Furniture.	
7	Invitation Ref No.	BSMMU/2024/803	
8	Date	24/01/2024	V
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method (OTM)	V As Per PPR-2008 V
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	BSMMU Funds	V
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	None	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A	
14	Tender Package No.	BSMMU/2024/248	
15	Tender Package Name	Invitation for Procurement of Furniture.	
16	Pre-Tender Meeting	N/A	
		Date	
17	Tender Publication Date	27/01/2024	V
18	Tender Last Selling Date	09/02/2024	V
		Date	Time
19	Tender Closing Date and Time	10/02/2024	V 12:00 Noon V
20	Tender Opening Date and Time	10/02/2024	V 12:15 PM V
21	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address	
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Registrar Office, Room # 218, Block- B, BSMMU, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.	
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Pro-VC (Research & Development), Pro-VC (Admin), Pro-VC (Academic), Treasurer office, Director (Hospital) Office, Director (Finance) Office.	
	- Receiving Tender Document	Office of The Pro-VC (Academic) & Chairman, Central Purchase Committee, Room No.109, Block-B (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), or Milon Hall (Extension), BSMMU Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.	
	- Opening Tender Document	Office of The Pro -VC (Academic) & Chairman, Central Purchase Committee, Room No.109, Block-B (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), or Milon Hall, (Extension), BSMMU Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderer who have experience in supplying Furniture. (Detail can be seen in STD)	
23	Brief Description of Goods	Furniture.	
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Shown in Tender Schedule.	
25	Price of Tender Document (BDT)	5,000 (Five Thousand Taka Only) Non Refundable.	
	Package No.	Identification of Lot	Location
			Tender Security Amount (BDT)
			Completion Time in Day/ Weeks / Months
26	BSMMU/2024/248	Lot No. 01-02 Furniture	BSMMU Campus.
			Lot No. 01 = 1,50,000.00 Lot No. 02 = 70,000.00
			120 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Dr. AKM Mosharraf Hossain	
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) & Chairman, Central Purchase Committee	
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Room- 109, Block- B, BSMMU, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.	
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender Phone	55165850, 5165602	
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders		
	বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.bsmmu.ac.bd">www.bsmmu.ac.bd</a> -তে পাওয়া যাবে।		

(Professor Dr. AKM Mosharraf Hossain)  
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) & Chairman, Central Purchase Committee.  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.



# Liverpool survive Fulham scare to book League Cup final date with Chelsea

**SPORTS DESK**

Liverpool will face Chelsea in the League Cup final after surviving a scare in their 1-1 draw against Fulham in the semi-final second leg on Wednesday. Holding a 2-1 advantage from the first leg, Liverpool took the lead through Luis Diaz early in the first half at Craven Cottage. That should have been the signal for a comfortable evening for Jurgen Klopp's side. But they missed several chances to kill off Fulham before Issa Diop's late goal set the stage for a dramatic denouement. Liverpool barely held on under Fulham's barrage of pressure before finally clinching a 3-2 aggregate

final won by Liverpool on penalties, the Reds will make their 14th appearance in the League Cup showpiece against Chelsea at Wembley on February 25. "It's fantastic. We had the experience before, we know what to expect. Again Chelsea. Wow what a story that is," Klopp said. "You should never take for granted if you are part of the team who can qualify for trophies." Liverpool have won the League Cup a record nine times, while Chelsea, who routed Middlesbrough 6-2 on aggregate on the other semi-final, have lifted the trophy on five occasions, most recently in 2015. With Mohamed Salah suffering a serious hamstring injury on Africa

incredible quadruple trophy haul this season. Black and white billboards with the slogan 'dare to dream' had surrounded the Craven Cottage pitch in a pre-match message to the Fulham fans, who responded with a raucous atmosphere that belied their sedate reputation. It didn't take long for Liverpool to puncture Fulham's optimism. - Deadly Diaz - Klopp's men wasted no time getting on the front foot as Diaz glanced a header narrowly wide from Harvey Elliott's free-kick inside the first two minutes. Crucially, Joao Palhinha wasted a golden opportunity to put Fulham ahead when the unmarked midfielder met Andreas Pereira's corner with a

the ball in the net again midway through the half but this time his strike was disallowed for offside against Darwin Nunez. So dominant in the opening stages, Liverpool let their guard down after that and Raul Jimenez's effort from outside the edge brought a sprawling save from Caoimhin Kelleher. Deputising for the rested Alisson Becker, Kelleher held Willian's 25-yard blast moments later. Kelleher gifted Fulham a chance by coming off his line in a failed bid to catch Willian's cross, with Tosin Adarabioyo's knock-down smashed against the post by Pereira. That lucky let-off re-energised Liverpool, who threatened a second goal as Nunez's curler forced a fine save from



