

Greed of a few, misery of thousands

Bangladesh is globally known as a flood-prone country held hostage by its own geography. But as the recent flooding and waterlogging in the Chattogram region shows, we sometimes have only ourselves to blame. In the deluge that devastated southern Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar last month, the greed of a few local influentials left thousands of citizens water-logged and suffering. Following nearly a week of continuous monsoon rain that began on July 5, vast areas including Banskhali, Satkania, Pekua, Chakaria and Matamuhuri were inundated. The floodwaters took weeks to subside; some pockets remain waterlogged even now. A report by this daily finds that illegal occupation of secondary canals, essential for draining rainwater, significantly worsened what should have been a manageable seasonal event.According to officials, nearly 90 percent of the canals listed in government records have been encroached upon. Key secondary canals have been converted into private fish and shrimp enclosures, while others have been filled in for housing. Illegally built private sluice gates used for aquaculture are routinely kept closed during heavy rains to protect fish stocks, trapping the flood-water. In Banshkhalī’s Chhanua Union, for instance, embankments built for fish farming blocked a roughly 100-foot stretch of the Asiuddin-Tamizuddin canal, inundating more than 100 houses. Meanwhile, in Matamuhuri’s Badarkhali Union, at least seven canals have been blocked, with the Badarkhali Cooperative Agriculture and Colonial Society reportedly earning nearly Tk 10 crore a year by leasing them out. The human cost of this profiteering is captured by the story of Habibullah, a resident of Pekua upazila, whose home was underwater for about 15 days, during which his family could neither cook nor use their toilets. Experts assert that the natural flow of these canals must be restored to solve the waterlogging problem in the region. The authorities must systematically reclaim every encroached canal by dismantling the illegal embankments and sluice gates, and hold the perpetrators, however influential they may be, to account. Meanwhile, the upazila administrations must be directed to complete a full inventory of canals, including those that remain outside official records. Where legitimate aquaculture exists, it must be relocated away from drainage channels, and canals under long-running ownership disputes should be provisionally kept clear pending resolution. Local communities, too, have a role: residents who witness encroachment must be given safe, anonymous channels to report it. The lives of thousands cannot remain hostage to the commercial greed of a well-connected few.

Govt to pursue constitutional

“They are in parliament. If the matter is raised there, it will be discussed.”Responding to a question about recent attacks on NCP leaders and activists in Sylhet and Habiganj, and whether the government would ensure justice without influencing the legal process, the minister said legal action had already been initiated.“The case would not have been filed if the government and the police had not wanted it to be. A case has already been filed. Following an investigation, the incident will be tried in accordance with the law,” he said. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat, who also spoke at the event, said tourist destinations in Jhenaidah had been included in the government’s tourism development plan and expressed hope that the sector would see significant progress once the plan was implemented.

No alternative to breast milk for

hospitals, the Health Minister said children’s bodies are becoming weak due to malnutrition.Many mothers stop breast-feeding their children on the pretext of their own malnutrition, which is completely inappropriate, he said, adding that malnutrition is increasing due to early marriage, lack of awareness and not breastfeeding children.Criticising the inaction of the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) in the past few days, Sakhawat Husain said no effective meeting or seminar has been held in the past one year to make the general people aware.From now on, a programme should be prepared for a year and civil surgeons, deputy commissioners and upazila-level officials to explain the need for breastfeeding and make it mandatory to follow it, the minister said.

Quality of judiciary is key

alised economy of the 21st century, investors-both foreign and domestic-do not judge a country solely by tax incentives or infrastructure. They seek certainty. They seek assurance that contracts will be honoured, rights will be protected, and disputes will be resolved not over decades but within months,” he said.

Dr Syed Refaat Ahmed made the remarks as the chief guest at the maiden Bangladesh ADR Summit hosted by the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) at Hotel InterContinental here.

BIAC Board Chairman Mahbubur Rahman delivered the welcome address, while High Court Division Justice Fatema Anwar presented the keynote address titled “Advancing Justice and Business Confidence through ADR”.

“We must confront the reality that, for too long, enforcing a commercial contract in Bangladesh has been a deterrent to foreign investment and a brake on domestic entrepreneurship. We must recognise that the adjudicatory framework we are building serves as a genuine lifeline for our national economy,” the former chief justice said.

Dr Refaat also stressed the need to move towards a new judicial philosophy for commercial disputes-one that recognises time as a critical element of justice and treats procedural discipline as a constitutional duty.

BIAC organised the summit to mark its 15th anniversary.A session highlighting BIAC’s journey from 2011 to 2026 was held at the outset of the programme. Chaired by BIAC Vice Chairman Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, the session featured speeches by former Justice Md Awlad Ali, Aftab Ul Islam, Dr Khaled Hamid Chowdhury and Rizwan-ur-Rahman.

A panel discussion titled “Advancing Justice and Business Confidence through ADR” was also held. Moderated by Barrister Sameer Sattar, the discussion featured Barrister Tanim Hussain Shawon, Dr Melita Mehjabeen, Mohammad Forrukh Rahman, Mohammad Mahmudur Rashid and Barrister Magrub Kabir. BIAC Chief Executive Officer KAM Majedur Rahman presented a vote of thanks at the very end of the function.

