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Intensify drive against food hoarding fake currency: PM to RAB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the RAB to further strengthen their drives against food hoarding and the circulation of counterfeit currencies ahead of Ramadan and Eid, along with taking tougher legal action against militancy, terrorism, drug abuse, and teenagers' gang culture. "Some of our unscrupulous traders keep hoarding the commodities, which we require the most during the month of Ramadan, and exercise other unethical tactics to increase their prices (to make more profit). You have to take appropriate measures against them," she said. The Prime Minister said they even become more profit-mongers, forgetting that Ramadan is a month of self-constraint from doing all bad things. She was addressing a function as the chief

guest, marking the 20th founding anniversary of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) at its headquarters here. Mentioning that the circulation of fake currencies usually increases ahead of Eid, she said, surveillance has to be enhanced further ahead of Eid to this end. "RAB personnel have to continue the drives against counterfeit currencies," she said. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan spoke at the function, while Director General (DG) of the RAB M Khurshid Hossain gave the welcome address. PM's Security Adviser, Major General (rt) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and Public Security Division Senior Secretary Md. Mustafizur Rahman, were present on the dias. A video documentary on the activities of the RAB was also screened. On her arrival at the venue, the Prime Minister was given

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina function as the chief guest, 20th founding anniversary of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) at its headquarters —BSS

Bangabandhu's March 7 speech will glorify Bangalees in world: PM

STAFF REPORTER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday hoped that the 'Joy Bangla' slogan and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech on 7 March will inspire the Bangalees to proceed with their heads high on the world stage. "As a result of the initiatives taken by our government, Bangladesh has been recognized as a role model for development in the world today. We have established

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S Alam Group's sugar mill fire not doused in 48 hours

NEWS DESK

The fire at the S Alam Group-owned sugar refinery factory in Chattogram couldn't be doused fully in more than 48 hours. The fire service says it may take two to three more days to extinguish the fire fully. Chattogram Fire Service deputy assistant director Abdullah Harun Pasha said that although the fire was not likely to spread outside, it would take more time to be doused fully. "Sugar raw materials are stored all over the area. It is not possible to extinguish the fire from below. At the moment, there is no alternative to sprinkling water from above. Ten units of fire service are

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Historic 7th March on Today

STAFF REPORTER

The nation is set to observe the historic 7th March on Thursday in a befitting manner, commemorating the landmark speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which was touted as an indirect declaration of the country's independence in 1971.

The ruling Awami League (AL) has taken elaborate programme to observe the historic 7th March, a red-letter day in the country's history, on Thursday in a befitting manner. Marking the day, the ruling AL will hoist national and party flags atop Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices at 6:30am, said a press release. AL leaders and workers will place wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait on the premises of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi at 7:00am. A discussion will be held at AL's Dhaka District Office in the city's Tejgaon at 4:00pm. Awami League

President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair the discussion. AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader urged leaders and workers of the party and its associate bodies and the people to observe the day with due respect across the



country. On the 7th March, 1971, the great leader Sheikh Mujib, the architect of independent Bangladesh, in his historic address at a mammoth rally at the then Race Course (now Suhrawardy Udyan), directed the freedom-loving Bangalees for waging a decisive struggle against

the then Pakistan occupation forces. "Turn every house into a fortress, resist the enemy with everything you have ... Having mastered the lesson of sacrifice, we shall give more blood. God willing [Inshallah], we shall free the people of this land," Bangabandhu also said in his speech.

The speech inspired the Bengalees to prepare for a war of independence. The Liberation War began 18 days later when the Pakistan Army launched "Operation Searchlight" against unarmed Bangalee civilians, intellectuals, students, politicians, and armed personnel on the night of 25 March 1971. On October 30 in 2017, UNESCO recognised the historic speech as part of the world's documentary heritage as the landmark fiery speech of Bangabandhu inspired the Bengalees to prepare for the War of Liberation in 1971. It has been included in the Memory of the World International Register, a list

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LGRD Minister: DCs instructed to combat Aedes mosquito outbreak

STAFF REPORTER

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam has directed the deputy commissioners (DC) to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. The fourth day of the DC conference started at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium at 9:15am on Wednesday.

