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19 DAYS TO GO

Caicedo wants world to notice Ecuador

REUTERS

Already enjoying a breakout season with Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League, Ecuador's 20-year-old midfielder Moises Caicedo is determined to burnish his reputation further with a best ever World Cup for his national side.

The fast-improving Caicedo, whom British media say is on the radar of elite clubs with an 85 million pound (\$98 million) price tag, has become a Lynchpin for Ecuador who

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Edward M Kennedy Jr waves to the public from under the Banyan tree planted by his father at the famous "Bottola" on the Dhaka University campus. Inset, late Edward M Kennedy, US senator, with his family members, waves to the crowd during his historic visit to the newly independent Bangladesh in February 1972.

GREAT ALLIANCE of humanity

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Edward M Kennedy Jr was emotional, feeling the presence of his father when he touched the banyan tree that the then US senator Edward M Kennedy planted on Dhaka University campus 50 years ago, as a symbol of freedom and democracy.

The tree was a replacement for the one that was blown up by the Pakistan army, as the Bangalee students would gather there and demonstrate against Pakistan's tyranny.

"My father thought something needs to be done. Political dissent and discourse were important. He hoped the new tree will come as a symbol of friendship between the people of the US and Bangladesh, as well as a tribute to those who struggled for independence," Kennedy Jr said.

He was speaking to the students, academics and civil society groups at the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban, after taking a tour of the campus in the morning yesterday, on the third day of his eight-day visit to Bangladesh, marking the 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

His wife Dr Katherine "Kiki" Kennedy, daughter Dr Kiley Kennedy, his son Teddy Kennedy, niece Grace Kennedy Allen and nephew Max Allen are also accompanying him.

They visited the Lalbagh Kella and walked the streets of Old Dhaka, and are scheduled to visit Bangabandhu

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BNP BARISHAL RALLY Three-wheelers now join strike bandwagon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Three-wheeler workers in Barishal have now called for a two-day strike till November 5, when the BNP is scheduled to hold its rally in the city.

Earlier, the bus owners there declared a strike from November 4 to 5.

The two organisations -- bus owners and three-wheeler workers -- declared the strikes demanding administrative actions against each other.

The bus owners demanded the removal of unauthorised three-wheelers from roads, while the three-wheeler workers wanted an "end to the harassment by bus owners".

However, BNP leaders think the strikes are only meant to foil its November 5 rally.

On October 24, Barishal District Bus Malik Group submitted a memorandum to the Barishal divisional commissioner, stating it would hold the strike if unauthorised three-wheelers are not removed from the highways by November 3.

Six days later, Barishal Zilla Mishuk-Baby Taxi-Taxi Car and CNG-run Three-Wheeler Sramik Union called for the strike to press home their five-point demand, including an "end to harassment by bus owners".

The announcement was made on October 30 through a press statement, signed by its President Kamal Hossain Mollah and General Secretary Mushfiqur Rahman Dulal.

In the statement, the organisation urged all to suspend operations of three-wheelers on all routes of Barishal from November 4 to 5.

Meanwhile, Moniruzzaman Faruk, convener of Barishal city unit BNP, said, "The government is playing a key role in enforcing the strikes, with a target to foil our rally. But its ill attempts will not be successful. Thousands of our partymen will join the rally on November 5."

The BNP yesterday got verbal permission from the Barishal district administration to hold the rally at the

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PLASTIC POLLUTION Karnaphuli most defiled CPD analysis reveals

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Mismanaged plastic waste of the metropolis has turned the Karnaphuli, on whose banks the country's key sea port is located, into the top plastic-digesting river.

Around 40 percent of the mismanaged plastic ended up in the waterbody, a key river in the Chattogram region. It is followed by the Rupsha river in the south-west of the country, which swallows up to 31.7 percent of plastic waste.

The Chattogram Port Authority had to recently halt a dredging project halfway due to massive layers of polythene at least seven meters high.

A secondary data analysis by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), as part of its CPD-Green Cities Initiative Research, was revealed yesterday.

Other rivers choking from plastic pollution include the Kirtankhola (7.1 percent), Sandha (6.5 percent), Nar (4.1 percent), Meghna (3.3 percent), Kaliganga (2.5), Baleshwari (2.0 percent), Sugandha (1.8 percent), Galachipa (1.2 percent), Payra (0.7 percent), and Bishkhali (0.2 percent).