Judges, lawyers inspect

Justice Md. Shafuil Alam Mahmud and Justice Md. Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury, entered into the TFI Cell accompanied by Chief Prosecutor Md. Aminul Islam. During the visit, the delegation inspected all 29 secret chambers of the TFI Cell during the visit. ICT Prosecutors Mizanul Islam, Gazi M H Tamim, Faruk Ahmad, Shaikh Mahdi, Shahidul Islam Sardar and Tasmirul Islam, defence lawyers-Sanjida Islam Tuli, MP, coordinator of Mayer Dak, an organisation representing families of victims of enforced disappearance, human rights activist Nur Khan Liton and journalists were present during the inspection.

Parliament Secretariat

competition and stressed the importance of developing proficiency in the Bangla language, proper grammar, correct sentence construction and appropriate word choice.He advised the participants to remain free from anxiety and present their ideas

When waiting in line for subsidised food turns deadly

Md. Neyamul Hossain

Because they could not step away from death, death stepped in for them (apologies to Emily Dickinson). The crack appeared on a boundary wall of Mirpur University College in Dhaka—death sent an early sign. But the people standing in a queue for subsidised essentials had the urgency to live; without food, their families would starve to death. Moving away from the cracked wall meant they would lose their spots in the line. The wall, however, had its own schedule. It collapsed, injuring many, and three eventually succumbed to their injuries.

It is easy to blame the substandard construction of the wall. But the real culprit is poverty, which reduced the victims’ freedom to move away from danger even when the signs were there. Poverty reduced both their purchasing power and safety choices.One of the victims, Nasima Begum (45), used to work as a cleaner for a private company. She went to collect essentials from a food directorate truck during lunch break, skipping her meal. She had taken out some loan to send her husband to Kuwait and was taking care of her own mother as well. Her mother’s reaction—“Who will feed me now?”—is an existential question that has several echoes. The woman who cared for both her husband and her mother is now gone. And we need to lay our ears to hear the pain and anguish.

Rickshaw-puller Md Firoz and local resident Beauty Begum are the two other identified victims of this collapse. We normally canonise the death of great ones and have little to say about the vulnerable members of society. Little do we care if they were the breadwinners of their families. The privileged class has its own wall to keep them away. Yet, they enter our domain when services are needed. Come to think of it, the wall collapsed twice. The first fall is perhaps due to its poor construction or bad maintenance. But these deaths exposed another fallen wall standing between social assistance and public humiliation.

The trucks responsible for open market sales (OMS) normally choose exposed public spaces. They don’t care if the food is distributed in unhygienic conditions, often near open drains and heavy traffic. In Mirpur, the truck was parked by a visible unstable structure. This is possible because the authorities don’t seem to think these citizens are worthy of better service.

in simple and clear language instead of making their essays unnecessarily complex, according to a Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat press release. Encouraging the students to prepare themselves for future leadership roles, he said those aspiring to become Members of Parliament (MPs) or officials of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat should begin preparing from an early age. He also underscored the importance of becoming good human beings alongside being good students. Senior officials of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat were present on the occasion.

BGMEA appoints Major

General Shahedul Islam previously served as Dean at the Bangladesh University of Professionals and as Treasurer and Professor at the Central University of Science and Technology. He also participated in several United Nations Peacekeeping missions.BGMEA leaders expressed confidence that his experience in diplomacy, strategic leadership and workforce development would help strengthen the country’s RMG industry, foster innovation, develop skilled human resources and address evolving global challenges. After assuming office, Shahedul Islam said he would work closely with the BGMEA Board and garment entrepreneurs to address global economic challenges, promote product and market diversification, and strengthen skill development to enhance Bangladesh’s competitiveness in the international apparel market.

Doctors must dedicate themselves

your professional life through honesty, dedication and patriotism. He called upon everyone to dedicate themselves to the service of helpless people and to uphold the honour of this institution. Recalling the glorious heritage of Rajshahi Medical College, he said that the meritorious students of this institution are working with reputation at home and abroad. Highlighting the government’s plan for the development of the health sector in Rajshahi, the chief guest said that the present democratic government is working tirelessly to deliver healthcare to people’s doorsteps. He announced that a Dental Medical College and a state-of-the-art specialized hospital with the cooperation of the Chinese government will be built in Rajshahi. He also pledged to complete the unfinished work of the 12-storey hospital and to fully operationalise the Children’s Hospital. The program was presided over by the Director of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Brigadier General P K M Masud Ul Islam. Special guests present were chest disease specialist Dr. Wasim Hossain, public health disease specialist Professor Dr. Mofakharul Islam, Principal of Rajshahi Medical College Professor Dr. Khandaker Faisal Alam and Vice-Principal Professor Dr. Zahirul Haque.Among others, officials and employees of government and private offices, doctors, teachers, new doctors, guardians and local leaders and media personnel were present at the event. arlier, 216 intern doctors took the oath.

Woman strangled to death in

Mirza Tarek Ahmed Beg said that the miscreants cut the grill and strangled the woman to death after 3 pm and looted her belongings.

Hasin Tanu, the daughter of the deceased, said that when she returned home from school at 3:30 pm, she saw that the window grill was cut. Her mother was lying on the bed with a pillow over her face. After knocking on the door, she did not get up and felt very cold. She then ran back to the school and informed the headmaster. He informed her father on the phone. The father informed the police.

