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## Krejcikova wins Wimbledon title



AFP, London

Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic defeated Italy's Jasmine Paolini to win the Wimbledon women's title on Saturday for her second Grand Slam singles triumph. Krejcikova, the 31st seed, won 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to add the 2024 All England Club crown to her 2021 French Open victory. Her win comes 26 years after her mentor Jana Novotna, who died in 2017, claimed the Wimbledon title. The result meant seventh-seeded Paolini had lost two Grand Slam finals back-to-back after coming off second best to Iga Swiatek at the French Open last month. Krejcikova set the tone immediately by breaking the Italian in the opening game and backing up the advantage with a hold to love.

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PHOTO: REUTERS

Palestinians carry a casualty at the site of an Israeli strike at a tent camp in Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis in southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

## Summit's floating LNG terminal back in Bay after repairs

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Chattogram

Summit's floating LNG terminal returned to the Bay of Bengal near Moheshkhali after repairs from the damages done by Cyclone Remal in May. On May 27, a floating platoon hit the FSRU, causing damage to a ballast tank. After that, the supply of LNG to the national grid through that terminal was stopped. In the absence of the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU), LNG supply to the national grid dropped to half, resulting in patchy gas supply in various districts including Dhaka and Chattogram. The supply of LNG to the national grid will return to normal from July 18, said Muhammad Nasir Uddin, deputy general manager of Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company (RPGCL). Meanwhile, one of the two LNG supply pipelines that was shut down on Tuesday has resumed operations from Friday. The RPGCL authorities shut down the pipeline after it started leaking. The leak was caused during soil testing for the construction of a jetty in the Chinese Economic Zone at the Anwara edge of Chattogram. After three consecutive days of repair work, the supply of LNG through the 42-inch diameter pipeline started again. The stakeholders hope that the ongoing gas crisis in various districts including Dhaka and Chattogram will be alleviated to some extent from now on.

## Finding hope in hair! Dinajpur's hair-processing industry transforming lives of thousands

KONGKON KARMAKER

Farsia Ara was distraught when her van-puller husband, the sole earner of her family, left her and their three daughters two years ago. Belonging to an ultra-poor family in Dinajpur's Nawabganj, she was struggling to support her children. Unexpectedly however, she found hope in hair! She joined the district's burgeoning loose hair processing industry as a detangler. Initially, she earned Tk 60 a day to smoothen out hair. But two years of her perseverance paid off and now she earns Tk 100 a day, making her Tk 3,000 a month. Farsia finally found stability and married off her two elder daughters. Her youngest now works with her in the same hair processing factory, bringing their combined monthly income to around Tk 6,000 a month. "This job has become a lifeline for my family. As I work from 7:00am to 1:00pm, I can also give time to them while maintaining my professional responsibilities ... We also get festival bonuses!" Farsia's story is just one of many.

Often overlooked, the hair processing and wig manufacturing industry is making significant strides in improving the lives of the poor. Across Dinajpur, especially in Nawabganj and Chirirbandar upazilas, thousands of women from ultra-poor families have found



employment in hair processing. Groups of 10 to 12 women work together in homes, sorting, cleaning, and preparing the hair. Some of the women have been supporting their families for over a decade through this work. Visiting the upazilas recently, this correspondent saw hundreds

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## 'Let others compete for nomination'

Two dozen former Democratic lawmakers ask Biden after gaffes

AFP, Washington

Two dozen former congressional Democrats published an open letter on Friday urging President Joe Biden to allow other candidates to compete for the party's presidential nomination ahead of November's US election.

The move is another blow for the 81-year-old Biden as he seeks to reassure voters that he is fit for office after his tumultuous debate performance in late June against Republican rival Donald Trump. In the letter, the 24 signatories said Biden would "best serve the nation he loves" by releasing delegates who are pledged to vote for him at the Democratic National Convention -- which is otherwise set to cement his role as the party's official nominee -- and instead allow others to compete to lead the ticket. "We are confident that one or more capable Democratic candidates would step forward. Excitement and optimism would ensue," read the letter addressed to the "American people" and reported by Politico. In multiple public appearances this week, Biden has emphasized that he plans to stay in the race and become the Democratic nominee.



## ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS INDIA bloc wins 10 out of 13 seats

THE HINDU ONLINE

The opposition INDIA bloc won 10 assembly seats, while the BJP clinched two and an Independent one, as votes were counted yesterday for the by-elections held earlier this week on 13 seats in seven states. In Punjab, Mohinder Bhagat of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won the Jalandhar West seat. In Tamil Nadu, the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) Anniyur Siva emerged victorious in the Vikravandi Assembly constituency. On the four seats in West Bengal, Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate Krishna Kalyani defeated BJP's Manas Kumar Ghosh in Raiganj, Mukut Nami Adhikari defeated BJP's Manoj Kumar Biswas in Ranaghat Dakshin, Madhuparna Thakur defeated BJP's Binay Kumar Biswas in Bagda, and Supti Pandey defeated

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## MARRIAGE CASE Imran Khan to remain in jail despite acquittal

REUTERS, Islamabad

Former prime minister Imran Khan and his third wife were acquitted on charges of marrying unlawfully by a Pakistan court yesterday, but he will not be freed as authorities issued fresh orders to arrest him. The ruling came a day after his Pakistan 'Tehreek-e-Insaf' (PTI) party won more seats in parliament, ramping up pressure on the country's fragile ruling coalition which is grappling to stabilise a broken economy. The couple were sentenced to seven years in February when a court found them guilty of breaking Islamic law by failing to observe the required interval between the divorce from a previous marriage of Bushra Khan, also known as Bushra Bibi, and her marriage to Khan. They had filed an appeal against their convictions. "Both the appellants are acquitted of the charges," said an order by the appeal court seen by Reuters. "They are directed to be released forthwith if not required to be detained in any other case." It said the prosecution failed to prove its case against the couple. Khan's PTI party said authorities have issued fresh arrest warrants for him in three cases linked to violence



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## Leave 10km inside border line to BGB HC suggests govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in its full judgement in a smuggling case has made four suggestions for parliament, including declaring 10-kilometre land from the border line as the property of Border Guard Bangladesh. The HC bench of Justice Md Ashraful Kamal gave the suggestion to ensure border security properly, bring down cross-border crimes to zero and to prevent revenue dodging. In the verdict delivered on August 3 last year, the HC acquitted accused Zakir Hossain of smuggling charges and scrapped the three-year jail sentence handed to him by the trial court concerned. The case was filed by BGB (formerly Bangladesh Rifles) following the recovery of Indian sharis at the Jashore border during an anti-smuggling operation in 1987.

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A battery-run school van goes against traffic on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in the capital's Shanir Akhra yesterday, putting the lives of the schoolchildren and other road users at risk.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Euro, Copa finals promise pure thrills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

So it all comes to a close tonight, or tomorrow morning, depending on which major tournaments one is keeping their eyes on. However, if loyalties are divided by the Atlantic, fans are poised to get a double dose of the best football continental tournaments have to offer: the Euros and the Copa America.



Juxtaposed with the T20 World Cup, the two major footballing tournaments took a little more time than usual to get the fanbases in Bangladesh buzzing. But once the cricket enthusiasm waned with the Tigers making a meek exit from the Super Eight stage of the marquee event in the USA and West Indies, there was no better retreat for the despondent Bangladesh fans than the excitement of the two major continental tournaments rolling into the knockout phases. And it has been quite a ride for football aficionados for the past month, perhaps not always of the highest quality, but nevertheless full of excitement, intrigue, and surprises.

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