

## Chinese media report PM's visit to China elevates bilateral ties

STAFF REPORTER

Different Chinese media reported that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China elevated bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. Almost all leading media published reports on the visit. Beijing based English-language news channel of state-run China Global Television Network CGTN in a report mentioned that China and Bangladesh on Wednesday elevated their relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was on an official visit to China, announced the upgrade during a meeting in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. In the meeting, Xi noted that China and Bangladesh are close and

friendly neighbors whose friendly exchanges date back over a thousand years.

He said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975, the two countries have always shown mutual respect and support, treated each other on an equal footing and engaged in win-win cooperation.

This has set a good example of friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between countries, especially between Global South countries, Xi said. He said China is ready to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year as an opportunity to deepen the high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), expand cooperation across the board in intensity and reach, and advance the sound and steady



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was welcomed by cabinet members and senior officials when she arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka after her visit to China on Thursday —PID

## PM returns home from China

STAFF REPORTER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached home after wrapping up her three-day bilateral visit to the Chinese capital Beijing Yesterday Thursday.

The premier went to Beijing on Monday afternoon at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Li Qiang.

A special flight of the Biman Bangladesh

Students crossing limits, blocking roads mounting people's sufferings: Home Minister

STAFF REPORTER

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal Yesterday Thursday said the students are crossing limits by continuing agitation programmes in support of their demand for cancellation of the quota system.

"We will listen to the demands of students... law enforcers are also aware about it. But they (students) are crossing limits. Police would not sit idle if they cause public sufferings," he added.

The home minister came up with the comments while speaking at a press conference on the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking' at his secretariat office here. Replying to a question, he said the police take legal steps if anyone resorts to violent activities,

## National Statistics Advisory Council meeting held

STAFF REPORTER

The first meeting of the National Statistics Advisory Council for the current fiscal year (FY25) was held Yesterday Thursday at the NEC conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Planning Minister Major General (ret'd) Abdus Salam presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress and significant operations of the Statistics and Informatics Division and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in line with the current government's election manifesto,

## Quader urges students not to create public sufferings

STAFF REPORTER

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader Yesterday Thursday urged the students, who are agitating to scrap the quota system in government service, to go back to their respective educational institutions stopping their movement that creates huge public sufferings.

The government must take legal actions if anyone tries to capitalize on the emotion of innocent students and tries to create anarchy across the country, he said while addressing a press briefing at the AL President's Office in city's Dhanmondi here.

Quader said BNP wants to turn the anti-quota movement into anti-

government agitations. But, Awami League would never allow them to do it, he said, adding, "We will face it politically if anyone tries to give the anti-quota movement a political shape."

He said the women have gone backward in absence of quota system in the last five years. The ethnic groups also suffered a lot. Quota system plays an important role in building the state system on basis of diversity and equality, he added.

He said quota does not create discrimination rather it is needed in some sectors to resolve the discrimination. The highest court has given a status quo for four weeks over the quota system, he said. But the AL general secretary said, it is very

## Bangladesh, China agree to elevate relations to "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership"

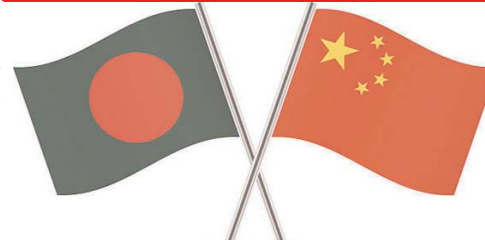
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT:

Bangladesh and China have agreed to elevate the relations to a "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership" from "strategic partnership", said a joint statement.

Bangladesh foreign ministry published the 27-point joint statement on its website after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrapped up her three-day bilateral visit to China from June 8 to 10. The prime minister returned home early hours of Yesterday Thursday from Chinese capital Beijing.

In the joint statement, the two sides have shared the view that early repatriation is the only way to resolve the issue concerning the displaced people from Myanmar, who have taken shelter in Bangladesh. "Leaders of the two countries agreed to stay committed

to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, carry forward the long-standing friendship, foster greater synergy between development strategies of the two countries, advance the Belt and Road cooperation, and elevate the bilateral



relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership," the statement said.