# Hodge, Da Silva lead West Indies fightback in 2nd test

**SPORTS DESK**

Kavem Hodge and Joshua Da Silva led a West Indies fightback in the middle session of the second test to reach 145-5 against Australia at the Gabba on Thursday. Hodge and wicketkeeper Da Silva came together at the start of the second session with the West Indies in huge trouble at 64-5. But the pair dug in and put on an 81-run partnership to take the West Indies batsmen, most of whom were playing in a day-night test for the first time. After winning the toss and deciding to bat first on a hot day under clear skies, West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite would have been hoping to get the visitors off to a good start at the top of the order. However, he looked unsettled and fell for four in the eighth over when he played at a Josh Hazlewood delivery outside off stump and got

took three wickets in the first session to put Australia in control at the first break. Starc bowled with pace and aggression as he claimed his 350th test wicket but he was helped by some poor shots from the West Indies batsmen, an edge to keeper Alex Carey. Fellow opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul had looked more comfortable at the other end and he and an aggressive Kirk McKenzie started to move the score along. But McKenzie, who scored 21 from 25 balls, tried one big shot too many and got a thick edge off Pat Cummins to first slip where Usman Khawaja took a sharp chance high to his right. Chanderpaul (21) was next to go when he edged Starc to Steve Smith at second slip to leave the West Indies struggling at 54-3. That was soon 57-3 when Alick Athanaze became Starc's 350th test wicket, caught behind by Carey for eight. Khawaja got his second

an edge to keeper Alex Carey. Fellow opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul had looked more comfortable at the other end and he and an aggressive Kirk McKenzie started to move the score along. But McKenzie, who scored 21 from 25 balls, tried one big shot too many and got a thick edge off Pat Cummins to first slip where Usman Khawaja took a sharp chance high to his right. Chanderpaul (21) was next to go when he edged Starc to Steve Smith at second slip to leave the West Indies struggling at 54-3. That was soon 57-3 when Alick Athanaze became Starc's 350th test wicket, caught behind by Carey for eight. Khawaja got his second

catch when Greaves edged Starc to first slip with the dinner break just four balls away. But the second session belonged to the West Indies, with Hodge and Da Silva resolute in the face of the Australian attack. AUSTRALIA: Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins (capt), Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood. WEST INDIES: Kraigg Brathwaite (capt), Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze, Kavem Hodge, Justin Greaves, Joshua Da Silva (wk), Kevin Sinclair, Alzarri Joseph, Kemar Roach, Shamar Joseph.



success. "This was not a night to shine or play a bit of fancy football, it was a night to qualify for a final. The boys did really well and I'm really happy," Klopp said. "The very young ones have been incredible. I'm so happy to see their reaction in the dressing room." In a repeat of the 2022

Cup of Nations duty with Egypt, Liverpool will be bereft of star power for several weeks. But in Salah's absence, Liverpool's victory over Bournemouth on Sunday took them five points clear at the top of the Premier League. The Reds are also competing in the FA Cup and Europa League, giving them a chance for an

volley that whistled over from 10 yards. Diaz made sure Liverpool took advantage of that escape in the 11th minute, the Colombian rising to win an aerial challenge before darting into the area for a low drive that squirmed through Bernd Leno's weak attempted save at his near post. A constant thorn in Fulham's side, Diaz had

Leno at full stretch. But Harry Wilson came off the bench to provide a spark for Fulham in the closing stages, whipping over a perfectly-placed cross that Diop flicked past Kelleher from close-range. In a tense finale, Kelleher made a good stop to keep out Wilson's blistering strike before Liverpool could finally celebrate.

## Shoaib advises youngsters 'not to go into shell'

**SPORTS DESK**

Pakistani cricket legend Shoaib Malik feels that youngsters should not go into a shell following failure rather focus on expressing themselves as that is the best way to get out of bad patch. Shoaib, who is currently in Dhaka to play the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League 2024 (BPL), the country's lone franchise-based T20 tournament, for Fortune Barisal also advised the youngsters not to take too many information rather focus on playing their natural game. "For youngster my advice is just simple opportunity is there grab the opportunity with both hands," Shoaib said BPL broadcaster T Sports when he was asked what advice he wants to give to youngster after playing for so many years. "Learning process never ends especially when you don't do well don't put yourself really down or go into a shell that its take really while to comeback. So, I guess simple message is go out there and express yourself and learn from wherever you get an opportunity," he said. "Being a youngster what I suggest is that don't gain too much information and just go out there and express have that faith that you will do well," he said adding that he feels that he feels waiting game is more suitable at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium rather than anything else. "I think Mirpur wicket is like it's not an easy wicket to bat on and I guess the best thing is playing here is to assess as a batter as a bowler as a spinner and I guess of course you make plan and make plan as a team and the best way to going down when you play in Mirpur is to assess and then play accordingly and that what we have been doing," he said. Shoaib further added that he is still enjoying cricket and would like to continue as far that enjoyment is there.

