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Tigers face India with backs to the wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Less than 48 hours after losing to Australia, Bangladesh will be up against another tournament favourites in India today with their chances of progressing to the semifinals of the ICC T20 World Cup hanging in the balance.

In their Group 1 Super Eight match in Antigua yesterday, the Tigers put up 140-8 on the board but could hardly test the Aussies, who raced to 100-2 in 11.2 overs in a rain-interrupted chase and were eventually declared winners by 28 runs in DLS method.

The ease with which Australia batted against the Bangladesh attack, which has been the team's strongest department throughout

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



South Africa players celebrates their thrilling seven-run victory against England in their Twenty20 World Cup Super Eight match at Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia yesterday. After posting 163 for six, the Proteas restricted England to 156 for six in 20 overs.

PHOTO: AFP

Putin threatens to arm North Korea

US 'incredibly' concerned; Seoul summons Russian envoy over pact with Pyongyang

CNN ONLINE

Vladimir Putin has threatened to arm North Korea if Western countries continue providing military aid to Ukraine, as the Russia president's new defence pact with Pyongyang sparked a series of diplomatic reverberations in the region.

Putin's remarks, at the end of a state visit to Vietnam, capped off a week in which Moscow sought to rattle the West and project strength from a part of the world in which his influence still carries weight.

"Those who supply these weapons believe that they are not at war with us. I said, including in Pyongyang, that we then reserve the right to supply weapons to other regions of the world," Putin told reporters Thursday at the end of his trip to Hanoi, in response to a question on whether the supply of Western long-range weapons could be considered an act of aggression.

"Where they will go next?" he said, suggesting those countries could then sell the weapons to Western adversaries.

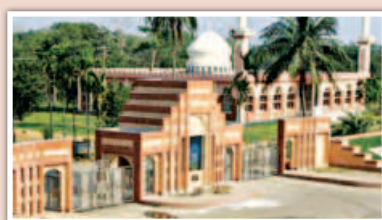
"It is incredibly concerning," US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told a news briefing when asked about Putin's remarks about possible arms supplies to North Korea.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

JU lost 40pc waterbodies in 35 years

Says a study; vegetation area shrank by 26.5pc between 1988 and 2023



-  172.5 acres converted into built-up areas
-  Original master plan neglected during structural development

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Jahangirnagar University campus, known for its verdant fields, woods, and waterbodies, has lost nearly 40 percent of its waterbodies over the last three and a half decades.

The university's vegetation cover has also shrunk by 26.5 percent during the same period, according to a study.

In contrast, the JU saw its built-up area going up by 159.3 percent. Around 172.5 acres of land were converted into built-up areas, said the study published in the Bangladesh Journal of Environmental Research, a peer-reviewed journal.

The research titled "35 Years of Land Use and Land Cover Change in Jahangirnagar University: Challenges of Achieving Sustainable Green University Campus" analysed data on JU from 1988 to 2023.

It shows that waterbodies covered an area of 122.4 acres in 1988, but the figure dropped to 73.58 acres last year. The vegetation area of 388.80 acres shrunk to 285.88 acres over the same period.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Israeli forces step up strikes across Gaza

Engage in close-quarter combat with Hamas fighters

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli forces pounded Rafah in southern Gaza yesterday, as well as other areas across the enclave, killing at least 32 Palestinians as troops engaged in close-quarter combat with Hamas fighters, residents and Israel's military said.

Residents said the Israelis appeared to be trying to complete their capture of Rafah, which borders Egypt and has been the focus of an Israeli assault since early May.

Tanks were forcing their way into the western and northern parts of the city, having already captured the west, south and centre. Israeli forces fired from planes, tanks and ships off the coast, forcing a new wave of displacement from the city, which had been sheltering more than a million displaced people, most of whom have been forced to flee again.

Later yesterday, Palestinian health officials said at least 12 Palestinians were killed in Mawasi in western Rafah in what Palestinians said was a tank shelling that hit a tent housing displaced families.

