

## 'Everyone has to look in the mirror'

AFP, LONDON

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk says he and his team-mates need to "look in the mirror and improve" after the 1-0 loss to Leicester dealt a blow to their Premier League title prospects.

Van Dijk did not look for excuses for the loss on Tuesday despite Leicester's goal scored by Ademola Lookman coming from their only shot on target after Mohamed Salah missed a first-half penalty for Liverpool.

Liverpool -- who failed to score for the first time in 29 league matches -- will look to strike back in the title race at Chelsea on Sunday.

However, Van Dijk says the players need to reflect on why they under-performed against a Leicester side who were beaten 6-3 by Manchester City at the weekend. "Everyone has to look in the mirror and improve," the Dutch defender told Amazon Prime.

However, Van Dijk said it was no time to give up hope as other factors may still play a role in who is crowned champion. We're in December. The season is so, so long," he said. "You have seen it with Covid and injuries -- lots of things can change. There's no point looking at (Manchester) City or Chelsea or the other teams around us. We should look at our performance today and improve."

Liverpool will also have to cope without Salah and another key player, Sadio Mane, for what could be as long as a month with both heading off for the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon after Sunday's match.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, though, is more concerned that his side rediscover their brio for the Chelsea match. "It's a big gap," Klopp told the BBC. "To top that, Chelsea and us play against each other. "It was not our plan to give City the chance to run away. If we play like tonight we cannot think about catching up with City."



India pacer Mohammed Shami celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of South Africa's Aiden Markram during the fourth day of the first Test at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## India smell victory

REUTERS, PRETORIA

South Africa scored 69 for 2 in their second innings against India as they chased a record victory target of 305 on a spicy wicket on day four of the first Test at Centurion Park on Wednesday.

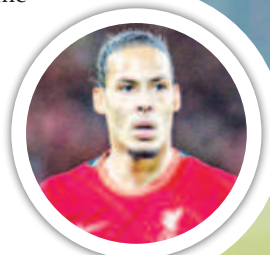
The wicket is a treacherous one for the batsmen, and perfect for the Indian seamers to exploit.

There is sideways movement, but also variable bounce with some deliveries staying low and others spitting off the surface with exaggerated bounce. That is not unusual for the ground.

The highest fourth innings chase at Centurion Park is 251 for eight by England in 2000, an infamous test where both teams agreed to forfeit an innings after rain to force a result.

The next highest is 226 for four by South Africa against Pakistan in 1998.

There is some rain predicted for the final day on Thursday, though if it does come it will likely be in the afternoon, leaving plenty of time for a result.



## Dortmund eager to settle Haaland's future

AFP, BERLIN

Erling Haaland is one of the hottest properties in European football and his Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund are eager to learn if they will lose their star striker in 2022.

The 21-year-old has scored a phenomenal 76 goals in 75 games for Dortmund since his arrival from Red Bull Salzburg in January 2020.

A release clause in his Dortmund contract, valid until 2024, could allow Haaland to leave in 2022 and club CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke wants to know what the player's agent Mino Raiola has planned. "We will talk in the next few weeks," Watzke said in early December, "and we will all make sure that we don't wait until March or April to know the decision."

In March of this year, Haaland became the fastest player to reach the milestone of 20 Champions League goals in a record 14 games. By comparison, Cristiano Ronaldo needed 56 Champions League games to reach the same goal tally. Lionel Messi took 40 matches.

At the same age as Haaland (21 years, six months), Ronaldo -- the Champions League's all-time top-scorer with 140 goals -- had yet to score in Europe. Haaland has a contract at Dortmund until 2024, but a release clause, reportedly for around 80 million euros (\$90 million) becomes active next year. Haaland's agent Mino Raiola fuelled speculation recently by claiming there is "a strong chance Erling will leave Dortmund, maybe this summer, maybe next summer."

## No 'Big Three' would be disaster, says Kyrgios

AGENCIES

Nick Kyrgios has urged Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic to play at the Australian Open, saying Wednesday it would be a "disaster" if the 'Big Three' were missing.

Swiss ace Roger Federer has already pulled out as he recovers from a knee injury and Nadal's plans are unclear after contracting Covid-19.

Novak Djokovic has pulled out of this week's ATP Cup in Sydney, organisers said on Wednesday, heightening doubts over whether he will defend his Australian Open title.

Djokovic is on the entry list for the first Grand Slam of the year, which begins in less than three weeks, but has refused to confirm if he has been vaccinated, casting doubt on whether he will turn up.

Djokovic, the nine-time Australian Open champion, could win a record 21st Grand Slam title if he plays at Melbourne Park next month, but to enter Australia he and members of his entourage have to be vaccinated.