Later, the minister said: "The incidence of Aedes mosquitoes could increase in the future. The DCs have been instructed to take effective steps in this regard. While earlier prevalent in urban areas, the expansion of new buildings and houses in rural regions, coupled with the possibility of waterlogging, could lead to Aedes mosquito

breeding in rural areas." Tazul said: "I had given many instructions to the deputy commissioners and divisional commissioners in a virtual meeting before this where the work has been divided according to the instructions." He underscored the importance of raising awareness to combat Aedes mosquitoes, citing that 90% of the effort required is related to awareness, while the remaining 10% involves technical aspects. The minister informed that Dhaka South City Corporation approved the procurement of medicines worth Tk5 crore in a meeting on Wednesday. He highlighted the decreasing prevalence of Aedes mosquitoes in Dhaka city, dropping below 20% last year, while

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Top Haitian gang leader warns of civil war, genocide

AFP

A powerful Haitian gang leader warned Tuesday that the chaos engulfing the capital Port-au-Prince will lead to civil war and "genocide" unless Prime Minister Ariel Henry steps down. The stark comments from Jimmy Cherizier, known as "Barbecue," came as Henry appeared to be struggling to fly home, with the main airport under attack and neighboring Dominican Republic refusing permission for him to land. Henry -- who was supposed to step down last month -- was out of the country last week when armed criminal gangs, who control large swathes of the country, launched a coordinated assault to oust

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Bangladesh embracing digital innovations for wildlife conservation: Environment Minister

STAFF REPORTER

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury Yesterday Wednesday said that the government has taken initiatives to use digital technology and services to ensure sustainable conservation of wildlife, legal wildlife trade, and coexistence of humans and wildlife. Diverse digital technologies are being explored to accelerate wildlife conservation. Civil society, technocrats, and conservationists must all be committed to sustainable adaptation and the application of digital innovation in wildlife conservation, he said. The environment minister was speaking as the chief guest at a programme organised on the occasion of World Wildlife Day 2024 with the slogan "Connecting



People and Planet: Exploring Innovation in wildlife Conservation" at the Forest Department on Wednesday. Chief Conservator of Forest Md. Amir Hossain Chowdhury presided over the function. Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Farhina Ahmed and Additional Secretary Iqbal Abdullah Harun were present as special guests at the event. Dr. Mohammad Anwarul Islam, Chief Executive, WildTeam, and Mukit Majumdar Babu, Chairman, Nature and Life Foundation also spoke on

the occasion. The environment minister said that the tiger survey of the Sundarbans is ongoing through camera trapping. At present, crime monitoring and management activities in Sundarbans are being conducted through drone technology and smart patrolling. Wildlife conservation and prevention of illegal trade in wildlife through advanced tracking systems, real-time data analytics, radio collaring etc. are also continuing. Minister Saber said, DNA barcode database creation through

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Israel to allow worshippers access to Al-Aqsa in Ramadan

AFP

Israel will allow as many Muslim worshippers to access Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem during the first week of Ramadan as in previous years, the prime minister's office said on Tuesday. "In the first week of Ramadan, worshippers will be allowed to enter the Temple Mount, in similar numbers to those in previous years," the statement said, using the Jewish term for the site. "Every week there will be a situation assessment in terms of security and safety and a decision will be made accordingly," it added. Every year, tens of thousands of Muslim worshippers perform Ramadan prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque.

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Climate change disproportionately impacts rural women, poor, elders: FAO

NEWS DESK

Female farmers, poor people, and older populations are the most affected by climate change, and their needs require targeted measures, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlighted in a report published on Tuesday. The study, titled "Unjust Climate," reveals that certain social groups are disproportionately affected by climate-related income disparities due to unequal capacities to adapt to extreme weather. Conducted over two years by a team of eight experts and various consultants, the report collected socio-economic data from 109,000 rural households in 24 low and middle-income countries, representing over 950 million

people. According to the study, if average temperatures were to increase by just 1 degree Celsius, rural women would face a 34 percent greater loss in their total incomes compared to men. As for poor households, rising temperature renders them more dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture, and with floods, they would lose 4.4 percent of their total compared to non-poor households on average. The findings, categorized by gender, wealth and age, aim to guide countries in developing tailored responses to address the diverse needs of affected groups. "Our hope is that we will start taking into more consideration the differences in the vulnerability of people, because vulnerabilities

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Hamas vows to press on with Gaza ceasefire talks as humanitarian plight worsens

REUTERS
Hamas said on Wednesday it was pressing on with efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza with Israel despite the absence of Israeli negotiators from talks in Egypt. Negotiators from the Palestinian militant group, Qatar and Egypt are in Cairo trying to secure a 40-day ceasefire in the war between Israel and the Islamist group in time for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which begins early next week. U.S. President Joe Biden said on Tuesday it was in the hands of Hamas whether to accept a deal on the table for a ceasefire in exchange for the release of Israeli hostages.