Palestinian health officials said at least 32 Palestinians had been killed in separate Israeli military strikes yesterday.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reported strikes on Mawasi and a separate incident in Gaza City.

It said its forces were conducting "precise, intelligence-based" actions in the Rafah area, where troops were involved in close-quarter combat and had located tunnels used by Hamas members.

The military also said that over the past week its forces had targeted a university that it said served as a Hamas headquarters from which Hamas fighters fired on its soldiers and had found weapons and barrel bombs. It did not name the university.

In nearby Khan Younis, an Israeli air strike yesterday killed three people, including a father and son, medics said.

Another Israeli air strike on a Gaza City municipal facility killed five people, including four municipal workers, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said. It added that rescue teams were searching the rubble for more missing victims.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that more than 37,463 people have been killed in the territory during more than eight months of offensive.

Meanwhile, Armenia has officially recognised a Palestinian state, the Armenian foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday, the latest country to do so despite opposition from Israel.

Armenia supports a United Nations resolution on an immediate ceasefire in Israel's offensive in Gaza and is in favour of a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the same statement said.

In a separate development, Qatar said yesterday it was continuing mediation efforts to "bridge the gap" between Israel and Hamas to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages held there.

-  32 more Palestinians killed
-  Armenia recognises Palestinian statehood
-  Israeli troops trying to complete their capture of Rafah: residents

Couple killed in landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man and his pregnant wife died in a landslide in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Anwar Hossain, muezzin of a local mosque, and his wife, Maimuna Akhter.

Maimuna was seven months pregnant, reports UNB.

They lived at the foot of a hill in Badsha Ghona area under the upazila.



Incessant rain over the past few days had saturated the hill, adjacent to their house, which finally gave way and collapsed onto their tin-roofed house around 3:00am.

Helal Uddin Kabir, councilor of Ward 9 under Cox's Bazar Municipality confirmed the matter.

The couple, sleeping at the time, got trapped under the debris. Locals later recovered their bodies from the rubble.

The victims were taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival.

Cox's Bazar has been experiencing heavy rainfall over the past several days.

Solar panel achieves world record with 'miracle material'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new efficiency world record for converting sunlight into electricity has been set, in what researchers claim is a huge boost for renewable energy.

Researchers at Longi, the world's biggest solar panel manufacturer, achieved a 34.6 percent power conversion efficiency using a tandem perovskite-silicon solar cell, beating the previous record by 0.7 percent.

The new record is also more than 7 percent more efficient than the record for a standard silicon solar cell, which is found in most commercial solar panels.

Perovskite has been hailed as a "miracle material" for its potential to vastly improve everything from batteries to telecommunications and renewable energy.

With current silicon solar panels reaching their physical limits, researchers are now looking to next-generation tandem cells to better harness the Sun's energy.

Perovskite-silicon cells have a theoretical efficiency limit of 43 percent - far exceeding the 29 percent limit of standard silicon cells.



Argentina superstar Lionel Messi had a rare off-day in front goal but made up for it by being involved in both goals in the Albiceleste's 2-0 win over Canada in their opening Copa America fixture at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium yesterday. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner was involved in the build-up of the first goal scored by Julian Alvarez, and then turned assist provider for his side's second which was netted by Lautaro Martinez.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Messi's bright start in latest quest for glory

REUTERS

Lionel Messi's latest quest for international glory in the twilight of his career is off to a smooth start with Argentina's 2-0 win over Canada at the Copa America opening.

Despite winning accolades galore at club level from an early age, it took Messi until 34 to triumph with Argentina at a major international tournament, lifting first the 2021 Copa America then the 2022 World Cup.

Now, with fans wondering if this is his last dance on the big stage, Messi's Argentina are red hot favourites to win a successive Copa America.

The stage appears set for Messi, who turns 37 next week.

Perennial rivals Brazil are on a poor run of form while Argentina are brimming with talent all around, headlined by their captain, and the July 14 Copa final