Bangladesh and China applauded their strategic partnership of cooperation established in 2016 and agreed that the China-Bangladesh relationship has reached a new

height. The two countries decided to take the opportunity of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-Bangladesh diplomatic relations in 2025 to plan together for the future development of bilateral ties and take the China-Bangladesh relationship to another new height.

The joint statement between the People's Republic of China and The People's Republic of Bangladesh on the Establishment of Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership is given below:

1. At the invitation of H.E. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to China from July 8 to 10, 2024. During the visit, Prime Minister

## Saber hopes Bangladesh, European Investment Bank to strengthen environmental collaboration

Md. Abu bakar

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said Bangladesh and European Investment Bank will strengthen environmental and economic collaboration in the days to come. He said we look forward to a future of robust collaboration that not only addresses climate change but also promotes sustainable economic growth for the people of Bangladesh. Environment Minister said this while engaged in a bilateral meeting with Nicola Beer, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), on Wednesday in Luxembourg, the financial and banking hub of



Europe. Nicola Beer, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), commended the holistic approach presented during the meeting, highlighting its potential to simultaneously tackle climate change and spur economic development. "It was a very inspiring meeting with Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury. We welcome this comprehensive

strategy to connect the fight against climate change with economic growth, ultimately benefiting Bangladeshi citizens," said Beer. This meeting marks a pivotal step in the continued cooperation between Bangladesh and the European Investment Bank, aiming to deliver impactful results in the fight against climate change while fostering economic prosperity.

## 103 dengue patients hospitalized

STAFF REPORTER

As many as 103 dengue patients were hospitalised during the last 24 hours till this morning, according to a daily statement of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). During the period, 45 dengue patients were hospitalised in Dhaka city, while 58 were admitted to different hospitals outside the capital, the statement added.

This year, the total number of cases rose to 4,311 while 47 deaths from dengue disease were reported during the same period. During the last 24 hours, 73 dengue patients were discharged from different hospitals. Among the total cases, 3,949

## Germany to ban Chinese telecom giants from 5G network

AFP

Germany said Thursday it will phase out the use of components from Chinese telecom giants Huawei and ZTE in its 5G networks in the coming years due to national security concerns.

It was the latest move by Berlin to reduce economic reliance on Beijing that some fear have left it vulnerable, and follows warnings from the EU that the firms pose a risk to the bloc.

Parts from Huawei and ZTE will no longer be used in "core" 5G mobile networks by the end of 2026 at the latest, the interior ministry in Berlin said.

In 5G access and transmission infrastructure, the systems of the telecom firms must be replaced by the end of 2029. "We are protecting the central nervous systems of Germany as a business location -- and we are protecting the communication of citizens, companies and the state," said Interior Minister Nancy Faeser. "We must reduce security risks and, unlike in the past, avoid one-sided dependencies." The

ministry said that 5G networks form part of Germany's "critical infrastructure" and are important for the functioning of sectors ranging from health to transport and energy.

Telecoms networks must be protected from cyberattacks, which could be an "existential threat", it added.

Officials have reached agreements with Germany's 5G network operators, Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone and Telefonica, on banning Huawei and ZTE. Government sources had already indicated in September last year that Berlin was considering such a move, although the dates announced are later than those originally envisaged to give companies time to adopt the new measures.

Faeser would not be drawn on whether she feared retaliatory measures from China, although she said that Beijing had been informed about the bans.

"For me as interior minister it is a matter of finding regulations for telecommunications networks, for critical

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## Kenya's Ruto dismisses almost entire cabinet after deadly protests

**AFP**  
Kenyan President William Ruto announced on Thursday the dismissal of almost his entire cabinet and consultations to form a "broad-based government" following widespread anti-government protests. The East African nation was left reeling after peaceful rallies last month over steep tax increases flared into deadly violence with police firing at crowds who stormed parliament, leaving it partly ablaze. Led largely by young, Gen-Z Kenyans, the protests plunged Ruto's administration into the most serious crisis of his presidency, forcing him to abandon the tax hikes and scramble to contain the damage. In the latest move to defuse tensions, Ruto said his decision would extend to all ministers including the attorney-general but excluded prime cabinet secretary and foreign minister Musalia Mudavadi and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Ruto said he decided on the

dismissals "upon reflection, listening keenly to what the people of Kenya have said and after a holistic appraisal of the performance of my cabinet and its achievements and challenges". Prominent Gen-Z protester Hanifa Adan welcomed the announcement, writing on X: "THE PRESIDENT OF KENYA HAS DISSOLVED THE CABINET!!! THE POWER