The CPD analysis said mismanaged plastic waste is a significant source of contamination in the country's water system, adding that around one million metric tons of it is generated every year around Bangladesh's coastal areas.

Syed Yusuf Sadaat, research fellow at CPD involved in study, told The Daily Star that 646 tonnes of plastic waste are produced every year in Dhaka alone.

Of those, 48 percent goes to landfills, 37 percent is recycled, 12 percent ends up in rivers, while the remaining three percent is littering the roadsides.



"The situation worsened as Bangladesh, being a deltaic landscape, receives a portion of plastic from neighbouring countries. The scenario could get disastrous without political commitment to reduce plastic pollution," he said.

The study further said excessive consumption and indiscriminate disposal of single-use plastics, such as plastic bag, clear plastic thin wraps, coffee cups, and lids, Sadaat said, adding how the Covid-19 pandemic intensified the use of those.

The canals that lead to rivers crisscrossing the cities carry the domestic waste, which is largely made up of polythene and plastic.

Meanwhile, industrial pollution has also been taking a toll on the river.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

TEEN PATTI GOLD Firm earned Tk 30 lakh daily Rab says after arresting 7 of Indo-Bangla game racket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Misusing its permission to sell online video games, an Indian company in 2019 launched the game Teen Patti Gold (TPG), in association with a Bangladeshi game developing company, through which they began selling poker chips.

Now, the company, Moonfrog Asia Pvt Ltd, earns Tk 30 lakh from nine lakh users on a daily basis.

However, to legalise the Indian game TPG, Bangladeshi company Ulka Games Limited has taken permission from related department as per suggestions of "a group of lawyers".

Rab yesterday disclosed these findings after arresting seven people, including Zamilur Rashid, 31, the CEO of Ulka Games Limited.

The law enforcers said Zamil has sent crores of taka, earned through online gambling, out of the country.

Upon analysing the four accounts of Ulka Games, Rab claimed to have found a deposit of Tk 80 crore.

On information, Rab-4 arrested the seven from the capital's Mohakhali and Uttara on Sunday night, said Khandaker Al Moin, director of legal and media wing of Rab Headquarters.

The other arrestees are Saimon Hossain, 29, Ridwan Ahmed, 29, Muntakim Ahmed, 37, Kayes Uddin Ahmed, 32, all staffers of Ulka Games, and Rakibul Alam, 29, an agent.

At a briefing at the Rab Media Centre in Karwan Bazar, Moin said Rakibul used to sell chips worth around Tk 2-3 crore every month in Cox's Bazar.

Zamilur, on the other hand, used a lot of the

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'Country needs peace and unity' Says Lula after winning Brazil presidency; Hasina congratulates

STAR REPORT

Brazilian president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called for "peace and unity" after narrowly winning a divisive runoff election yesterday, capping a remarkable political comeback by defeating far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro -- who has yet to accept defeat.

The victory marks a stunning turnaround for the charismatic but tarnished leftist heavyweight, who left office in 2010 as the most popular president in Brazilian history, fell into disgrace when he was imprisoned for 18 months on since-quashed corruption charges, and now returns for an unprecedented third term at age 77.

All eyes will now be on how Bolsonaro and his supporters react to the result after months of alleging -- without evidence -- that Brazil's electronic voting system is plagued by fraud and that the courts, media and other institutions had conspired against his far-right movement.

"This country needs peace and unity," Lula said to loud cheers in a victory speech in Sao Paulo.

"The challenge is immense," he said of the job ahead,

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Workers, barely visible due to smog, toiling away at a cement factory in the capital's Sadarghat area yesterday. Most of them spend their days amid significant health risks caused by the raw materials, such as clinker, granulated slag, limestone, gypsum and fly ash -- all air pollutants. Moreover, the authorities concerned do not provide them with any safety gear.

Explorer's cameras found on glacier after 85 yrs

AFP, Montreal

The cameras and equipment of a famed US explorer, Bradford Washburn, have been found after being abandoned in the ice of a Yukon glacier in 1937, Canadian officials said.

Mountaineer Washburn was also a photographer, cartographer, and director of the Boston Science Museum, in Massachusetts, which he founded.

Last spring, three athletes "embarked on a mission like no other: to find an incredible piece of history," Parks Canada said in a Facebook post this week.

The team put together by extreme sports video makers Teton Gravity

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