"We are showing the required flexibility in order to reach a comprehensive cessation of aggression against our people, but the occupation is still evading the entitlements of this agreement," Hamas said in a statement. Israeli forces, aiming to eradicate Hamas following its deadly raid on Israel on Oct. 7, have continued

bombarding Gaza during three days of talks in Cairo, and the dire humanitarian situation in the Palestinian enclave has deteriorated further. "Every day costs us dozens of martyrs [dead]. We want a ceasefire now," Shaban Abdel-

districts in Khan Younis reported explosions all night from the air and ground. Israeli warplanes also struck areas in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp and the city of Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza, and part of the southern city of Rafah, witnesses said.

Health officials in Hamas-run Gaza said the number of people confirmed killed in Israel's offensive had now passed 30,700, with 86 deaths reported in the past 24 hours.

DEAL ON THE TABLE
The deal presented to Hamas would free some of the hostages it still holds following the Oct. 7 attack, in which Israel said 1,200 people were killed and 253

Raouf, a Palestinian electrician and father of five from Gaza City, who is now in the southern city of Khan Younis, told Reuters via a chat app. "Khan Younis is being burnt upside down, while America claims it wants to protect the civilians. Israel has been destroying houses and roads for months while we hear fake promises of an imminent ceasefire."

abducted. Aid to Gaza would be increased to try to avert famine as hospitals treat acutely malnourished children, and Hamas would provide a list of all the hostages held in Gaza. The United States on Tuesday revised language in a draft U.N. Security Council resolution to back "an immediate ceasefire of roughly six weeks in Gaza together with the release of all

▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Japanese Studies Carnival observed at DU

STAFF REPORTER

The Dhaka University's Japanese Studies department has observed its 7th founding anniversary celebrating Japanese Studies Day 2024 with three-day long elaborate programmes. DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr A S M Maksud Kamal addressed the closing ceremony of the carnival as chief guest Yesterday Wednesday at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of Social Sciences faculty. The DJ's carnival was held from the March 3 to 5 in the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium and the department premises with a number of academic, extracurricular, and cultural activities.

The Department of Japanese Studies, the first area studies department of the university, has been teaching and conducting researches on Japanese and East Asian economy, politics, business, society, language-literature-culture, philosophy, religion, international relation, and various other sectors. DU Social Sciences faculty dean Professor Dr. Zia Rahman addressed as guest of honor on the occasion. ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Bangladesh Safe Food Authority and BSMMU Signing of Agreement of Compromise between

STAFF REPORTER

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Bangladesh Safe Food Authority (BFSFA) and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Faculty of Preventive and Social Medicine. The agreement was signed at Bangladesh Safe Food Authority office on Wednesday at 3 pm (March 6, 2024 AD). During the signing of the agreement, in the speech of the chief guest, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Sharfuddin Ahmed said, Bangladesh Sheikh

Mujib Medical University always wants to be involved in research with safe food authority. If safe food is to be made, there must be an involvement of research. The dream of the father of the nation Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister is that the people of the country should be happy and safe. To be safe, the main emphasis should be on diet. Everyone says that health is the mercy of God. A safe diet plays a major role in health. He expressed optimism that this memorandum of understanding will one day become a great one. On behalf of the Bangladesh Safe Food Authority, the

secretary of the authority Abdu Nasser Khan and the Dean of the Faculty of Preventive and Social Medicine of BSMMU Dr. Md. Atiqul Haque signed. Md. Abdul Qayyum Sarkar, chairman of Bangladesh Safe Food Authority, presided over the MoU ceremony. He said, safe food is a science-based process. Therefore, scientific decisions require accurate data and reliable research. By signing this MoU, the Safe Food Authority and Bangladesh Medical University will be able to work together to ensure safe food for the people by coordinating research, information and ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

2 commercial buildings in Gulshan-2 declared 'risky', Kacchi Bhai fined Tk1 lakh

STAFF REPORTER

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has declared two commercial buildings in Gulshan-2 'risky', due to a lack of fire safety measures. During a drive conducted by the DSCC mobile court Yesterday Wednesday morning, both the six-storied and seven-storied buildings were marked by hanging cautionary banners for potential danger they pose in terms of fire hazard. DNCC Zone-3 Executive Magistrate Zulkar Nayan led

the mobile court. He was accompanied by the corporation's Executive Magistrate Mahmudul Hasan and officials from the Fire Service and Civil Defense. Earlier on the day, the mobile court fined Tk1 lakh to Kacchi Bhai restaurant located in Gulshan-2, Dhaka. Apart from this, another restaurant named Dhansiri was fined Tk40,000 for failing to adhere to fire safety regulations. A fine of Tk50,000 was imposed for storing goods on the stairs in front of a house, located at holding number 34.

