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## Tamim inspires Barishal to maiden BPL title

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamim Iqbal-led Fortune Barishal clinched their maiden Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) title, ending Comilla Victorians' perfect record in the finals, with a six-wicket victory in the final of the 10th edition in Mirpur yesterday.

The Barishal franchise, which had previously played in three finals and lost all three, chased down Comilla's 154 for six in 19 overs in front of a capacity-crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Captain Tamim laid the foundation for victory with a 26-ball 39 -- in the process ending the tournament as the highest scorer with 492 runs in 15 matches -- condemning the tournament's most successful side Comilla to their first defeat in the final of Bangladesh's only franchise-based T20 tournament after four titles.

The all-important final also followed the most common script of teams winning by batting second in Mirpur as Tamim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz eased the nerves with a 76-run opening stand.

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Fortune Barishal players celebrate with the trophy after clinching their maiden Bangladesh Premier League title following a six-wicket win over defending champions Comilla Victorians at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## India to export 50,000 tonnes of onion to Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has allowed the export of 50,000 tonnes of onions to Bangladesh ahead of Ramadan.

The shipment will be sent through the National Cooperative Exports Limited, India's commerce and industry ministry said in a statement yesterday.

India, the world's second-largest onion exporter, banned the overseas shipment of the kitchen essential in December 2023 and later extended it till March this year to contain its rising prices and ensure adequate availability in domestic markets ahead of the coming national election.

Before that, India imposed a minimum export price of \$800 per tonne on exports of onion -- much higher than the prices at which importers were buying -- in an effort to discourage exports and contain prices of the vegetable in its domestic market.

This move came two and a half months after India slapped 40 percent duty on the export of onions on August 19.

## Asian elephants mourn, bury their dead calves: study

AFP, New Delhi



Asian elephants loudly mourn and bury their dead calves, according to a study by Indian scientists that details animal behaviour reminiscent of human funeral rites.

Researchers identified five calf burials conducted by the giant mammals in the north of India's Bengal region in 2022 and 2023, according to the study published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa this week.

They found in each case that a herd carried the deceased calf by the trunk and legs before burying it in the earth with its legs facing upward.

"Through opportunistic observation, digital photography, fieldnotes, and postmortem examination reports, we suggest that the carcasses were buried in an abnormal recumbent style irrespective of the reasons for the calf's death," the study said.

In one instance the herd loudly roared and trumpeted around the buried calf, the authors wrote.

The study found only calves are carried away for burial, owing to the "non-feasibility" of transporting heavier adult elephants by the rest of their herds.

Authors Parveen Kaswan and Akashdeep Roy said their research found "no direct human intervention" in any of the five calf deaths.

Clear footprints of between 15 and 20 elephants were observed around the burial sites and over the soil covering the bodies of the calves, all of which had died of multiple organ failure aged between three months and a year.

## 'Shocked' world demands probe into Gaza massacre

Calls for ceasefire grow; UN says famine in the Palestinian territory 'almost inevitable'

AGENCIES

World leaders yesterday called for an investigation and a ceasefire nearly five months into the Gaza war, a day after dozens of desperate Palestinians were killed rushing an aid convoy.

Israeli troops opened fire as Palestinian civilians scrambled for food aid during a chaotic incident Thursday which the territory's health ministry said killed more than 100 people in Gaza City.

Meanwhile, the United Nations yesterday said famine in the Gaza Strip is almost inevitable unless the Israel-Hamas war stops.

The UN and other humanitarian actors have not yet declared a state of famine in Gaza, despite worsening conditions in the Palestinian territory since the war began on October 7.

However, "once a famine is declared, it is too late for too many people", said Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday said the level of hunger and desperation among the people in Gaza has reached such level that they are risking their lives to find food, water and other supplies.

"The system in Gaza is on its knees, it's more than on its knees," WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva. "All the lifelines in

Gaza have more or less been cut."

Lindmeier said this had created a "desperate situation", as seen on Thursday, when more than 100 people seeking humanitarian aid in Gaza were killed.

"People are so desperate for food, for fresh water, for any supplies that they risk their lives in getting any food, any supplies to support their children, to support

"The food supplies have been cut off deliberately. Let's not forget that," Lindmeier said.

Israel has said the failure to get enough aid into Gaza to meet humanitarian needs is due to UN distribution failures.

About Thursday's incident, the Israeli military said a "stampede" occurred when thousands of Gazans surrounded the



- World condemns Israeli gunfire near aid convoy
- 193 new fatalities, 920 injuries recorded in 24 hours
- Total death toll reaches 30,228; 71,377 injured
- WHO says Gaza health system 'more than on its knees'

themselves," Lindmeier said.

While aid is reaching southern parts of the Gaza Strip, it is too slow to avert a hunger crisis even there. Aid barely makes it to northern areas that are further from the main border crossing and only accessible through more active battle fronts.

convoy of 38 aid trucks, leading to dozens of deaths and injuries, including some who were run over.

An Israeli source acknowledged troops had opened fire on the crowd, believing it "posed a threat".

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## PROTECTING ROHINGYAS Don't repeat mistakes of the past

UN rights chief urges int'l community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk has appealed to the international community not to repeat the failings of the past in protecting the Rohingya community in Myanmar's Rakhine State which has spiralled further in violence since November.

"After suffering decades of systematic discrimination, repression, forced displacement, and other serious human rights violations, the Rohingya today remain essentially imprisoned in villages and internment camps," he said while addressing the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva yesterday.

He said more than a million continue to languish in refugee camps in Bangladesh, and in Myanmar, they continue to be denied citizenship rights and free movement, and there is currently no prospect for safe and sustainable return.

Türk said since November, amid



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## Divided G20 blocked by 'impasse' over Ukraine, Gaza

AFP, Sao Paulo

The first G20 finance ministers' meeting of the year ended Thursday without a joint statement due to deep divisions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, officials said.

Host country Brazil has an ambitious agenda to use the rotating G20 presidency to amplify the voice of the global south and tackle inequality and climate change.

But that was overshadowed by what it called an "impasse" at the two-day meeting in Sao Paulo.

"It isn't possible (to reach) a final statement," Finance Minister Fernando Haddad told a news conference.

"The impasse, as usual, is over the ongoing conflicts," he said, without explicitly mentioning Russia's invasion of Ukraine or Israel's military campaign against Palestinian group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

"We had nurtured the hope that more sensitive geopolitical issues could be debated exclusively" by the group's foreign ministers, who held a meeting in Rio de Janeiro last week that likewise failed to produce a joint statement.

Haddad said that on financial issues, the G20 group -- which represents 80 percent of the global economy -- was unified.

"But since the meeting last week in Rio de Janeiro didn't reach a joint statement, that ended up contaminating the establishment of consensus" at what Brazil had hoped would be a purely economic policy meeting, he said.

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner had earlier said his country planned to insist any final statement address Russia's two-year-old war in Ukraine.

The war has split the G20, with Western countries condemning the

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President Mohammed Shahabuddin administering the oath of office to seven new state ministers at the Bangabhaban yesterday evening. The inclusion of the new faces takes the number of members in the council of ministers to 44.

PHOTO: PID