The Crime Scene Unit of the CID has collected evidence and fingerprints.

Sensational Jubayer Murder in

on his head, neck, back, abdomen, and legs with sharp weapons to ensure his death. Demonstrating extreme brutality, the killers stripped his body naked, dumped it on the road in front of Rafiq Mia’s house in the Nij Kunjara area, and fled the scene.

Case Status and Police Statement

Following the gruesome incident, the victim’s father, Md. Abu Taher (70), filed a murder case with Chhagalnaiya Police Station, naming four persons and including three unnamed individuals. Since the incident, the main accused Mamun had been hiding in Dhaka.

The investigating officer of the case, Sub-Inspector (SI) Kamal Hossain, stated that procedures are underway to present the arrested prime accused, Mamun, before the court following legal formalities.

Commenting on the matter, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chhagalnaiya Police Station said: “The investigation into this discussed murder case is progressing with utmost priority. The prime accused has been arrested, and law enforcement agencies are continuing a comb-out operation to apprehend the remaining absconding accused.”

es. Even though many middle-class people are reportedly lining up to buy goods from the OMS trucks because their earnings no longer align with their expenditures. The welfare delivery by design makes this temporary roadside transaction a less dignified public affair. Perhaps the state simply assumes that a person with compromised purchasing ability does not deserve to be treated with dignity and safety.

There were about 50-60 people in the crowd. The lucky ones probably could move away in time. Others fell prey to the accident. I am trying to understand why these people did not move away, or, more importantly, why the truck did not move to a safer place. Maybe some of them had spent time and money to get to the distribution point. Some like Nasima might have taken a break from their jobs to buy essentials at a concessional rate. There have been reports of not receiving items even after a long wait. Buying these products from local groceries at market prices was not an option either. For them, the only rational thing to do was to wait despite the intolerable constraints. The danger was half certain, but hunger was obvious.

Bangladesh’s measles outbreak is a warning against the complacency of successBangladesh’s measles outbreak is a warning against the complacency of success

The length of the queue tells a different story. It could be used to measure the distance between wages and food prices. And the composition of the queue reveals another dimension: cleaners, rickshaw pullers, domestic workers, retired employees, and lower-middle-income families now appear in the same lines. Economic vulnerability is spreading beyond the conventional poor. Economists can come up with polished inflation figures to make us look good on paper. For ordinary people in the queue or nearby, inflation is a lived reality, measured by the number of hours they must stand beside a truck.

While the OMS programme performs an essential function by protecting households against food-price shocks, we need to think of ways to make its delivery mechanism humane. A well-

Govt giving highest priority

improvement of the education system must begin at the primary level. He said that former Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia had introduced free education for female students up to Class XII which later extended up to the degree level in public institutions. He also noted that the present government has introduced various scholarship programmes and emphasized that reforms in education should begin at the fundamental level and gradually expand across all stages.Highlighting the government’s focus on students’ nutrition, Tuku said plans have been undertaken to ensure that schoolchildren receive protein-rich food, adding that the necessary measures are being implemented for this.Speaking about the government’s anti-drug campaign, the State Minister said narcotics would not be allowed to spread in Tangail under any circumstances. “We will take the strongest possible action against drugs. Everyone must unite to resist the menace that is destroying our youth and students,” he said.

He observed that parents often make enormous sacrifices for their children’s education, with many families selling paddy, land or livestock to meet educational expenses.

“If those children become addicted to drugs, all the sacrifices made by their families go in vain. Therefore, families, educational institutions and society as a whole must work together to build awareness against drug abuse,” he added.The programme was chaired by journalist Abdul Razzak, president of the school’s adhoc committee. Among others, local Member of Parliament Lutfur Rahman Motin, Kalihati Upazila Nirbahi Officer Farzana Akter and the school’s headmaster Abdul Mannan Molla addressed the gathering.After the event, the guests visited the school’s multimedia classroom, inspected the Mid-Day Meal programme and observed the distribution of meals among the students.Local public representatives, political leaders, government officials, teachers, students, guardians, members of the school managing committee and other distinguished residents were also present.

Experts stress mass

dengue, they said the main way to prevent dengue is to control Aedes mosquitoes and that is why increasing public awareness is urgent.

The stagnant water is the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes. So, all should always keep their house yards clean and dispose unnecessary containers in dustbins. Water should not accumulate in usable containers such as flower pots, drums, buckets, air conditioners and water containers under refrigerators for more than five days in a row. The active participation of all citizens is the key to address Aedes mosquitoes, according to them.

Official data as of July 28, this year show 47 people have died of dengue. At the same time, 14,156 people have been admitted to hospitals due to dengue. A total of 17,009 dengue patients have recovered so far this year.Earlier, from January 1 to December 31, 2025, a total of 1,02,861 people were infected with dengue and of them, 413 people died of dengue.

Public health expert Dr Mushtaq Hossain said the fight against dengue should not only start in hospitals, but also from people’s homes, schools, workplaces and local communities.

If coordinated initiatives are taken to identify patients quickly, protect vulnerable people, ensure social support for poor patients and destroy mosquito breeding grounds, dengue-related deaths and suffering can be significantly minimised, he said.“If we see rain as just a natural phenomenon for dengue, then the crisis will deepen. But, if preventive measures can be strengthened after the rain, it will be possible to gradually free the country from this annual outbreak of dengue,” he added.