LIES WITH THE PEOPLE ALWAYS!!!!" The largely peaceful rallies have widened into a broader campaign against Ruto and his government, with some demonstrations degenerating into violence that has left dozens dead. Last week, the Kenyan leader announced sharp cuts to

government spending in response to growing anger over his cabinet's travel and renovation budgets while ordinary citizens struggle to cope with a cost of living crisis. The government will also have to increase its borrowing to pay for some services even as it grapples with massive foreign debt amounting to 70 percent of GDP. The crisis led US-based Moody's to downgrade Kenya's debt rating further into junk territory, warning of a negative outlook, which will make borrowing even more expensive for the cash-strapped government. The ratings agency said it was cutting the ratings for Kenyan government debt to Caal -- considered to have "very high credit risk" -- with the move reflecting Ruto's "significantly diminished capacity" to raise taxes and reduce debt. - 'Radical programmes' - The businessman-turned-politician, who won elections in 2022 on the promise to lift the fortunes of the common man, was caught off guard by the depth of public anger over the proposed tax hikes, which

## US consumer inflation eases more than expected

**AFP**  
US inflation cooled more than expected in June, government data showed Thursday, a positive development for President Joe Biden as he fights to win confidence on his economic record in his reelection bid. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.0 percent last month from a year ago, said the Labor Department, as a drop in gas prices more than offset housing costs. A measure stripping out volatile food and energy prices also saw the smallest annual rise since 2021. "Today's report shows that we are making significant progress fighting inflation," Biden said in a statement. While costs of cars and appliances are falling, he conceded that prices remain too high and pledged to "do everything I can for the working people that built our economy." A consensus

## Govt. circular on quota restored with SC order, don't cause public sufferings: Arafat

**STAFF REPORTER**  
State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat Yesterday Thursday said in line with the recent Supreme Court decision, the 2018 government circular on quota system for government jobs was restored, invalidating protesters demonstration causing public sufferings. "The (Supreme Court's) Appellate Division order restored the 2018 government circular on quota system... refrain from carrying out any activity that causes public sufferings," he told BSS, referring to quota protesters' street demonstration. Earlier, on Wednesday, the SC's Appellate Division issued a status quo of four weeks on the subject matter regarding quota in government jobs and the High Court judgment. The state minister said the government issued a circular in 2018 abolishing

quota in government jobs (from 9th to 13th grades), but the High Court scrapped the government circular in June this year. However, the government has already appealed to the Supreme Court against the High Court judgment, he said, adding, in the meantime, a section of students started staging demonstrations demanding quota reform. The full judgment of the Supreme Court over the issue is yet to be delivered, Arafat said, adding: "I think the SC will surely consider the students' demand while delivering the full verdict." Noting that the government cannot do anything over the quota issue until the proceedings of the Supreme Court (SC) are completed, he said the government will definitely take an initiative to reform the quota system after getting the full judgment of the Supreme Court.

## Distribution of shops and rickshaws among beggars to stop begging in Narsingdi

**Haladhar Das**  
Narsingdi Sadar Upazila Administration and Social Services Office has distributed shops and battery-operated auto-rickshaws to the people involved in begging in Narsingdi for rehabilitation and alternative employment. On Thursday (July 11) at noon, 4 beggars of Sadar Upazila were given shophouses and 1 physically challenged person was given an auto-rickshaw for rehabilitation and alternative employment. During this time, necessary goods of the shop including biscuits, chips, chocolate, tea making materials were given. Narsingdi Deputy Commissioner Dr. Badiul Alam

formally handed over the shops and auto-rickshaws between them. Narsingdi Sadar Upazila Upazila Social Service Officer Md. Ashrafur Islam said that for the rehabilitation and alternative employment of the people engaged in begging, Ministry of Social Welfare has taken initiatives for the rehabilitation and alternative employment of the people engaged in begging with the funding of the revenue sector of the government. Preliminary survey work has been completed for this. 5 people were rehabilitated from this project. Gradually, more people engaged in begging will be rehabilitated and alternative employment opportunities