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Discussion meeting of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila Awami League

Md Ruhul Amin Raju

An exchange meeting was held with the leaders of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila Awami League. The exchange meeting was organized at Jamalpur Recreation Club on Wednesday (March 6) at noon. President of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila Awami League Dr. Acting President of Jamalpur District Awami League Farooq Ahmed Chowdhury spoke as the chief guest in the exchange meeting chaired by MA Mannan Khan. Sadar Upazila Awami League General Secretary Advocate Hafizur Rahman Swapan was present among others. District Awami League Vice President Syed Atiqur Rahman Chana, Mirza



Sakhawatul Alam Moni, Ashraf Hossain Tarafdar, GSM Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Haji Didar Pasha, Labor Affairs Secretary Awlad Hossain Khosru and member Azizur Rahman Doll and others. Leaders and activists of 15 unions of Awami League and affiliates of Sadar Upazila Awami League were present in the exchange meeting. At the end of the exchange meeting, a special prayer was offered for the well-being of the country and nation. ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

7th March is unforgettable in Bangalee's independence history: President

STAFF REPORTER

President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Wednesday said 7th March is an unforgettable day in the history of Bangalee's Liberation Movement and Independence. In a message on the occasion of the historic 7th March, he remembered with profound respect the architect of Independence, the greatest Bangalee of all times Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "On this day in 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered an ageless speech in a thunderous voice in the then Race Course Maidan which was the charter of Independence of the Bengali nation," he said. The President said the entire Bengali nation was mesmerized on that day by the eternal poem of the great Poet of Politics Bangabandhu. In this epic, lasting only 18 minutes, the great mantra of liberation of the Bengali nation was resounded, he said, adding that Bangabandhu's lucid and dazzling speech shook the throne of the Pakistani dic ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

freedom fighter Taimur Rahman's funeral has been completed

Shamsul Alam

Veteran politician of Thakurgaon District BNP President and former Sadar Upazila Chairman Bir Muktijoddha The funeral of Taimur Rahman was completed. On Wednesday, the first prayer was held at Thakurgaon city's General Library ground and the second prayer was held at Ruhia Salehia Fazil Madrasa ground in the afternoon, followed by burial in the nearby cemetery. According to family sources, he died last Sunday while undergoing treatment at the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital in Bombay, India after suffering from lung cancer for a long time. He was 77 years old. At the time of his death, he left behind his wife, 3 sons, 2 daughters, relatives, friends and numerous well-wishers. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condoled with the ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

2 arrested with Yaba in Matiranga

Khagrachari Correspondent:

Police have arrested 2 people along with 180 pieces of Yaba in Matiranga of Khagrachari hill district. Khagrachari District Police Superintendent Mukta Dhar confirmed the matter in a press release on Wednesday (March 6) afternoon. According to the notification, based on secret information, a smart team of Matiranga police station conducted a special operation with 180 pieces of Yaba tablets. Md Maqbul Hossain (60), Syed Rashed (40), resident of Rasulpur area of Ward No. 09 of Matiranga ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

Jatka Conservation Week begins from March 11

STAFF REPORTER

Fisheries and livestock Minister Abdul Rahman on Wednesday said the government will observe Jatka Conservation Week-2024 from March 11 to 17 aiming at creating mass awareness about preserving hilsa fry to boost its production. The minister said this while speaking at a press conference marking the Jatka Conservation Week at the meeting room in the Secretariat in the capital. Various programmes will be organised at the field, upazila and district level to observe the jatka conservation week over seven days, the minister said. This year's Jatka Conservation Week will be inaugurated on March 11 at Molehead premises of Sadar Upazila Chandpur and a boat rally will be held on the

Meghna river on the day, he said. The government has allocated 40kg rice per month for the fishermen families, he said adding that the present government is not only enforcing laws to protect Jatka but it (government) has also increased the amount of VGF food assistance to fishermen during this fishing ban. The minister said that in 2023-24 fiscal year, the government has been continuing a VGF rice distribution programme, where 57 thousand 771 metric tons of rice is being given in 20 districts of 97 upazilas. As part of the programme, a total of 3 lakh 61 thousand 71 fishermen families are being given 40 kg of rice for 4 months. The government is taking various measures, including jatka conservation week, to ensure availability of Hilsa fish for all.