2 bombs like objects recovered

sives or posed any security threat.

Following reports from the public, local police, senior DMP officials, and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), Bomb Disposal Unit swiftly responded to both locations, cordoned off the areas, and carried out precautionary security measures.At Mirpur-10 Metro Station, bomb disposal experts examined a suspicious bag using an X-ray scanner, which detected a canister-shaped object inside. In line with standard operating procedures (SOPs), the team deployed a frangible disruptor to safely neutralize the suspected device before opening the bag.

The inspection revealed that the bag contained only a container of zarda (chewing tobacco) and betel leaf, with no explosives or hazardous materials.

In a separate incident near Farmgate, under Tejgaon Police Station, authorities responded to a discarded sack that had raised concerns among passersby.

After securing the area, the Bomb Disposal Unit conducted a controlled hand-entry inspection and confirmed that the sack contained no explosive or dangerous substances.

The DMP emphasized that the incidents were handled in

fare system should not require a person to demonstrate need through endurance. Standing in a visible queue can expose recipients—especially women, the elderly, and people with disabilities—to heat, rain, harassment, crowding, and social embarrassment. The state gives a price subsidy but extracts labour and time from the beneficiary.

It’s time we identified the weaknesses in OMS distribution and governance. First, the owner of the wall must be held responsible for allowing a dangerous structure to exist beside a public road. Then, the food authority must own up to its own mistakes in choosing an unsafe site. Was there any coordination with the local administration and police in designing crowd management? Can we not have a more humane and dignified distribution system? Instead of an open road, can we designate some shaded ward-level distribution points with scheduled collection windows? Volunteers and tokens can be used for crowd management. The vendor can publicise real-time stock and operating times. There should be assisted services for the elderly and disabled beneficiaries. Government schools after their business hours can be a good choice. Digital systems can be used to monitor the supply chain and distribution process as well as grievances.

Nasima, Firoz and Beauty are names that will soon be lost in a list of other urban casualties. But their deaths reveal the value we have assigned to certain citizens. They are parts of the capital’s invisible engine. Their occupations matter because each performed work that sustains the city while remaining economically vulnerable within it. Nasima skipped lunch to get food for her family. Firoz perhaps wanted to store the groceries inside his rickshaw seat to provide for his family. And the labour of love of a household worker, Beauty, proved costly. Three of them sought a modest public subsidy. In return, the system treated their time, comfort and safety as expendable. They did not die simply because a wall was weak but because the wall remained indifferent to poor citizens. The final indignity would be to describe the event as an unfortunate accident, form a probe body, and pay some token compensation. The state must act humanely so that a citizen does not have to choose between stepping away from danger and taking food home.

accordance with established safety protocols and praised the rapid response of its bomb disposal personnel.

Police also urged the public to remain vigilant but avoid panic, encouraging citizens to immediately report any suspicious objects or unattended items to law enforcement for prompt assessment and action.

People hope high, keep 18

aspirations through thoughtful debates, constructive criticism and reasoned decision-making,” he said in an exclusive interview with the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at his office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday. “The current parliament is the parliament of the oppressed. Many members have come here after facing the gallows, enforced disappearance, secret detention centres, imprisonment, persecution, exile and arrest warrants,” he said.

“I believe around 99 percent of the 350 lawmakers fall under one or more of these experiences. Therefore, this parliament is unique not only in the history of Bangladesh but also in the history of the world.” Kayser Kamal said people from all walks of life, including farmers, workers and ordinary citizens, now closely follow parliamentary proceedings through mobile phones.

“This Parliament represents 18 crore people, and the 36 crore eyes of those people are fixed on it. We expect lawmakers to meet the aspirations of the nation through meaningful debates, constructive criticism and logical deliberations,” he said. As the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, he said, the responsibility is to conduct the parliamentary business with complete neutrality and fairness.

“Justice and impartiality are my foremost principles. As long as I have the opportunity to preside over the parliament, I will remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of neutrality and fairness,” he added. The Acting Speaker stressed that both the government and the opposition must play responsible roles in institutionalising democracy.

“Our forefathers sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War to establish a democratic state based on equality, human rights, human dignity, the rule of law and constitutional governance. The ruling party and the opposition must now work together to institutionalise that democratic journey. That is what the nation expects,” he said.

Kayser Kamal described Parliament as the centre of the country’s governance, saying that while laws are enacted by the legislature, implemented by the executive and interpreted by the judiciary, the legislative institution remains at the heart of the state. “I believe the Jatiya Sangsad should be the center point of Bangladesh’s overall development as well as its democratic and political practices. Both the government and the opposition should have full opportunities to present their views and offer constructive criticism,” he said.

He said constructive debate between the treasury and opposition benches is the essence of parliamentary democracy and cited the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Pakistan and India as examples where state policies are shaped through debate and deliberation. “I firmly believe the Jatiya Sangsad will become the centre of Bangladesh’s present and future. The aspirations of those who were martyred and injured during the July mass uprising will be fulfilled, and the hopes of the people to build a better nation will be realised,” he said.

Safe Water Relief: Smiles

water for a very long time. We used to walk long distances just to fetch water. Now that we have a tube-well, we will get clean water right at home. May Almighty Allah reward those who relieved us of this hardship.”