# Morocco Win Over Zambia Allows Ivory Coast to Scrape into Last 16



**SPORTS DESK**

Hakim Ziyech scored to give Morocco a 1-0 Africa Cup of Nations Group F win over Zambia on Wednesday -- a result that enabled hosts Ivory Coast to scrape into the last 16. The Ivorians, humbled 4-0 by Equatorial Guinea on Monday, were among the four highest-ranked third-placed teams who qualified. Group winners Morocco will face South Africa in the round of 16 while runners-up the

Democratic Republic of Congo, who drew 0-0 with Tanzania, face Egypt. Morocco coach Walid Regragui watched the match from the stand after being banned for two matches following a post-match clash with DR Congo captain Chancel Mbemba on Sunday, AFP reported. Regragui entered the pitch after a 1-1 draw and appeared to have strong words with Mbemba, while also attempting to shake hands. The two men then had to be

separated by several people. The Royal Moroccan Football Federation said they will appeal the suspension, calling it an "incomprehensible decision (as) Regragui did not... contravene the spirit of fair play". Morocco were playing their 73rd match and Zambia a 70th in the flagship African competition, but this was only the third time they have met with the Atlas Lions previously winning and drawing.

# Aryna Sabalenka gets revenge on Coco Gauff to reach Australian Open final

*Aryna Sabalenka got revenge on Coco Gauff to reach the women's Australian Open final*

**SPORTS DESK**

Big-hitting Sabalenka hit 33 winners on her way to a 7-6 6-4 win in the Rod Laver Arena in a clash of the last two Major champions left in the women's draw. She is the first woman since Serena

Dayana Yastremska. Gauff had won her last 12 Grand Slam matches while defending champion Sabalenka had not lost here in 12. Something had to give and the Belarusian has now reached her third Grand Slam final without

Speaking to the crowd in the Rod Laver Arena, she added: "The last time I played her (in New York) I didn't have almost any support so thank you guys very much. I appreciate all the support and the atmosphere. You make this place really

watched by Billie Jean King and Evonne Goolagong Cawley. "It is a privilege to play in front of you," said the Belarusian. "Thank you for what you have done for our sport." Sabalenka started like she meant business with an ace and won eight of the first nine points to lead 2-0 - the first of six breaks of serve in the rollercoaster opening set. Gauff immediately broke back and served five doubles faults in her opening three service games to trail 2-4. Sabalenka served for the set at 5-3 but was broken for a second time when she slapped a forehand into the net to concede four games in a match for the first time in the tournament. In her first five matches, she had dropped only 16 games. Gauff saved a set point at 4-5 with a huge serve - and then broke the Belarusian to lead 6-5 after the defending champion hooked a horrible forehand off a short ball into the tramlines.



Williams (2016-17) to reach back-to-back Australian Open finals. And she will face the winner of the second semi-final between China's No. 12 seed Qinwen Zheng and Ukrainian

dropping a set. She said: "I think I was able to focus on myself. I was prepared that she was prepared to run and get all the balls back to me. I had to be ready to play an extra shot. That was the key tonight."

special for me." Our community members are treated to special offers, promotions, and adverts from us and our partners. You can check out at any time. More info The semi-final was

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Department of the Public Health Engineering  
Chudadanga district, Chudadanga.  
ce.chudadanga@dphc.gov.bd, xndphcchudadanga@gmail.com/ফোন নং ০১৯-৬২৪৪৪

Memo No:-46.03.1800.061.14.002.15-905  
**Invitation for e-Tender Notice**

01	Division	Local Government Division
02	Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
03	Program Name	Revenue
04	e-Tender ID	937929
06	Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, DPHE, Chudadanga district, Chudadanga. Telephone- 0761-62544. Repairing an Maintenance Works and Boundary Wall and Approach road and vehicle shed at Chudadanga District office In Chudadanga District for Department of public Health Engineering during FY2023-24.
07	This is an online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system Portal <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> e-Tender are invited in e-GP system Portal <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> by the Executive Engineer, DPHE, Chudadanga district.	

(Mohammad Sheikh Farid)  
Executive Engineer, DPHE  
Chudadanga district, Chudadanga.