Nasrul asks state-run oil companies to expedite automation work

STAFF REPORTER

State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has asked the authorities of all three state-run oil companies to make automation work faster aimed at ensuring better services and reducing wastage. "We hope that automation activities of oil companies will be done within next three years. If all activities can be done according to the schedule, quick success will be achieved. We have to be innovative and communicative for better and improved services," he said while visiting Padma Oil Company Limited, Meghna Oil Company Limited and Jamuna Oil Company Limited at Patenga here Yesterday Wednesday. The state minister said that automation

will reduce pilferage, wastage, time and also cost, which will help the government make Bangladesh a smart country, adding, "Padma Oil Company was established around 154 years ago but it is not up-to-the-mark. Modern technologies are being used in other countries like India." About Padma Oil Company and its current activities, the state minister asked the authorities to take projects to be smart, as the Power and Energy Ministry will go for paperless and cashless activities, adding, "We must remember automation could help us to curb corruption and ensure accountability." Nasrul Hamid said that monitoring of project implementation should be expedited as the project should be completed in time. Earlier, he inspected ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

An annual sports and cultural competition was held at Chengguttia Government Primary School in Agailjhara

Ataur Rahman Chanchal

The annual sports and cultural competition program was completed at Chengguttia Government Primary School, a traditional educational institution of Agailjhara Upazila, Barisal. Yesterday, March 5th (Tuesday), the day-long competition was held in the school grounds. The event was chaired by HM Manik Hasan, president of the school's managing committee and head teacher of Dhandoba Secondary School, and Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, vice chairman of Agailjhara Upazila Parishad, was the chief guest. Special guests were

freedom fighter Abu Bakr Siddique, president of Chengguttia Nazrul Smriti Sangh, former president of school managing committee, freedom fighter Sohrab Hossain Talukder, freedom fighter Shahnewaz Talukder, managing committee member Roman Talukder, assistant headmaster of Dhandoba Secondary School Shyamal Chandra Jayadhar, senior teacher Maulana Deloir Hossain, UP member BM Khokon, Abdu Salam Salim along with local political leaders, teachers, students, parents, former students and dignitaries of the area. General instructions were given by Chengguttia ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

75 teen gang members arrested in Dhaka

STAFF REPORTER

Detectives in separate drives have arrested 75 members of 'teen gangs' from different areas of the capital in two days. They were arrested from Tejgaon, Gulshan, Uttara and Motijheel areas on Tuesday and Wednesday. DB Chief and Additional Commissioner of Police Harun-or-Rashid revealed this information while briefing reporters on Wednesday at DB's Minto Road office. Most of the arrestees were wanted in different cases, he added. Recently, police found the involvement of so-called 'elders brothers' in patronising them. The ▶▶ SEE PAGE-2

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রংপুর নগরীকে পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখতে এগিয়ে আসুন।

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- যেখানে-সেখানে আবর্জনা ফেলবেন না।
- ফুটপাথ দখল করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পদ রক্ষা করুন।
- পানির অপচয় রোধ করুন।
- ট্রাফিক আইন মেনে চলুন।
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- ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের লাইসেন্স করুন।
- দেশের কল্যাণে এগিয়ে আসুন।
- কৃষিপণ্য উৎপাদনে কৃষকদের সহযোগিতা করুন।
- বাল্য বিবাহকে না বলুন।
- মাতৃভাষা ও আঞ্চলিক ভাষাকে প্রাধান্য দিবে মায়ের ভাষাকে ভালোবাসিবো।

মোঃ মোস্তাফিজার হমান (মোস্তফা)
মেয়র
রংপুর সিটি কর্পোরেশন



Mark Wood returns for England but Stokes keeps two spinners for fifth Test

SPORTS DESK

Mark Wood has returned to the England team for the fifth Test against India in picturesque Dharamshala, replacing Ollie Robinson as the one change for the tourists after their series-sealing defeat in Ranchi last week. As has become customary, Ben Stokes named his XI a day out from the toss and, hoping to end the series as a 3-2 defeat, did so despite illness in the camp. Both Robinson and Shoaib Bashir were absent from training on Wednesday due to upset stomachs but the latter, who took eight wickets in the fourth Test, has still kept his spot. Reports: the guardian

The recall for Wood was not unexpected, both for the beige, flat pitch that has been prepared at the HPCA Cricket Stadium and Robinson's suboptimal one-off appearance on tour that, after no warm-up cricket, saw him struggle to reach 80mph during 13 wicketless overs. It followed another back issue, this time suffered

while batting. England's final selection is contingent on Bashir brightening up overnight and, if not, it would force a change of strategy given there is no backup spinner. Surrey's uncapped fast bowler Gus Atkinson is the only spare bowler in the squad, spinners Jack Leach (knee) and Rehan Ahmed (personal reasons) having already left the tour. "I don't think it's anything to be too concerned about," said Stokes. "[Bashir and Robinson] woke up with slightly upset stomachs and the day before a game you don't want to put anybody at risk so we've decided to keep them away from the team. It's the sensible thing to do."