Abul Kashem, a resident of Shreedharpur, shared a similar sentiment. “This is not just a tube-well; it is health security for our entire family. The initiative by the donor agency and Mannan Munna to address the regional water crisis is truly commendable,” he said.Organizers stated that the primary objective of the program is to improve the standard of living for the rural poor and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. They also expressed their commitment to continuing support for the people of Daganbhuiyan in education, healthcare, and humanitarian needs with the organization’s ongoing assistance. Local public representatives, dignitaries, and members of the beneficiary families were present at the event. The broader community of Daganbhuiyan has warmly praised this humanitarian effort.

Bangladesh joins global

ernance on AI to promote its healthy, orderly and equitable development for the benefit of all. WAICO was formally established on July 16 when representatives of 29 countries signed its founding agreement in Shanghai. The founding members include China, Kazakhstan, Laos, Pakistan, Russia and Indonesia, among other countries.United Nations Secretary-General Antnio Guterres attended the signing.



Swapon urges all to engage in nation-building, avoid conspiracies

Staff correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon today urged all to refrain from creating instability and engaging in conspiracies on the streets following the fall of fascism and the formation of the elected government, and instead devote themselves to nation-

building. He made the call while addressing a photo exhibition and discussion titled '15 Years of Fascism and the Mass Uprising of 2024' at Jatiya Press Club here. Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) and 'Amra BNP Paribar' jointly organised the programme. Swapon said, "For the past 15 years,

democratic movements against autocracy and fascism were carried out under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia and our leader Deshnayak Tarique Rahman. During the mass uprising of 2024, the courage of the younger generation, combined with our experience and long struggle for democratic values, ensured victory." He

◆ see page 7

Allegations of Smear Campaign Over Governing Body Chairmanship Disrupt Academic Environment at Kumira Residential Girls' School and College



Md Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

A fresh controversy surrounding the appointment of the governing body's chairman at Kumira Residential Girls' School and College in Sitakunda, Chattogram, has allegedly disrupted the institution's academic environment. The principal claims that a vested group has been conducting a sustained smear campaign against him in an attempt to secure the chairman's position. Established in 1986, Kumira Residential Girls' School and College is one of the most renowned educational institutions in the area. The institution is strategically located, with KSRM Industrial Complex to the north, KYCR Coil Industries Ltd. to the south, the

railway line to the east, and the busy Dhaka-Chattogram Highway to the west. The institution received academic recognition in 1992 and first participated in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under the Cumilla Education Board in 1994. It currently has around 1,200 students. Founded by the late Alhaj

Nazir Ahmed Chowdhury, the school was upgraded to a college in 2005 with the support of education enthusiasts and local well-wishers. At that time, it had only 49 students. Today, its alumni serve the country in various prestigious professions, including medicine, engineering, law, academia, and public administration. Among its distinguished alumni are Nargis Sultana Suma, an Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), and Iritiha Alam Nabila, an Assistant Professor at Jahangirnagar University. The institution was recognized as the Best Educational Institution at the upazila level in 2019. In 2023, Principal Md. Nasir Uddin was honored as

◆ see page 7



Feni Celebrates Nazrul's Historic Visit After a Century: Grand 'Nazrul Mela' Draws Hundreds

Staff Reporter

?FENI — A day-long 'Nazrul Mela' turned into a vibrant confluence of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's life, philosophy, songs, and poetry, marking the centenary of his historic visit to Feni. ?Organized by the Feni Sahitya Sabha, the event was held to pay tribute to the rebel poet's enduring memory and legacy, filling the venue with a festive atmosphere throughout the day. ?Member of

◆ see page 7

Controversial BNP Leader Alamgir Siddiqui Arrested from Dhaka Hotel



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

?Feni District Police arrested Md. Alamgir Hossain Siddiqui, a controversial BNP leader from Chhagalnaiya and an accused in multiple criminal cases, during a special operation in the capital early Friday (July 31). ?A police team raided 'Hotel Grand Circle Inn' in the capital's Shahjahanpur area around dawn to apprehend him. ?According to police sources, Alamgir is the son of Amir Hossain Laki from the Uttar

◆ see page 7

Indian passenger arrested with gold worth crores at Shah Amanat Airport

Staff Correspondent

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department (CIID) has recovered gold worth crores of rupees hidden inside clothes at the Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong. An Indian passenger named Thamim Ansari has been arrested in this incident. It is learnt that the Indian national arrived at Shah Amanat International Airport on Friday morning on Air Arabia G9-526

◆ see page 7

Cigarettes, gold ornaments, banned cream and foreign liquor worth Tk 2 crore seized in airport raid

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Staff Reporter

Major raid at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport: Cigarettes, gold ornaments, banned cream and foreign liquor worth Tk 2 crore seized

Based on a tip-off, on Thursday, July 30, officers of the Airport A-Shift of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department conducted a special raid at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka and seized a large quantity of foreign cigarettes, gold ornaments, banned Gauri cream and foreign liquor. The total estimated value of the seized goods, including duty and taxes, is Tk 2 crore 4 lakh 7 thousand. While observing the baggage collection activities of passengers of Biman Bangladesh