## DMP requests students to shun street movement

**STAFF REPORTER**  
DMP Additional Commissioner (Crime and Ops) KH Mahid Uddin Yesterday Thursday requested the quota protesters not to wage any kind of movement blocking the roads to avoid public sufferings. "The police must have love and sympathy for them (students). But at the same time, the law enforcers are bound to respect the existing laws of the country and the highest court. From that viewpoint, I, on behalf of DMP, humbly request the students not to go for any program or movement by creating public suffering," he said while briefing reporters at the DMP media centre. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday issued a status quo on the High Court judgment over quota system in government jobs for four weeks, he said, adding that, therefore, the law enforcers can take legal action as per the law if the quota protesters continue to block the roads. Mahid Uddin further said that under the banner of anti-discrimination student movement, the agitators blocked the city streets in

## Israel presses operation in Gaza's north

**AFP**  
Israeli air strikes pounded parts of Gaza's biggest city on Thursday, Hamas said, after Israel's military declared an end to its operation in an eastern district that saw Gaza City's heaviest combat in months. The upsurge in fighting, bombardment and displacement followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement in late June that "the war in its intense phase is about to end". It also came as talks were held in the Gulf emirate of Qatar towards a truce and hostage release deal after more than nine months of war. Gaza's ruling Hamas Islamists said troops had pulled back from Gaza City's eastern district of Shujaiya leaving behind "more than 300 residential units and more than 100 businesses destroyed." Witnesses on Thursday said tanks and troops had moved into other Gaza City areas, and clashes between Israeli forces and militants were occurring. Explosions, artillery shelling and gunfire could be heard, they said. Smoke rose over parts of the city, according to AFP correspondents. Hamas on Thursday reported 45 air strikes in the Gaza City area, as well as in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where Netanyahu had said the

intense phase of the war was nearing its conclusion. - 'Immense destruction' - Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. The militants also seized hostages, 116 of whom remain in Gaza, including 42 the military says are

Israeli air strikes pounded parts of Gaza's biggest city on Thursday, Hamas said, after Israel's military declared an end to its operation in an eastern district that saw Gaza City's heaviest combat in months.

dead. Israel responded with a military offensive that has killed at least 38,345 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to data from Gaza's health ministry. The latest toll included 50 new deaths over the previous 24 hours, it said. Israel's military saw Rafah as the last stronghold of Hamas and in January said the militants' "military framework" in Gaza's north had been dismantled, after bombardment and fighting devastated the area early in the war. Netanyahu has vowed to destroy Hamas, a goal whose

attainability has been questioned by critics both in Israel and abroad. Israel's military said on Wednesday it had completed its mission in Shujaiya after two weeks that, AFP TV images show, left the area a grey, blasted-out wasteland. The images showed Palestinians gathered around a destroyed and burned armoured vehicle beneath a blackened building on a street carpeted with rubble. Standing nearby, Mohammed Nairi said he and other residents returned to "immense destruction that defies description. All the houses were demolished." Another displaced resident, a can of food tucked under her arm, said the district "lies in ruins." - 'Dangerous combat zone' - The health ministry said six bodies had been recovered after the pullback of Israeli troops from Shujaiya. On Wednesday the army dropped leaflets warning "everyone in Gaza City" that the area would "remain a dangerous combat zone". The leaflets urged residents to flee, and set out designated escape routes from the area where UN humanitarian agency OCHA said up to 350,000 people were staying. The United Nations said the latest evacuations "will only fuel mass suffering for Palestinian families, many of whom have been displaced

## Roaring in the sea, no tourists

**Riazur Rahman**  
"Mermaid" Kuakata Kuakata is one of the most scenic beaches in Bangladesh with 18 km long beach. It is the only beach in Bangladesh. Although the beach was crowded with millions of tourists a fortnight ago, the tourist place has become deserted after the Eid of the Holy Sacrifice. Because of this, more than five hundred hotels, resorts, guesthouses and cottages in the tourist city are lying empty. At around four o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, it was seen that only 10/12 people were walking on the beach on this two kilometre long beach. At least 500 kitkats (chair-umbrellas) have been installed across the beach, but all are lying empty. Shops on the beach are also closed. Itinerant photographers waiting for people to take pictures