Regarding Wood's return alongside Jimmy Anderson, who sits two wickets away from 700 in Test cricket, Stokes admitted he expected more grass on the pitch upon arrival in Dharamshala that would dictate three frontline seamers in his attack. As it is, on a surface he described as a "belter", two spinners in Bashir and

Tom Hartley was the decision. "It looks like a wicket that could have a bit of pace and carry in it," Stokes said. "Jimmy has been Jimmy on this trip - absolutely awesome - and having a fresh Mark Wood on a wicket that you feel is going to offer some pace [was a case of] wanting pace and firepower to break the game open. Two spinners allow us to play either conditions at different times."

Stokes was supportive of Robinson in the pre-match press conference but, illness aside, the 30-year-old was unlikely to feature. And despite the England captain defending his worth ethic, the Sussex right-armed's future deployment is not straightforward given a growing back catalogue of fitness issues that have left the team short in games. Robinson suffered back spasms during the 2021/22 Ashes series that left the team a bowler down in both Adelaide and Hobart, with the problem then resurfacing during the

warm-up period for the Caribbean tour that followed that winter and made him an onlooker for the entire series. At Headingley last summer, Robinson's last outing before this tour, he pulled up after bowling just 11.2 overs. The illness in the England camp is not confined to their ranks, with members of the umpiring team also affected. Joel Wilson, due to be on the field, and Kumar Dharmasena, down for third umpire duties, are both understood to have been affected. Jayaraman Madanagopal is the designated fourth umpire in this match and, under the playing conditions, would step up to officiate if either colleague is unable to feature. England (confirmed): Crawley, Duckett, Pope, Root, Baird, Stokes (c), Foakes (wk), Hartley, Wood, Anderson, Bashir India (possible): Sharma (c), Jaiswal, Gill, Patidar, Jadeja, Sarfaraz, Jurel (wk), Ashwin, Kuldeep, Bumrah, Siraj

Arsenal hit Sheff Utd for six to set record scoring streak

SPORTS DESK

Arsenal entered the record books as a 6-0 demolition of Sheffield United on Monday kept the Gunners on Liverpool and Manchester City's tails in the Premier League title race. Martin Odegaard, Jayden Bogle's own goal, Gabriel Martinelli, Kai Havertz and Declan Rice put the visitors 5-0 at half-time before Ben White rounded off the scoring. Mikel Arteta's men become the first side to ever win three consecutive away games in the English top-flight

advantage over their rivals should the title be decided on goal difference. They remain in third, just two points behind leaders Liverpool and one adrift of defending champions City. However, Arteta's men can go top with victory at home to Brentford on Saturday ahead of Sunday's showdown between Liverpool and City at Anfield. "I love the way the team played. The quality and the aggression we showed from the beginning," said Arteta. "We have to continue to do what we

Martinelli's deflected effort quickly made it 3-0 and forced Wilder to make a change after just 17 minutes. Ben Osborn replaced Oliver Norwood but a change of shape did little to stem the bleeding for the hosts. Havertz is beginning to silence his critics after a slow start to life at the Emirates following a £65 million (\$82 million) move from Chelsea. The German international slammed home Arsenal's fourth before Rice then got in on the party by sweeping home Saka's cross six minutes before



by five or more goals. "When we had the ball, we were in a good mood today," said Arsenal captain Odegaard. "Created a lot, scored the goals early on - a nice performance." By contrast, Sheffield United also set a new record by becoming the first English top-flight side to concede five or more goals in three straight home matches. "It's a painful season and the boys are a damaged group of players," said Blades boss Chris Wilder. "They were in a different league, a different planet to us. We couldn't lay a glove on them." Arsenal's stunning streak of 31 goals in seven consecutive Premier League wins since a winter break has at least built up a big

are doing." - Havertz hits form - There appeared little doubt over the outcome from the first whistle at Bramall Lane. Bukayo Saka rattled the crossbar after just two minutes and what little resistance there was from the Blades ended just five minutes in. Rice's cross picked out the unmarked Odegaard to turn into the bottom corner. Saka's five-game scoring streak in the league came to an end but he did bag two assists before going off at half-time due to illness. The England international turned former Arsenal defender Austin Trusty with ease as he got to the by-line and his driven cross flicked off Bogle into his own net.

