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"The artillery ammunition, precision fires, air defense missiles, and tactical vehicles that we are providing will best serve Ukraine on the battlefield."

US Secretary of State  
Antony Blinken



# Vote for boat

Hasina urges people in Jashore;  
kicks off electoral campaign



STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought voters' word that they would vote for "boat", the electoral symbol of the ruling Awami League, to give her party another chance to serve the nation.

"I want your love and blessings as well as your word that you will vote for 'boat' to give the Awami League another scope to serve as you did in the last election. Raise your hands and promise me. Whatever you will desire, I will give you more," she said while addressing a rally at Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jashore.

With the rally, Hasina, also the AL president, kicked off the party's campaign for the 12th parliamentary

election likely to be held in early 2024.

Hasina would also address rallies at Polo Ground in Chittagong on December 4 and at Sheikh Kamal Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar on December 7.

In her speech, the PM dismissed the notion that there was no money in the banks and urged the people not to pay heed to such rumours.

"It is the BNP who always spreads rumours and you know that.

"Some people talk about reserves but there is no problem there. Some say there is no money in the banks which is a blatant lie. Even yesterday [Wednesday] I had a meeting with the Bangladesh Bank governor and others concerned. It was

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People in droves join the Awami League rally at Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jashore yesterday. Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina addressed the rally.

PHOTO: P10

**DESERT FEST**  
Must make  
hay while  
sun shines



KHALID HOSSAIN

If we could only extrapolate what transpired in the Qatar World Cup till date, it would appear that we are definitely in for an unprecedented rollercoaster ride.

Already, star-studded title aspirants in Argentina and Germany – the 2014

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Richarlison brace gives Brazil fast start

AFP, Lusail

A second-half brace by Richarlison, including a stunning overhead scissor kick, gave tournament favourites Brazil a 2-0 win over Serbia in their opening World Cup game at the Lusail Stadium on Thursday.

The record five-time winners had toiled at times in the first half but improved after the break and were rewarded when Tottenham Hotspur striker Richarlison followed in to score the opener in the 62nd minute when a Vinicius Junior shot was saved.

Vinicius then set up Richarlison to score again in the 73rd minute with a stunning acrobatic effort that is surely the goal of the World Cup so far.

The result continues Brazil's superb record in the World Cup group stage, in which their last defeat came in 1998 against Norway, when they had already secured a place in the next round.

Tite's side are now already on top

of Group G ahead of Switzerland, who beat Cameroon 1-0 earlier and who are Brazil's next opponents.

The scoreline here was the same as when these sides met in the group stage in 2018 but Brazil are determined to do far better than four years ago, when they lost to Belgium in the quarter finals.

They have come to Qatar as the favourites for a sixth title, two decades after their last victory.

Other results in the opening round of matches in Qatar served as a warning, with their great rivals Argentina suffering a shock defeat to Saudi Arabia at the same stadium and Germany being shocked by Japan.

However, Brazil would have known not to take Serbia lightly, given that the side who lie 21st in the FIFA rankings are one of Europe's most improved teams and topped their qualifying group above Portugal.

Yet it still would have been a huge shock for Brazil to lose at a ground where they intend to return for the final on December 18.

Tite sent out a very attack-minded side, with Neymar in support of Richarlison while Raphinha and Vinicius occupied the wings and Lucas Paqueta added creativity in central midfield.

Neymar, the world's most expensive player, kicked off needing just two goals to equal Pele's all-time record tally of 77 for Brazil, but he will have to wait a little longer to get them.

Serbia did their best to frustrate the Paris Saint-Germain superstar, who come close to scoring direct from an early corner that would have raised the roof at the magnificent Lusail Stadium, where the stands were filled with yellow and green.

The best Brazilian moments in the first half came when Thiago Silva's defence-splitting pass found Vinicius in the box, only for goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic to thwart the Real Madrid man, and when Raphinha played a one-two with Paqueta before his shot was saved.

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Brazil striker Richarlison scored twice, including with this audacious effort, as the five-time champions made a commanding start to their 2022 World Cup campaign, easing to a 2-0 win over Serbia in a Group G clash at the Lusail Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF @BRASILFOOTBALL

## Women paint a grim picture of workplaces

**HC directive to form sexual harassment complaint committees in workplace, educational institutions still mostly ignored**

NILIMA JAHAN

It has been 13 years since the High Court gave directives to form sexual harassment complaint committees in the workplace and educational institutions, but there has been little to no progress so far.

In 2008, the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association filed a Public Interest Litigation with the High Court, requesting guidelines to protect women and girls from sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions.

A year later, the HC issued a directive with guidelines, urging employers to form a seven-member sexual harassment complaint committee, headed by a female employee, if available, and with at least two members from outside the organisation – preferably those working on gender issues and sexual abuse.

The complaint committees have to submit annual compliance reports to

the government on said guidelines, according to the directive.

However, to this day, an overwhelming majority of government and private institutions do not have any such committee, and sexual harassment



continues to be an everyday affair for a large number of working women.

To gauge the extent to which women are subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace, The Daily Star interviewed 40 female employees from different government organisations, NGOs, banks

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS RAMPANT AS EVER – PAGE 5

## Show of strength can't ensure free, fair election

Says CEC about political parties, urges them to take part in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal has said all political parties have to join the general election to make it an inclusive one and that show of strength on the streets cannot ensure free and fair polls.

He made the comment at a time when the ruling Awami League and its archrival BNP took to the streets to show off their political strength.

Exchange of words between some top leaders of the two major political parties have heated up the political arena recently.

"Every political party is saying that they will see others on the streets and there will be a test of strength on the streets. As the chief election commissioner, I will say that a democratic election will not take place only by showing off strength on the streets," Habibul told reporters at the Election Commission office yesterday.

He said political parties have to take part in the elections. "You [parties] have to ensure an effective competition. Without it, you cannot have a democratic election.

"Because we will not create the balance [in the electoral race] by using police. The balance will be created through the competition between the

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## BNP to get permission for Dec 10 Dhaka rally

**Says home boss; party rally in Cumilla tomorrow**

STAR REPORT

The BNP would get permission from the government to hold its December 10 rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner has been asked to convey the message to BNP leaders, he said while talking to reporters after a programme at the capital's Sadarghat Launch Terminal.

The minister also urged the BNP not to resort to violence or cause suffering to people.

"The BNP is a political party. We don't have anything to say if the party does constructive politics in a systemic way. But we will have objections if it violates political etiquette,"

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Share **BUSINESS**

**\$1-trillion  
economy  
by 2040**

Private companies are spearheading Bangladesh's growth with their energy and optimism, putting the economy on a path to cross the \$1-trillion mark by 2040, according to the Boston Consulting Group.

STORY ON B1

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