of tourists stand in the shade of trees. Meanwhile, talking to the owners of residential hotels and motels, it is known that there is no booking in the rooms and there is a complete emptiness. Meanwhile, Hotel Sonargaon Leech owner Md. Mizan Howladar and Rashid Uddin said that the tourism business is



sometimes good and sometimes bad. However, since there are no tourists, at the end of the month, a large amount of electricity, water, and employee salaries have to be

paid. The supervisor of C-Safe Life Guard, a private organization engaged in the rescue of missing tourists after bathing in the sea, said that about 10-15 days ago and at different points, there was a gathering of about 100,000 people. Now only 15/20 tourists are bathing in the sea throughout the day. I think the beach-centric tourism business is collapsing due to lack of tourists. People from all walks of life say that the tourism industry is in recession again after Eid. Even if the sea roars, there are no tourists to hear it. Even though more than lakhs of tourists gathered during the Eid holidays, it is now empty. Talking to the local hoteliers of the beach Kuaghata, it is known that although there is some business during Eid, thousands of people involved in the tourism industry are unemployed.

## Four get life term for murder in Jamalpur

**NEWS DESK**  
A court in Jamalpur has sentenced four people to life-term imprisonment for killing a driver in 2021. Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Sultan Mahmud passed the verdict on Thursday. The court also fined convict Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more in jail. The convicted were Mohammad Ali, son of Md Nur Mohammad of Relly Bagan village in Narayanganj sadar upazila, Md Sabbir Hossain son of Faruk, Md Sabuj Hossain son of Md

## Human chain-protest demanding stop of anti-social activities in Naogaon

**M Rezaul Islam**  
In Naogaon Sadar Upazila, the local residents staged a human chain and protest to demand an end to the anti-social activities of Sathi Akhtar and her husband Ratan. On the morning of Thursday, July 11, around two hundred people held an hour-long human chain in Latapara Bazar area of the city. The speakers in the human bond said that a few years ago Sathi Akhtar lived with her husband and children after purchasing land through invisible power in Latapara area and built a two-storey building. Since then, Sathi's husband himself is the agent and guard of his wife's anti-social activities and is leading to the destruction of the students and youth of the area by setting up regular prostitution and drug sessions. In this incident, if the local people protested several times, they were threatened with lawsuits and attacks. Through these misdeeds, they are leading

the students and youth of different areas including their own area towards destruction. While doing such anti-social activities, the police warned them one day at around 12 o'clock in the night. The demands and complaints of the local residents, if these anti-social people stay in the area, our little boys and girls will go



bad. Drugs, gambling and prostitution are curses and injustices in every society. They are constantly causing a gathering of people from different places including this area and are causing great damage to this village by destroying the reputation of our



# Alcaraz, Medvedev set up Wimbledon semi-final repeat, Vekic ends Sun dream

**SPORTS DESK**

Alcaraz battled back from a set down to defeat Tommy Paul 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 while Medvedev stunned world number one Jannik Sinner, who suffered a mid-match health scare, 6-7 (7/9), 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3. Vekic recovered to defeat Sun 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 to reach her first Slam semi-final where she will take on Italian late bloomer Jasmine Paolini, who swept past Emma Navarro 6-2, 6-1. Spanish world number three Alcaraz, seeking a fourth Grand Slam title, was broken twice by 12th-seeded Paul in a 72-minute first set. Paul raced into a two-game lead in

that he's in really good shape." Fifth-ranked Medvedev avenged his Australian Open final loss to Sinner in a four-hour quarter-final win. Medvedev, 28, will be playing in his ninth Grand Slam semi-final. Sinner, a semi-finalist in 2023, required medical treatment early in the third set as he appeared dazed and unsteady on his feet. He had his blood pressure taken before undergoing a medical timeout. "It's always tricky because you want to play more points to make him suffer a little bit more but in a good way," said Medvedev. In a tight first set in which neither man gave up a break point,

the tie-break. However, the Italian was undaunted and levelled the quarter-final before Medvedev finished the fresher of the two players, breaking in the fourth game of the final set on his way to victory. "I was not feeling great. I didn't vomit but I took some time because I was dizzy quite a lot," said Sinner. - 'I was dying' - Vekic has reached the last four of a Grand Slam for the first time at the 43rd attempt. "I felt like I was dying out there in the first two sets but I just kept going, hoping to have a chance and it came in the end," said the 28-year-old world number 37.