half-time. Only the sight of Martinelli hobbling off just after the hour mark blighted a perfect night for the visitors. White rounded off the scoring with a cool finish from Havertz's cut-back on 58 minutes as Arsenal matched their record Premier League away win, set just last month at West Ham. By that stage many of the home support had headed for the exits, resigned to their side's fate on the night and the season. Wilder's men remain rooted to the foot of the table, 11 points adrift of safety with 11 games remaining. Arsenal on the other hand are 11 matches away from a first league title for 20 years and could not wish to be in finer form heading down the home straight.

Mbappe double fires PSG past Real Sociedad to Champions League quarters

SPORTS DESK

Kylian Mbappe lethally fired Paris Saint-Germain into the Champions League quarter-finals with a brace in a 2-1 win at Real Sociedad on Tuesday, his team cruising through 4-1 on aggregate. Coach Luis Enrique has slashed Mbappe's minutes in recent weeks after the player told the club he would leave at the end of the season, but the France captain proved he will be vital if PSG are to finally win the competition for the first time. The electric Mbappe was impossible for Real Sociedad to shackle and his strikes after 15 and 56 minutes left the Ligue 1 leaders with a simple night in the north of Spain. Heavily linked to Real Madrid, the determined Mbappe gave La Liga's defences a glimpse of what horrors may await them next season. The forward fired over in the opening stages and then blazed past Hamari Traore to set up Bradley Barcola, but Alex Remiro denied him from point-blank range. It was not so much that Real Sociedad did not heed the

warning but simply could not stop him. Played into the box but wide of goal, Mbappe produced the opener from thin air. With a couple of clever touches he sent Igor Zubeldia scrambling and opened up enough space for a shot, which he whipped into the far corner

PSG's lead 11 minutes into the second half, racing in behind the defence from the halfway line. The striker shaped another shot to the far post but then tricked Remiro by sweeping home at the near for his sixth goal in eight Champions League matches this season.

search of a consolation goal which finally came at the death. Donnarumma palmed away a cross into the middle of the box and Mikel Merino was in the right place at the right time to fire home. Another of the few negative notes for PSG was



from a tight angle. Mbappe's vicious strike pulled part of the netting away from the post and players had to wait until it was fixed for play to resume. They might not have bothered -- the contest was effectively over. Mbappe stretched

Real Sociedad substitute Ander Barrenetxea had a goal ruled out for a tight offside moments after coming on. Gianluigi Donnarumma made a superb save to thwart Benat Turrientes, as the hosts finally began to threaten consistently, in

a booking for defender Achraf Hakimi, which will rule him out of the quarter-final first leg. PSG will worry about that later -- this was a night to celebrate Mbappe's genius, despite the clock ticking down on his days in Paris.

Australian bowlers out to dampen Williamson's 100th Test

SPORTS DESK

Seamer Mitchell Starc said Australia's bowlers aim to ensure New Zealand world-class batsman Kane Williamson doesn't stay long at the crease on his 100th Test appearance. New Zealand host Australia in Christchurch when the second Test begins on Friday. The tourists lead the two-match series 1-0 after Australia romped to a 172-run win in the opening Test. Both Williamson and New Zealand Test captain Tim Southee will play their 100th Test at Hagley Park. Starc says the Australians want Williamson removed quickly. "During the game, (the aim is) to make it as short as possible," Starc told reporters Wednesday when asked about Williamson's milestone. "Anytime you can get one of the best batters in the world out is always a nice little touch. The sooner the better." Williamson, who has chalked up nearly 9,000 Test runs, had a torrid time in the first redball game against Australia, which finished Sunday. He was run out for a duck after colliding with opener Will Young midway down the wicket, having faced just two balls, in the first innings. He hit nine runs off 19 balls in the second innings before being caught by Steve Smith off a Nathan Lyon delivery. Starc said specialist spinner Lyon, who finished with ten wickets on the green wicket in Wellington, has a plan up his sleeve for Williamson. "Nathan mentioned the other day he has worked something out, so we might just toss him the ball and let him go," Starc joked. The Australian paid tribute to the two New Zealanders' lengthy careers. Williamson scored a hundred on his debut against India back in 2010, while Southee took five wickets on his first Test appearance in 2008 against England. "For Kane and Tim, it's a huge milestone this week," Starc added. "Especially for Tim - we all know how taxing it can be as a fast bowler on the body, so to play 100 Tests is a huge achievement. I'm sure they will both enjoy the week."