◆ see page 7



New Dhaka-Cox's Bazar Train pair to launch this month: Habibur Rashid

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Railways Habibur Rashid has announced that a new pair of intercity trains will be launched on the Dhaka-Cox's Bazar route later this month to meet growing passenger demand and ease ticket shortages. The announcement came during his visit to the Cox's Bazar Iconic Railway Station this morning. The state minister said the number of passengers and tourists travelling to Cox's Bazar has been increasing steadily, prompting the government to expand rail

services and modernise passenger facilities. He expressed hope that the new train pair would significantly reduce passenger suffering, ease ticket pressure and ensure a more comfortable, convenient and timely journey on the route. Rashid also said the government plans to transform the Cox's Bazar Iconic Railway Station into an international-standard, tourism-friendly rail hub. As part of this initiative, the full operation and management of the station will be entrusted to a private organisation to ensure efficient and high-quality services. During the

◆ see page 7

CIID detains Indian passenger over suspected gold smuggling at Shah Amanat Airport

Staff correspondent

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) officials have detained an Indian passenger at Chattogram's Shah Amanat International Airport after recovering capsule-like objects containing gold. Acting on a tip-off, a team from the CIID regional office in Chattogram intercepted the passenger after he crossed the green channel at the airport on Saturday morning. The passenger, identified as Thamim Ansari, arrived from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates on Air Arabia flight G9-526, which landed at 6:58 am. CIID seizes contraband worth Tk 2.04cr at Dhaka airport uring a body search, officials

◆ see page 7



Expired Medicines, Physician Samples Seized; Four Pharmacies Fined Tk 73,000 in Sitakunda

Md. Omar Faruk, special correspondent

A mobile court has fined four pharmacies a total of Tk 73,000 for storing and selling expired, unauthorized medicines and illegally keeping physician samples in Sitakunda Bazar of Chattogram. A large quantity of expired medicines was also seized during the drive. The operation was conducted on Thursday (July 30) by the Sitakunda Upazila Administration at several pharmacies in the market. During the drive, Ayat Pharmacy was fined Tk 15,000, Nuhash Pharmacy Tk 25,000, Jyotsna Pharmacy Tk 30,000, and Faruk Pharmacy Tk 3,000. According to the Upazila Administration, the inspection

◆ see page 7

Zara Agro

Special correspondent, Chattogram.

Zara Agro is a farm project located in the Muhuri Project area, under Joraganj Police Station of Mirsarai Upazila, Chattogram District. Under Zara Agro, there are fish farming as well as a dairy farm. I visited the Zara Agro dairy farm and listened to the success story of the owner, Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun. The Zara Agro dairy farm started 8 years ago with just two cows. One was an Australian Friesian cow and the other was a local crossbreed. At present, his farm has 20 cows, both big and small. Among them, 8 are Friesian and the remaining 12 are cross-breeds. In the last Eid-ul-Azha market, he sold 5 cows. In other words, from the last 8 years till now, 25 cows have been produced on his farm. He spoke about his struggles. "Raising cows

◆ see page 7



2th Death Anniversary of Former Minister and BNP Leader L.K. Siddiqi Observed Today Qur'an Recitation, Prayer and Discussion Programmes Mark the Occasion in Sitakunda

Md Omar Faruk | special correspondent

The 12th death anniversary of Engineer Alhaj Abul Hasnat Lutful Kabir (L.K.) Siddiqi, a four-time Member of Parliament from Chattogram-4 (Sitakunda), former Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, former Minister for Water Resources, former Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and a distinguished engineer, is being observed today, August 1. L.K. Siddiqi passed away on this day in 2014 while undergoing treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. Widely respected for his integrity, visionary leadership and commitment to public welfare, he remains one of the most admired political figures in Sitakunda. Born on April 15, 1939, in South Rahmatnagar of Muradpur Union under Sitakunda Upazila, Siddiqi graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Ahsanullah Engineering College (now Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology-BUET) in 1961. After establishing himself as a successful engineer, he entered politics and earned a reputation for honesty, competence and dedicated public



service. He was first elected to Parliament in 1979 from the then Chattogram-2 constituency (now Chattogram-4). He was re-elected from the same constituency in the parliamentary elections of 1991, 1996 and 2001 with overwhelming public support. During his political career, he served as State Minister for Power, State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Deputy Speaker of the Sixth Jatiya Sangsad, and later as Minister for Water Resources from

◆ see page 7

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ড্রাইভিং স্কুল

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রেন্ট-কার এন্ড ড্রাইভিং স্কুল

নিরাপদ ড্রাইভিং, সুন্দর জীবন

আমাদের সেবাসমূহঃ

- গাড়ি চালানোর আধুনিক প্রশিক্ষণ
- দেশ ও বিদেশগামীদের জন্য ড্রাইভিং প্রশিক্ষণ
- ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সের আবেদন ও প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা
- রেন্ট-এ-কার সেবা
- অভিজ্ঞ প্রশিক্ষক দ্বারা প্রশিক্ষণ
- নিরাপদ ড্রাইভিং এর নিশ্চয়তা

দক্ষ চালক হোন, সুরক্ষিত জীবন গড়ুন

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Wife Arrested for Allegedly Severing Sleeping Husband’s Genitals in Chattogram

Mirsarai, Chattogram

July 30: A woman has been arrested after allegedly severing her sleeping husband's genitals over a suspected extra-marital affair in Mirsarai, Chattogram, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred at around 6:00 a.m. on Thursday in the North Sonapahar area under Baraiyarahat Municipality. The victim, Mohammad Rasel, sustained critical injuries and was initially taken to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex before being referred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment. Hospital sources said his condition is critical.

