



HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT

for more than 20 YEARS



No goal for Ronaldo as Portugal held

AFP, Houston

Cristiano Ronaldo's record-equalling sixth World Cup got off to a disappointing start as the Democratic Republic of Congo secured their first ever point at the finals, drawing 1-1 with Portugal in their Group K match yesterday.

Yoane Wissa's header cancelled out Joao Neves's early goal and the African side -- appearing in their first World Cup since 1974 when it was known as Zaire -- more than held their own.

Ronaldo, 41, was largely a peripheral figure throughout the match -- failing to make the impact his great rival Lionel Messi had done earlier on Wednesday in scoring a hatrick against Algeria.

The DRC's achievement was even greater given their preparations had been disrupted by the Ebola outbreak back in their country.

Some Portugal players were wearing wrist bands, given to them by their Prime Minister Luis Montenegro, in tribute to late team-mate Diogo Jota, who was killed in a

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Cristiano Ronaldo cut a dejected figure as Portugal were held to a 1-1 draw in their World Cup Group K opener against DR Congo at the Houston Stadium yesterday. Despite Ronaldo becoming only the second player, after Argentina's Lionel Messi, to feature in six World Cups, it was a disappointing result for Portugal. They had gone ahead through a Joao Neves header early in the game before DR Congo levelled the score late in the first half through Yoane Wissa.

PHOTO: AFP

Rakhine stability key to Rohingya repatriation

Khalilur says govt pushing for Myanmar-Arakan Army dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday said the government is working to establish effective dialogue between Myanmar authorities and the Arakan Army to help create a stable environment in Rakhine state, which in turn would facilitate the repatriation of Rohingyas.

Answering a question from MP Shahjahan Chowdhury in parliament, he said the Rohingya issue and its broader resolution largely depend on the security situation in the Myanmar state.

Describing Rohingya repatriation as a "complex, sensitive, and multidimensional international issue", he said the pace of resolution of the issue depends on three factors: the security situation in Rakhine, international pressure, and above all, the goodwill of the Myanmar authorities.

"Since ethnic conflict and war have persisted in Rakhine for a long time, repatriation cannot be forced or carried out in unsafe conditions under international law," he said. "However, our government believes dialogue



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Goats can find food by following a human voice

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

Researchers found that goats, like young children, can use the direction of a human voice to find an object.

Professor Simon Townsend from the University of Zürich, according to The Guardian, described this as a "vocal form of pointing," meaning the direction someone speaks can act like a guide.

Interestingly, this ability has not been seen in chimpanzees but has been observed in dogs, which suggests it may be related to domestication.

Researchers published their study in Royal Society Open Science. First, the goats were trained to get used to the setup.

They heard a person calling their names from behind the screen while watching food being placed in one of the buckets.

In the actual test, the goats did not see where the food (uncooked pasta) was placed. A hidden researcher put it in one bucket, then positioned both buckets on either side of the screen.

Across 29 goats and 12 tests each, goats picked the correct bucket about 60 percent of the time when the human voice was directed toward it. But when the researcher was silent or spoke in the wrong direction, the goats were only right about half the time (around 47-49 percent).



Man to die for murder of 5-year-old Ayat in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to death for abducting and murdering a five-year-old girl in 2022, dismembering her body into six pieces and dumping the remains across different parts of the city.

The convict, Abir Ali, 23, was also fined Tk 1 lakh, which the court ordered be paid to the victim's family.

The verdict was delivered by the court of Sixth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Muhammad Ali Akkas in the presence of the accused.

Public Prosecutor Jalal Uddin told journalists that the court reached its decision after examining the evidence and witness testimonies.

In its verdict, the court observed: "Murder is a heinous crime against humanity. It is not merely the killing of an innocent child; it also involves the abuse of the victim's body after death. Dismembering the body into six pieces and desecrating

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Iran deal averted economic disaster

Says Trump, defends pact, cautions he can restart war; Iran still reviewing MoU

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday defended his interim agreement with Iran, saying it had averted a global economic catastrophe, while warning he could launch fresh attacks if Tehran failed to honour its commitments.

Speaking at the close of a G7 summit in France, Trump also said

tomorrow (Thursday), maybe the next day (Friday)".

"We are going to most likely sign a deal," he added.

The war, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and spiraled into a broader regional conflict, has driven up energy prices, renewed inflationary pressures and sparked concerns about a major food supply crisis in developing countries.