the second set before Alcaraz got back on level terms. Three breaks in the third set put the Spaniard in charge and he stepped up another gear in the fourth, making just four unforced errors. Alcaraz, seeking to become just the sixth man to capture the French Open and Wimbledon titles back to back, defeated Medvedev in straight sets in last year's Wimbledon semi-finals. "Hopefully I'm going to get the same result," he said. - 'Make him suffer' - "But he won against Jannik Sinner, the best player right now, so I know

Medvedev edged ahead in the tie-break on the back of a lung-busting 33-shot rally. However, he squandered a set point and his game suddenly fell apart, serving up a double fault as Sinner pocketed the opener. The mercurial Russian levelled the quarter-final before Sinner summoned the tournament physio after falling a break down in the third set. After a 10-minute delay, the 22-year-old resumed play and thrilled the Centre Court crowd when he bravely clawed his way back to 5-5. He then wasted two set points, which allowed Medvedev to sweep through

Sun, ranked 123rd in the world, was playing her eighth match of the tournament, including qualifying, in two weeks and the strain eventually told. "Maybe if I could have moved faster, maybe if I didn't have the cramps, who knows what would have happened," said Sun, who will rise into the top 60 thanks to her All England Club run. Italian seventh seed Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open last month, needed just 57 minutes to see off Navarro, the conqueror of second-ranked Coco Gauff in the last round. The 28-year-old, who had not won a tour-level main draw match on grass before this year, fired 19 winners to her opponent's six. "It's a dream to be here in this position, to be in the semi-final," said Paolini, the first Italian woman in the Open era to make the last four. The tournament's remaining quarter-finals take place on Wednesday, with seven-time champion Novak Djokovic facing Alex de Minaur, while Taylor Fritz clashes with Lorenzo Musetti. In the women's draw, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina tackles Elina Svitolina, with Jelena Ostapenko and Barbora Krejickova meeting in a clash of former French Open champions.



# Colombia defeat Uruguay to reach Copa America final

**SPORTS DESK**

A 39th-minute Jefferson Lerma sealed victory for the Colombians, who will now face holders Argentina in Sunday's final in Miami. It was an anarchic semi-final played in front of a packed and passionate crowd which ended with scuffles on the field and fighting in the stands, including several players who had climbed in among supporters amid the flying punches. Colombia, despite having Daniel Muñoz sent off just before the interval and facing plenty of Uruguay pressure, hung on for a famous victory to the delight of their massive following of fans. The win was the 28th game without defeat for Colombia, setting a new record for the team. The downtown streets of the North Carolina city were packed with partying fans in bright yellow Colombia jerseys hours before the kick-off. Not surprisingly in such an atmosphere, Colombia started strongly with their livewire Liverpool winger Luis Diaz doing well to wriggle some space for a cross on the left, finding Daniel Muñoz at the back post but the full-back's header was off target. Uruguay were, as always, a threat on the counter-attack and their Liverpool star, Darwin Nunez, was close to finishing off one break when Rodrigo Bentancur found him with a clever pass but the forward poked his shot wide. Nunez had another opening when Maximiliano Araujo played him

clear in the inside-right channel but the striker rushed his shot, blasting high and wide. At the other end, Colombia forced a turnover which led to James Rodriguez curling in a cross from the right but Jhon Cordoba's header was off target. - Lerma breakthrough - The breakthrough came in the 39th minute when Lerma rose majestically above Jose Maria Gimenez and powerfully headed home Rodriguez's corner. It was the sixth assist of the tournament for Rodriguez with the former Real Madrid midfielder beating the record for most assists in a single Copa, which was set by Lionel Messi in 2021. Colombia looked to make the most of their momentum with Richard Rios forcing a save out of Uruguay keeper Sergio Rochet, after being played in by Muñoz. But having been so influential down the right in the opening half, Muñoz lost his head completely, just before the break, picking up a second yellow card, after landing an elbow on Manuel Ugarte. It was a moment of madness which left Colombia to defend their lead with just 10 men for the entire second half. Colombia coach Nestor Lorenzo took off Rodriguez, who was also on a yellow card, in the 62nd minute as Uruguay gradually began to turn their numerical advantage into real pressure. Nicolas de la Cruz threatened with a low drive before substitute Luis Suarez clipped the outside of the post with a drive from the edge of the box after good work

