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## USA pip China in medals table

AFP, Paris

The United States pipped China for top spot in the battle of medals yesterday as Paris prepared to bring the curtain down on one of the most successful Olympic Games in history.

In a thrilling finale that capped 17 days of spellbinding action, the United States women's basketball team squeezed past France 67-66 to clinch the last gold of the Games.

The win -- the eighth consecutive Olympic women's basketball won by the USA -- ensured the Americans finished level with China on 40 golds each as the games drew to a close.

The USA however finished on top of the overall medal table with a total of 126 medals, with China in second place on 91.

The final day began with a gripping women's marathon victory by the Netherlands' long-distance running star Sifan Hassan, who overhauled Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa to take gold by three seconds in an Olympic record of 2hr 22min 55sec.

Wrestling, weightlifting, water polo, volleyball, modern pentathlon, handball, and track cycling were the other sports to crown Olympic champions on the last day.

Hungary's Michelle Gulyas ran and shot to Olympic gold in the modern pentathlon, with home favourite Elodie Clouvel roared on to clinch silver.

In weightlifting, China's jubilant Li Wenwen lifted her coach into the air instead of the bar, having already secured gold.



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Athletes enter the stadium during the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis yesterday. A star-studded ceremony took place in front of around 71,500 spectators to crown an event that has been broadly acclaimed as one of the greatest editions of the Olympics ever held.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Prof Yunus acquitted in graft case

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has been acquitted in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), four days after being cleared of charges in a labour law violation case.

Meanwhile, Nurjahan Begum, the recently sworn-in health adviser and another accused in the graft case, was also acquitted.

The development came yesterday, three days after the council of advisers in the interim government led by Prof Yunus took the

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### ATTACKS ON MINORITIES

## Form special tribunals to try culprits

### Demand leaders of minority communities

STAR REPORT

Leaders of the minority organisations yesterday demanded the formation of special tribunals to expedite the trials of those who were involved in the attacks on minorities and compensation for the victims.

They placed the demands at the demonstrations that continued for the third straight day in the capital and elsewhere in the country, organised under the banners of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad.

In the capital, the central rally was held in front of the National Museum.

"This is our country. We were born here. We will give our lives, but we will not leave this country," said Basudev Dhar, president of the Puja Ujapan Parishad, while speaking at the rally.

Following the rally, the protesters brought out a procession, which ended at the Central Shaheed Minar premises, where another rally was held.

There, they placed several other demands, which included the allocation

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## Israel faces anger over Gaza school 'massacre'

More Gaza evacuations ordered; Palestinians and UN say nowhere in Gaza safe

AFP, Gaza City

Israel yesterday faced international condemnation for its strikes on a school in Gaza used for internally displaced people.

At least 93 people were killed in the attack. AFP could not independently verify the toll which, if confirmed, would be one of the largest from a single strike during 10 months of war between Israel and Palestinian militants since Hamas's October 7 attack.

The bombing of Al-Tabieen religious school and mosque drew criticism from across the Middle East and beyond alongside calls for a ceasefire, after international mediators invited the warring sides to resume talks towards a long-sought truce and hostage-release deal.

Civil defence rescuers in the Hamas-ruled territory said three Israeli missiles hit the complex in Gaza City while people were performing dawn prayers. The military confirmed it had used "three precise munitions".

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil

defence agency, said 11 children and six women were among the 93 who died at the school shelter, "and there are many unidentified body parts".

"They dropped a missile on them while they were just praying," said one woman, mourning over a dead child shrouded in a plastic body bag.

Israel's military said it had "precisely struck" Al-Tabieen, later adding that intelligence suggested "at least 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists were eliminated".

Hamas denounced it as a "dangerous escalation", while the Palestinian group's Lebanese ally Hezbollah called it a "horrific massacre".

Iran, which backs both militant groups and had accused Israel of wanting to spread war in the Middle East following high-profile killings in Tehran and Beirut, condemned what it called a "barbaric attack".

"Those who were inside the mosque were all killed," said local resident Abu Wassim. "Even the floor above, where women and children were sleeping, was completely burned."

- Israel issues massive evacuation order in Khan Younis
- Tens of thousands made to leave homes in darkness
- Palestinians and UN say nowhere in Gaza is safe



## BNP leader Salahuddin returns after nine years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed returned to Bangladesh yesterday from India, where he ended up under mysterious circumstances over nine years ago.

To give him a warm welcome, thousands of party members gathered at Dhaka's Shahjalal International Airport, where he landed at 2:15pm after departing from Delhi at 11:00am.

Upon his return in a changed political landscape after the ouster of the Awami League

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## Scientists invent new way to make Mars habitable

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists want to sprinkle engineered dust particles across the Martian atmosphere, warming it up so that it could be made habitable.

The groundbreaking idea is one of a number of revolutionary ways that scientists have proposed to terraform Mars, so that it could be made more like Earth and perhaps even serve as a home for humans.

At the moment, the Martian surface is inhospitable: it is punishingly cold, blasted by deadly UV rays, the soil is salty, the air is thin, and there is no evidence that anything currently lives there.

The new method is more than 5,000 times more efficient than previous schemes, the scientists behind it say.

It makes use of resources that are easily available on Mars -- rather than requiring us to transport materials from our planet, or digging them out of the Martian ground.

Researchers warn that the proposal would take decades to actually work. But many other proposals could be impossible because of the vast amount of work required to make them happen.

The first proposals for terraforming Mars started in the early 1970s. In the 50 years since, researchers have suggested a host of different ways of making it more like Earth, none of which have got off the ground.



## Resignation statement news 'fake'

### Says Joy about Hasina; 'mob rule being allowed'

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday doubled down on his earlier claim that his mother did not resign.

"The recent resignation statement attributed to my mother published in a newspaper is completely false and fabricated," he said in his verified X handle.

"I have just confirmed with her that she did not make any statement either before or since leaving Dhaka," he wrote.

Meanwhile, in an interview with AFP, he thanked New Delhi for "saving her life", accused the interim government of allowing "mob rule" and warned of chaos ahead without swift elections.

Hasina, 76, fled by a helicopter to longtime ally India in a culmination of a student-led uprising on August 5.

"Right now in Bangladesh, you have mob rule," Joy told AFP from Washington.

He pointed to the ouster of top officials, including the chief justice, central bank governor and police chief, following protesters' demands.

"If the mob tomorrow says, 'no, we want this person in the interim government

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Displaced Palestinians flee Hamad City following an Israeli evacuation order in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Law enforcers not our enemy' Gopalganj AL says errant people to be handed over to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Gopalganj Awami League has asked leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies not to hold any programme blocking roads and interrupting daily life.

It also asked them to hold peaceful events and not to carry any homemade weapons, said a press release yesterday.

The directives came a day after at least nine army personnel were injured and a military vehicle was torched during a clash in Gopalganj following an AL procession demanding the return of party President Sheikh Hasina to the country.

"Remember law enforcement agencies are not our enemy," said the press release, asking not to use any power against them.

The district AL regretted the untoward incident that happened with the army

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