US official says sides can still walk away from deal

Plan floated for \$300b Iran reconstruction fund

Iran agrees to dilute uranium under peace deal: US

Israel launches fresh strikes in Lebanon

maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz had risen sharply since the truce was announced three days ago and expressed hope it could mark the start of a wider peace across the Middle East.

"We're going to bomb the hell out of them [Iran] if they violate the agreement. I don't want them to. I want them to honour the agreement," Trump told a press conference, adding that the Iranians were "smart people".

He later said he expected the accord with Iran to end the Middle East war "maybe signed

"So the one thing I didn't want to see is, I didn't want to see economic catastrophe. If you kept this going, that could have happened," Trump said. He thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin for being "neutral" during the conflict, saying they had not thwarted his efforts to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Oil prices fell again on Wednesday on prospects for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, with Brent crude futures LCOc1 below \$80, at their

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FY27 BUDGET

Fossil fuel bias persists: CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for fiscal 2026-27 has taken several steps to promote renewable energy but falls short of removing the longstanding fiscal advantages enjoyed by fossil fuels, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

"Despite a greener fiscal stance than in previous years, Bangladesh's tax regime still provides stronger support for fossil fuel-based energy than for a full-scale renewable energy transition," said Helen Mashiya Prety, senior research associate at CPD, while presenting the keynote paper at an event yesterday.

The CPD's analysis found that fossil fuel-based projects continue to receive 98 percent of generation sector allocations, while renewable energy projects account for only 2 percent of the proposed annual development programme (ADP).

Of the renewable-energy-related projects included in the ADP, only five received allocations, three of which are continuing projects.

No new renewable energy or solar power projects have been included in the current ADP, according to the CPD.

In addition, 11 renewable-energy-related projects failed to secure approval this year, including seven solar projects with a combined capacity of 640 megawatts, one battery energy storage project and three grid-modernisation initiatives.

However, the CPD welcomed several fiscal measures aimed at promoting renewable energy.

These include the proposal to allow solar power generation companies to enjoy a zero-percent tax rate until 2035, as well as reductions or exemptions from import duties, regulatory duties and advance taxes on a range of solar-related equipment and components.

The think-tank also praised measures to encourage electric vehicle adoption, including the elimination of

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'SP brought in outstation cops for crossfire'

Officer testifies at ICT over killing of 2 BNP men in Barishal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A serving police officer told a tribunal yesterday that a former superintendent of police of Barishal brought in two assistant sub-inspectors from a nearby police station to stage the 2015 "crossfire" killing of two BNP-linked local leaders after officers of Agailjhara Police Station refused to carry out the order.

Testifying as first prosecution witness before International Crimes Tribunal-2, police inspector Asim Kumar Sikder, then a sub-inspector at Agailjhara Police Station and now officer-in-charge of Barishal Sadar Naval Police Station, also said then-SP AKM Ehsanullah threatened to ruin their careers after they refused.

With the prosecution's opening statement and Asim's testimony, the crimes against humanity case against former Awami League lawmaker and chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Ehsanullah, and former Uzirpur Police Station ASIs Mahabul Islam and Jasim Uddin began yesterday.

Hasanat and Ehsanullah are absconding, while the two former ASIs have been arrested. Ehsanullah, who was later promoted to deputy inspector general, fled after the AL government was ousted on August 5, 2024.

The case relates to the deaths of Tipu Hawlader, 30, then joint secretary of Agailjhara upazila Chhatra Dal unit, and Kabir Mollah, 32, organising secretary of upazila

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Erosion along the Padma river is threatening Rajshahi city, with large stretches of the riverbank collapsing and the water advancing towards homes and urban infrastructure. Despite government protection efforts, seasonal fluctuations in water levels continue to accelerate land loss. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

7-yr-old killed over irrigation dispute

Say police after accused confesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An accused in the murder case of a seven-year-old girl in Lalmonirhat has confessed in court, saying he killed the child to avenge a dispute between two families over irrigation water for farmland.

Bidhan Chandra, 20, made the confessional statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the Lalmonirhat Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, said Sub-Inspector Abu Sayeed Md Ayub Tuhin, the investigation officer in the case.

The case was filed on Tuesday night with Aditmari Police Station by the victim's father, Nalini Mohan Barman, against Bidhan, his father Ranjit Kumar, 42, and mother Mamata Rani, 37.

Bidhan and Ranjit were

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