According to police and local sources, Rasel, a pickup truck driver and a resident of North Sonapahar, had been experiencing long-standing marital disputes with his wife, Moni. Family members alleged that the conflict stemmed from accusations of Rasel's extramarital relationship. Authorities said the couple had gone to bed together on Wednesday night. At some point during the night, Moni allegedly tied Rasel's hands and feet while he was asleep and attacked him with a sharp machete, inflicting multiple injuries to his leg and genitals.

Hearing his cries, family members rushed to the scene and rescued him before taking him to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex. Due to the severity of his injuries, the attending physician referred him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for specialized treatment.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Halim of Joranganj Police Station said police responded immediately after receiving the report and took the accused, Moni, into custody.

"The attack was allegedly the result of ongoing family disputes linked to an extramarital affair. The accused has been detained, and legal proceedings are currently underway," the OC said. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.



Say 'No' Drugs, Special Discussion Meeting and Seminar Held in Mymensingh

Mymensingh Correspondent

Keeping the theme "Our goal is to build a drug-free Bangladesh" in focus, a special discussion meeting and seminar was held on Thursday (July 30) at Mymensingh Premier Ideal High School to raise awareness among students.

Organized by the Department of Narcotics Control, Mymensingh and with the cooperation of Premier Ideal High School, the event was attended by.

Chief Guest, Azim Uddin, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue).

Others Representative of the Superintendent of Police, Md. Anwar Hossain, Deputy Director of the District Office of the Department of Narcotics Control, and Md. Chand Mia, Head Teacher of Premier Ideal High School. Chairperson: Md. Zafarullah Kajol, Additional Director of the Divisional Office of the Department of Narcotics Control.

At the seminar, speakers gave guidance on protecting the young generation from the "blue sting" of drugs, inspiring them with moral values, and building a healthy and beautiful society.

A detailed discussion was held so that young and impressionable students can become aware of the harmful effects and dangers of drugs, and stay away from them.

Let us all say 'No drugs together and build a beautiful future.

Swapon urges all to engage

said that in the February 12 election, the people of the country exercised their voting rights and entrusted the government led by Tarique Rahman with the responsibility of running the state. "Following the mass uprising and democratic transition, there is no longer any scope for political confusion. Our primary task now is nation-building," he added.Warning against attempts to spread propaganda and create artificial crises through social media, Swapon said, "One group, instead of focusing on rebuilding the country, is engaged in conspiracies to stage dramas on the streets outside parliament and create a war-like atmosphere on social media. If necessary, the government will not hesitate to take strict measures for the security of the state and the welfare of the people."The minister stressed that while movements may be a profession for some, the BNP's primary objective was to restore voting rights, uphold an independent and sovereign Bangladesh, and re-establish a democratic environment. "As those objectives have been achieved, our sole commitment now is to ensure the country's development and reforms," he said.Speaking as the inaugurator, Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan said the photo exhibition was highly commendable as it would properly present the history of the fascist misrule and the mass uprising of 2024 to future generations. Through this initiative, future generations would be able to learn the correct history and the sacrifices made, he added.Bangladesh Federal Journalists Union (BFUJ) Secretary General Kader Gani Chowdhury said, "Attacking mazars, assaulting Bauls, or committing injustice against people is not part of our culture or the spirit of the mass uprising of 2024. The government must take a tougher stance to stop such malpractice." He said the mass uprising of 2024 was the culmination of a 17-year democratic movement and demanded swift state justice for the families of all martyrs and those injured during the movement.PID Principal Information Officer Syed Abdal Ahmed said the July-August mass uprising was the culmination of Begum Khaleda Zia's uncompromising struggle to restore democracy during the previous autocratic regime.He urged all to remain united to thwart the conspiracies of the fallen fascist forces instead of creating artificial divisions and conspiracies among the victorious forces of the movement.Presiding over the function, Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary and Convener of 'Amra BNP Paribar' Atikur Rahman Ruman said the BNP had never claimed sole credit for the movement of

2024. "It was a movement of the entire nation irrespective of political affiliation. The contributions of common people who participated in the movement cannot be undermined," he added.He called on all to work together to build the country instead of creating any kind of anarchy by exploiting the mass uprising of 2024. He also thanked photojournalists for performing their duties at great personal risk during the nation's critical period.Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary-1 Zahidul Islam Rony, Bangladesh Photojournalists Association President AKM Mohsin and General Secretary Babul Talukdar, among others, were present at the event. After the discussion, the chief guest and other invited guests visited the BPJA Gallery.

