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## Tigers eke out feeble victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had to dig deep to eke out a five-run slender victory in their fourth of the five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

It required two national team returnees — star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and ace left-arm paceman Mustafizur Rahman — to chip in with crucial wickets to help Bangladesh defend a 144-run target in front of a packed crowd in Mirpur.

Defending 14 off the final over, Shakib, who returned to national colours after opting to sit out the first three T20Is, had Blessing Muzarabani stumped before having Richard Ngarava bowled in the very next delivery to bundle out Zimbabwe for 138 in 19.4 overs to see the Tigers take a 4-0 in the series.

Bangladesh fans, however, had their hearts in their mouths when Muzarabani charged down the ground and smoked a tossed-up delivery from Shakib for a maximum in the third delivery of the final over. Shakib, as he so often is, remained calm and collected and cleaned out the Zimbabwe tail in the following two deliveries.

With Ryan Burl and Johnathan

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Shakib Al Hasan underwhelmed with the bat on his return but more than made up for it with his efforts with the ball, successfully defending 14 runs in the final over and finishing with 4-35 to earn Bangladesh a nervy five-run win over Zimbabwe in the fourth T20I of the five-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## India SC grants temporary bail to Kejriwal

Allows him to campaign in ongoing election

AGENCIES

India's top court gave temporary bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case yesterday, allowing him to campaign in the ongoing general elections, boosting the opposition alliance of which he is a prominent figure.

The Supreme Court (SC) said Kejriwal — a fierce critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi — would be out on bail until June 1, the last day of the nationwide seven-phase vote, and would have to return to pre-trial detention on June 2.

India began voting on April 19 and elections for more than half of the 543 seats in parliament have now been completed following the third phase of the vote on May 7.

The two areas governed by Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) — the National Capital Territory that includes New Delhi, and the northern state of Punjab

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## David Meale to be next US envoy to Bangladesh



UNB, Dhaka

US President Joe Biden has nominated David Slayton Meale, currently the deputy chief of mission in Beijing, as the next US ambassador to Bangladesh, according to a statement released by the White House.

The nomination has been sent to the Senate for confirmation, it added.

Until the nomination gets the nod from the Senate, Peter Haas will remain the US ambassador to Bangladesh. US ambassadors are nominated by the US president and confirmed by the Senate.

Haas has been serving as the top US diplomat in Dhaka since July 2021.

David Meale, a career member of the Senior

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## Kala-azar, filariasis eliminated from Bangladesh

Validates WHO

AHMED DEEPTO

Bangladesh has successfully eliminated two vector-borne diseases — Kala-azar and filariasis.

The elimination of both visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-azar) and lymphatic filariasis have been validated by World Health Organization in its latest report.

Titled, "Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024", the report was published on May 5. This is the second series of global reports describing progress towards the 2030 targets set to end neglected tropical diseases (NTD) to attain the sustainable development goals, a road map for NTD 2021-2030.

In October 2023, Bangladesh became the first country to be validated by WHO for eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. Previously, in May of 2023, Bangladesh also received validation from WHO for eliminating filariasis.

Prof Kabirul Bashar of the department of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University said female culex mosquitoes can transmit lymphatic filariasis from a sick person to a healthy one. It impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain and disability. The disease can even kill a patient, he said.

Prof Mushtaq Hossain, public health expert and former advisor of Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research, said kala-azar usually spreads by the bite of a female sand-fly. When the germs enter the body, it infects red blood cells and starts reproducing there. As a result, red blood cells break down and anaemia occurs, he added.

Kala-azar has been controlled for a long time by involving the public. It is possible to eradicate dengue by controlling Aedes mosquitoes using the same approach, he added.