from Federico Valverde. Valverde, the Real Madrid midfielder, then went close himself with a low drive as Colombia's backline continued to ride their luck. Giveaway from Uruguay keeper and fell to Mateus Uribe, who despite time and space placed his shot wide of the post. In stoppage time Uruguay had a great chance to force penalties when Nunez laid the ball off to substitute Giorgian de Arrascaeta on the edge of the box but he leaned back and put his shot over the bar. There was still time for Uribe to waste another chance to make sure of the win, this time hitting the bar in the final minute, but he will be forgiven his wastefulness by the delirious Colombian supporters. Uruguay's Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa took the blame for being unable to craft a win against ten-men in the second half. "Uruguay were clearly in a position to win this game...I take special responsibility for not having been able to establish an advantage when we had the players capable of doing so," he said. His compatriot and counterpart Lorenzo said he and his team had been rewarded for their positive approach to the game. "We took the lead, the risk, and we were even brave. When we were down one we kept two strikers...and that is an act of courage that was rewarded," he said. The celebrations were marred by ugly scenes in the stands will concern organizers CONMEBOL ahead of a final which is sure to attract huge numbers of Argentines as well as Colombians.

# Super-sub Watkins sends England past Netherlands and into Euro 2024 final

**SPORTS DESK**

Ollie Watkins struck a stunning injury-time winner as England beat the Netherlands 2-1 on Wednesday to set up a Euro 2024 final showdown with Spain in Berlin. It was an incredible finish to an evening that began badly for England, as Xavi Simons gave the Netherlands an early lead in the semi-final in Dortmund. However, England were soon level through a Harry Kane penalty following a contentious VAR call by German referee Felix Zwayer, and the match looked set for extra time until Watkins struck. On for Kane, Watkins received a pass from fellow substitute Cole Palmer with his back to goal in the first minute of stoppage time, turned and fired low into the far

far in Germany as they face an outstanding Spain team, who beat France 2-1 on Tuesday. "We play the team who've been the best team in the tournament and we have a day less to prepare so it's a huge task. But we're still here and we're fighting," Southgate said. The Netherlands had been hoping to repeat their triumph at the last Euros in Germany, in 1988, but their current side lacks anyone with the star quality of Marco van Basten or Ruud Gullit. A victory for them would have seen this Euros conclude with the same final as the 2010 World Cup. Instead they now go home. "I am disappointed about the final result in a match which started really good for us," said their coach, Ronald Koeman. "A great goal, and then it's over, and

The Westfalenstadion is a special place for the Dutch, as the scene of their 2-0 win over Brazil, with goals by Johan Neeskens and Johan Cruyff, that took them through to the 1974 World Cup final. - Contentious penalty - They went ahead here after just seven minutes thanks to a brilliant effort by Simons, who robbed Declan Rice 35 metres out and advanced before sending a rasping drive beyond Jordan Pickford. The Dutch players ran off to celebrate with their fans behind that goal, as England found themselves trailing for the third game running. Just like against the Swiss in the quarter-finals, however, they reacted swiftly. Kane forced a save from Bart Verbruggen and moments later sent a volley over the bar, and was caught by Denzel Dumfries on the follow-through. It seemed totally innocuous but Zwayer was summoned to review the images and gave a penalty. Kane, whose missed spot-kick against France cost England dear in the 2022 World Cup, made no mistake, slotting low into the corner. It settled into an open and entertaining game, with Dumfries clearing off the line from Phil Foden and then crashing a header off the bar from a Simons corner. Foden responded by curling a superb shot off the post. England's midfielders were being given too much time on the ball, and Koeman used an injury to Memphis Depay to reinforce the centre, replacing the forward with Joey Veerman. Wout Weghorst replaced Malen at half-time, but the game became more cagey as the minutes went on. Pickford denied Virgil van Dijk on 65 minutes and the Netherlands began to take control as England's leading players tired. England had the ball in the net on 79 minutes when Bukayo Saka turned in Kyle Walker's cutback, but the latter was just offside and the flag came up. Southgate then decided to remove Kane and Foden, with Watkins and Palmer entering the fray to devastating effect.