He has previously expressed his opposition to the vaccine and his father Srđjan said in late November that Djokovic would probably not play the first Grand Slam of the year, accusing the organisers of "blackmail".

The dominant 'Big Three' have won 20 Grand Slam titles each and Kyrgios said tennis still needs them, starting in Melbourne next month.

"I honestly don't know Novak's current situation with anything Covid-related or what he needs to play," the colourful Kyrgios told the Melbourne

Age newspaper.

"I hope he's had a good Christmas and I hope he's able to play in the sport for as long as possible because I've voiced before I think Federer, Nadal and Djokovic need to be (playing)."

"If all three aren't there, it's a disaster. It's an absolute disaster for the fans and the people that enjoy tennis."

"Yes, it's obviously a good opportunity for some of the younger

Wimbledon semi-finalist Denis Shapovalov are also recovering from coronavirus, casting a shadow over their preparations.

The Australian Open starts at Melbourne Park on January 17.

Australia's Kyrgios, who has slipped to 93 in the world, has not played since the Laver Cup in late September, citing a knee injury, and said he was looking forward to performing again in front of his home fans.



guys to come through and make an impact, but as a whole, we do need them to be part of the sport."

Adding to the Australian Open woes, Dominic Thiem, who lost to Djokovic in a five-set classic in the 2020 final, said late Tuesday he would miss the event with a wrist injury.

Meanwhile, Russian world number five Andrey Rublev and Canada's

"My knee is something that has been hindering my career for a while now, it's just something I had cleaned up last year and it feels good," he told the newspaper.

"I want to enjoy myself; I want to be happy, and that is it."

He is set to kickstart his 2022 campaign at the Melbourne Summer Set event from January 4.



## Mbappe staying at PSG

AFP, PARIS

Want-away striker Kylian Mbappe said Tuesday he would finish the current season with Paris Saint-Germain, at which time he becomes a free agent.

The brilliant 23-year-old striker was asked if he would be joining Real Madrid any time soon in an interview with CNN, and he had a sharp response. "Not in January," said Mbappe, who Madrid tried to buy in July with an audacious bid of 180 million euros (\$209 million).

PSG had just signed Lionel Messi from Barcelona, but turned down Madrid's hefty offer. But with the transfer market about to reopen, Madrid are expected to make another move.

Mbappe poured cold water on that a day after picking up "Best Men's Player of the Year" from Globe Soccer at a ceremony at the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

"I'm with PSG and I'm happy. I'll finish the season here 100 percent," he said. "I'll be giving everything to win the Champions League, the championship and the French Cup," he added before refocusing on Madrid, who his club meet in the next round of the Champions League.

"The main thing I have in mind is beating Real Madrid in February and in March," he said. Mbappe said he had no regrets over revealing his desire to join Madrid. "I was being honest, saying what was in my heart," he said.

In October Mbappe confirmed he had told Paris Saint-Germain last July he wanted to leave the club. The French World Cup winner has declined a contract extension as the clock ticks down. Mbappe joined PSG from Monaco for a deal worth a total of 180 million euros in 2017.



**বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**  
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute  
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা  
গাজীপুর



Memo No. 12.21.0000.073.03.05.641 & 656.21.3488 Date: 27 December 2021

### e-GP: Tender Notice No. 17 (2021-2022)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:


Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Description of goods	Tender documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1.	PN: GD-05	641729 & IRN: 641	Office Equipment 06 items	10.01.2022 17:00	11.01.2022 12:00	11.01.2022 12:00
2.	PN: GD-06	637292 & IRN: 665	Office Furniture 13 items	10.01.2022 17:00	11.01.2022 15:00	11.01.2022 15:00

The interested person/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)).

Project Name: "Research, Development and Extension of Cashew nut & Coffee" Project.

**Md. Younus Ali**  
Deputy Director (In-Charge)  
On behalf of Director General

GD- 2415

**প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর**  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
ঢাকা-১০০০

মোমো নং-২৫২৮(২)/প্রকৌঃ তারিখঃ ২৯/১২/২১

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (OTM)

01.	Invitation for	Supply & Manufacturing 07 Nos. Lab Table & 60 Nos. Lab Tool for Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry Lab, Department of Chemistry, Mokkaron Hossain Khandaker Biggyan Bhaban (North Block, 4th Floor), University of Dhaka.
02.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 13/01/2022 Time: 12.00 Noon.
03.	Tender opening date and time	Date: 13/01/2022 Time: 12.30pm.
04.	Website address	Detail information and tender document will be available in the website of ( <a href="http://e-tender.univdhaka.edu">http://e-tender.univdhaka.edu</a> ).

**Mohammad Zayed Alam Mridha**  
Superintending Engineer  
University of Dhaka

GD-2414