NTDs (neglected tropical diseases) — mainly prevalent among impoverished communities in tropical areas — are a diverse group of conditions with devastating health, social and economic consequences. They are "neglected" as they are mostly absent

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## Donald Lu to visit Dhaka on May 14-15

Says US state dept



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu began his travels to India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh yesterday to strengthen bilateral cooperation with each country and demonstrate US support for a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

The State Department today formally announced the trip from May 10 to 15. He is scheduled to visit Bangladesh on May 14-15.

He will meet Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman, and civil society leaders to

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## Strapped down, blindfolded

Israeli whistleblowers detail abuse of Palestinians in shadowy detention center

CNN ONLINE

At a military base that now doubles as a detention center in Israel's Negev desert, an Israeli working at the facility snapped two photographs of a scene that he says continues to haunt him.

Rows of men in gray tracksuits are seen sitting on paper-thin mattresses, ringed by barbed wire. All appear blindfolded, their heads hanging heavy under the glare of floodlights.

A putrid stench filled the air and the room hummed with the men's murmurs, the Israeli who was at the facility told CNN. Forbidden from speaking to each other, the detainees mumbled to themselves.

"We were told they were not allowed to move. They should sit upright. They're not allowed to talk. Not allowed to peek under their blindfold."

Guards were instructed "to scream uskot" — shut up in Arabic — and told to "pick people out that were problematic and punish them," the source added.

They paint a picture of a facility where doctors sometimes amputated prisoners' limbs due to injuries sustained from constant handcuffing; of medical procedures sometimes performed by underqualified medics earning it a reputation for being "a paradise for interns"; and where the air is filled with the smell of neglected wounds left to rot.

CNN spoke to three Israeli whistleblowers who worked at the Sde Teiman desert camp, which holds Palestinians detained during Israel's invasion of Gaza. All spoke out at risk of legal repercussions and reprisals from groups supportive of Israel's hardline policies in Gaza.

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**"I was there for 23 days. Twenty-three days that felt like 100 years."**  
27-year-old Ibrahim Yassine said after his release from Israeli military detention camp last month.

## US needs to work more to protect human rights

Foreign minister says the same applies to European countries

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said there is a necessity for all the countries to work together to improve human rights records, including the United States and European countries.

"Look, the human rights situation in Bangladesh is much better than many other countries in the world. In human rights, no country is perfect," he told reporters while responding to a query at the Foreign Service Academy.

He joined "Baishakhi Utsob" organised by the Foreign Office Spouses' Association as the chief guest.

He referred to what is happening in the US and said Bangladesh does not suffer police brutality, as seen in the policing of students' protests on US college campuses.

"We are watching the brutality on televisions. Even teachers were not spared," Hasan said, adding

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## PRO-GAZA PROTEST Encampment dismantled at the MIT

AGENCIES

Police early yesterday dismantled a pro-Palestinian tent encampment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and moved to clear protesters from University of Pennsylvania's campus in Philadelphia, just hours after police tear-gassed protesters and took down an encampment at the University of Arizona.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, video showed police roaming through the MIT encampment and organizers said about 10 students had been detained. Police in riot gear arrived around 4:00 am, encircled the camp and gave protesters about 15 minutes to leave.

A crowd outside the camp began gathering and chanting pro-Palestinian

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Palestinians sit on an animal-pulled cart as they move to safer areas in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Astronomers finally detect a rocky planet with an atmosphere



REUTERS, Washington

Astronomers have searched for years for rocky planets beyond our solar system with an atmosphere — a trait considered essential for any possibility of harboring life. Well, they finally seem to have located one.

But this hellish planet — apparently with a surface of molten rock — offers no hope for habitability.

Researchers said on Wednesday the planet is a "super-Earth" — a rocky world significantly larger than our planet but smaller than Neptune — and it orbits perilously close to a star dimmer and slightly less massive than our sun, rapidly completing an orbit every 18 hours or so.

Infrared observations using two instruments aboard the James Webb Space Telescope indicated the presence of a substantial — if inhospitable — atmosphere, perhaps continuously replenished by gases released from a vast ocean of magma.