corner to leave the Netherlands bewildered. "I'm lost for words really," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker. "I don't think I've hit a ball that sweet before, and obviously in such a special moment." It has rarely been a convincing campaign from Gareth Southgate's England side, but they are through to their second consecutive European Championship final as they dream of finally winning a first major trophy since 1966. To do that they will surely have to perform better than at any point so

that is difficult to accept." England had got to this stage despite not winning any of their last four matches in 90 minutes, and having been taken to extra time by Slovakia and Switzerland. That might have given the Dutch an edge physically, after the Oranje shrugged off finishing third in their group to brush aside Romania and see off Turkey. England welcomed back Marc Guehi in defence after suspension, while Koeman opted to start Donyell Malen in attack on the ground where he plays club football for Borussia Dortmund.

# Djokovic gets free pass to Wimbledon semi-finals as Rybakina cruises

**SPORTS DESK**

Novak Djokovic progressed to a record-equaling 13th Wimbledon semi-final without hitting a ball on Wednesday after Alex de Minaur pulled out injured as former champion Elena Rybakina eased through. Australian ninth seed De Minaur, 25, announced shortly after midday at the All England Club that he was "devastated to pull out due to a hip injury". It means Djokovic has now equalled Roger Federer's men's record of 13 semi-final appearances at Wimbledon as he closes on the Swiss great's mark of eight singles titles. The 37-year-old Serbian is also through to a record-extending 49th men's Grand Slam semi-final where he will face Italy's Lorenzo Musetti. De Minaur, who beat Djokovic at the United Cup in January, said: "It's no

victory against a fellow top-10 player. But a historic 25th Grand Slam triumph is coming into sharp focus for Djokovic, who demolished Holger Rune in straight sets in the fourth round. The Serb has a 5-1 winning record over 22-year-old Musetti, including a come-from-behind five-set victory at the French Open last month. "Djokovic knows the stadiums here better than me," admitted the Italian. "He's a legend everywhere and has done unthinkable things. We've played lots of times and I expect a huge fight. "It's the toughest challenge in tennis but I am an ambitious guy and I like to be challenged. I will give 100 percent." - Ruthless Rybakina - In early action on Wednesday, 2022 champion Rybakina barely broke sweat in swatting aside last year's semi-finalist Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2

in 61 minutes. She will face Barbora Krejickova for a place in Saturday's final after the Czech 31st seed came out on top against Jelena Ostapenko in a battle of former French Open champions. Russian-born Rybakina, now 19-2 in main-draw matches at Wimbledon, broke the Ukrainian 21st seed four times in the match on Centre Court. The fourth seed was broken in the first game in front of the watching Queen Camilla but hit back straight away and barely put a foot wrong after that. The 25-year-old, who crunched 28 winners to Svitolina's eight, said she had "amazing memories" from 2022 but does not like the favourite tag. "I have an aggressive style of game, I have a huge serve so it's a big advantage," she said. Krejickova took the first set against Latvian 13th seed Ostapenko with a single break on Court No. 1. Ostapenko, the 2018 Wimbledon

**RAMGATI PAURASHAVA**  
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BMWSSP of World Bank Fund

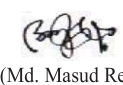
Memo No.: RP/POU/ENG/24-25/489 Date: 10/07/2024.

**Invitation For Tender (IFT) OTM**

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:  
Procurement Method: Opening Tendering Method(LTM):

SL	Work Name	Tender ID	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01	1)Construction of RCC Box culvert (3.5m x 3m) at Nurur Zaman Shikder Bari Road in ward no-05, under Ramgati Paurashava, Lakshimpur. 2)Construction of RCC work From 2nd section of Howlader Road at (Ch.260 - 980m) including Protection Work at (Ch.465 to 475, L/S), at under Ward No. 05, Ramgati Paurashava Lakshimpur.	1002874	24-Jul-2024 15:00	25-Jul-2024 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited through on line at any branches of registered Banks branches up to last selling 24-Jul-2024 15:00 PM and opening 25-Jul-2024 13:00 PM. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
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