Schauffele, Cantlay see change needed to reward LIV talent

SPORTS DESK

Reigning Olympic champion Xander Schauffele had the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) in mind after LIV Golf withdrew its bid to obtain ranking points on Tuesday, with complaints about the system. On a practice day ahead of Thursday's start of the PGA Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill in Orlando, Schauffele and PGA Tour Policy Board member Patrick Cantlay agreed some changes might be needed to measure talent properly from the Saudi-backed LIV series. LIV commissioner Greg Norman ripped the OWGR, saying there was no resolution that "protects the accuracy, credibility, and integrity of the OWGR rankings". Only four players from the upstart series are ranked in the world top 50 since LIV's 54-hole events get no OWGR points. It's those same points that fifth-ranked Schauffele will be relying upon to give him a chance to defend Olympic gold this summer in Paris. "It's definitely on my radar. It's sort of at the back of my head," Schauffele said of the Olympics. "I know there's a lot of small things I need to do in order to qualify for the event, but first things first. I need to continue to have really solid weeks and keep my world ranking up high enough so I can qualify for Paris."

Right now, Schauffele would be joined on the US golf team in Paris by top-ranked Scottie Scheffler, sixth-ranked Patrick Cantlay and seventh-ranked Wyndham Clark but five rivals are among those in the top 15. LIV has four players in the

asked if the OWGR were broken because the criteria don't include LIV players. "I think the world rankings has a very particular set of criteria and I don't know if broken is the right word, but I think that there has been so much uncertainty and change in the last



world top 50 -- third-ranked reigning Masters champion Jon Rahm, No. 17 Tyrrell Hatton, 30th-ranked reigning PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka and 50th-ranked Cameron Smith, the 2022 British Open champion. Schauffele says LIV players should be higher. "This is sort of the structure it is right now with no OWGR," Schauffele said. "But the LIV tour definitely has really good players, players that are in the top 10 or top 25 in the world, and there's many of 'em. They're just unranked right now, but I do believe they are definitely top-ranked players in the world." - Ranking changes needed? - Cantlay had no update on merger talks between the PGA Tour and LIV's backers, the Saudi Public Investment Fund, but was

couple years that it's inevitable that things need to be updated or changed," Cantlay said. "I don't know if we've worked through all the changes necessary, compared to all the changes that have happened in the last couple years." With the rankings used to decide the entry criteria and qualifying exemptions for golf's major events, there have been concerns many of the world's best might miss out on major championships. "That's up for the majors to decide their fields," Cantlay said. "That's not really on my radar." Schauffele praised the special invitational awarded by the Masters to Chile's Joaquin Niemann, who won the Australian Open to ensure a spot in this year's British Open but has sunk to 76th in the world rankings despite two LIV Golf wins this year. "I think that's very well deserved," Schauffele said.

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e-Tender Notice
 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as Stated Below.

Sl No.	Tender ID.	Name of works	Publication Date and upto Last Selling Date
01	957009	Replacement of Sanitary Fittings, Door Lock and Tiles of Toilet, Repair and Maintenance of Water and Sewerage Line with other Ancillary Electrical Repair Works at Circuit House, Chapainawabganj.	06/03/2024 20/03/2024
02	957008	Repair and Maintenance of Drain and Garden Light with other Ancillary Civil, Sanitary and Electrical Repair Works at Residence of Deputy Commissioner, Chapainawabganj.	
03	957006	Construction of Walkway/Toilet adjacent to Guard Room with other Ancillary Civil, Sanitary and Electrical Repair Works at Residence of Civil Surgeon, Chapainawabganj.	
04	957003	Replacement of Door Lock and Damaged Fittings of Toilet, Cleaning of Septic Tank and Soak Well, Maintenance of Water Line, Door, Windows with other Ancillary Electrical Repair Works at C/M Building, Chapainawabganj.	
05	956998	Fitting and Fixing of Tiles at Corridor, Painting Works, Construction of Concrete Bench with other Ancillary Electrical Repair Works at Judge Court Building 01 and 02, Chapainawabganj.	
06	956995	Replacement of Sanitary Fittings and Tiles of Toilet, Repair of Door and Window with other Ancillary Electrical Repair Works of ADC's, AC's and AO's Room at Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chapainawabganj.	

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