PM aims to nurture grassroots

not merely a football tournament, but a national initiative to identify talented footballers from the grassroots across the country.The event has been arranged to ensure that students of every educational institution in both urban and rural areas get the opportunity to develop their talents, he added.Mir Shahe Alam said the government, following the directives of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has been working consistently to create a sporting environment in every upazila, preserve playgrounds, expand sports activities to keep young people away from drugs and crime, and produce athletes of international standard.He sought the overall cooperation of educational institutions, teachers, guardians and all concerned to make the upcoming Prime Minister's Gold Cup National Football Tournament a success.The state minister also distributed one football to each educational institution.Chaired by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ziaur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by Acting President of Upazila BNP SM Tajul Islam, General Secretary of Upazila BNP Advocate Abdul Ohab, Convener of the State Minister's Education Advisory Committee Professor Nazrul Islam, Officer-in-Charge of Shibganj Police Station Shahinuzzaman Shahin, Upazila Secondary Education Officer Tarikul Alam, Student Affairs Secretary of Upazila BNP Mir Shakul Alam Simanto, General Secretary of Poura BNP Abdul Karim, President of Upazila Jubo Dal Khalid Hasan Arman, and representatives of local political, administrative and educational institutions. The programme was conducted by Member of the State Minister's Education Advisory Committee and Headmaster Harunur Rashid Master, and Headmaster Tajul Islam.

New Dhaka–Cox's Bazar

visit, the State Minister inspected various sections of the station and reviewed passenger services, infrastructure, cleanliness, security arrangements and overall operational activities. He instructed the concerned officials to expedite the full opening of the station and ensure international-standard services for passengers. Cox's Bazar Sadar MP Lutfur Rahman Kazal, senior railway officials and officials of the Cox's Bazar Iconic Railway Station were present during the visit.

Allegations of Smear Campaign

the Best Institution Head at the upazila level.

According to institutional sources, the prestigious nature and strategic importance of the institution have made the position of chairman of the governing body highly sought after. Competition over the post has reportedly led to repeated disputes and controversies over the years.

Principal Md. Nasir Uddin said he has been serving the institution since 2005 and has witnessed several disputes related to the formation of the governing body.

"The institution stands on Bangladesh Railway land and does not have its own permanent fund. It has reached its current position through government support and the contributions of education-loving people. However, every time the governing body is formed, complications arise. Some individuals believe they can become chairman by putting pressure on me, but the appointment process involves multiple legal and administrative steps through the Chattogram Education Board, the Upazila Administration, and the District Administration," he said.He further alleged that he had previously faced harassment over the same issue and that similar attempts were being made again."These recurring disputes are affecting the normal academic environment and damaging the institution's reputation. Our primary goal is to ensure uninterrupted education for the students," he added.The allegations made by the principal could not be independently verified, and no comments were immediately available from those accused. Their response will be included if received.Parents and local education-conscious residents expressed hope that the relevant authorities would take necessary steps to resolve the issue through due process and ensure that the institution remains free from personal interests and administrative conflicts.

Feni Celebrates Nazrul’s Historic

Parliament Rafiqul Alam Majnu attended the event as the chief guest. In his speech, he highlighted the poet's timeless message, stating: "Nazrul's spirit of rebellion, equality, and humanism continues to inspire us in every struggle. The memories left by Nazrul on the soil of Feni a hundred years ago have found a fresh resonance among the new generation through today's fair."?The event featured a book exhibition showcasing Nazrul's works, poetry recitations, musical performances, and discussion sessions on his life and literature. ?Literary enthusiasts, youth, and Nazrul admirers from across the district and neighboring areas gathered in large numbers, keeping the fairgrounds bustling from morning till evening.

CIID detains Indian passenger

recovered capsule-shaped packets containing gold concealed inside his underwear.Authorities said the exact quantity and purity of the gold are being determined with the assistance of a certified goldsmith after removing the packing materials. The recovered gold is estimated to be worth around Tk 1 crore, officials said.CIID said legal action is being taken against the passenger under the Customs Act, while steps are also underway to file a criminal case in connection with the smuggling attempt. The agency said it would continue intelligence surveillance and enforcement drives to prevent the smuggling of gold and other contraband through the country's international airports.

Expired Medicines, Physician

uncovered expired medicines, unauthorized and adulterated drugs, as well as physician samples that were being illegally stored and offered for sale. Under the relevant provisions of the Drugs Act, legal action was taken against the four establishments, and a substantial quantity of expired medicines was seized.The mobile court was led by Sitakunda Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Executive Magistrate Md. Fakhruul Islam. Assistant Director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Chattogram, Makhnun Tabassum, and a team from Sitakunda Model Police Station assisted in the operation.Speaking after the drive, Executive Magistrate Md. Fakhruul Islam said, "With the assistance of the Directorate General of Drug Administration, we conducted inspections at several pharmacies in Sitakunda Bazar. We found expired, unauthorized and adulterated medicines, along with physician samples, which are prohibited from being stored or sold commercially. Based on the complaint filed by the DGDA, four pharmacies have been fined a total of Tk 73,000."

He added that such enforcement drives against the sale and storage of expired and illegal medicines would continue regularly to ensure public health and consumer safety.

Controversial BNP Leader

Lalgamora area of Chhagalnaiya. He is the prime accused (Accused No. 1) in a sensitive case (Case No. 23) filed with

Chhagalnaiya Police Station following a violent clash over the control of a sand quarry (balumahal) and local dominance on July 25.

?Data from the Crime Data Management System (CDMS) of Feni District Police reveals that Alamgir Siddiqui faces several serious charges, including violations of the Sand Quarry and Soil Management Act, kidnapping, public assault, and attempted murder. He had reportedly been hiding in Dhaka for a long time to evade arrest.

?Following due legal procedures, he was produced before the relevant court on Friday. A senior officer of the district police stated that such drives will continue to maintain law and order and bring criminals to justice.

Zara Agro

is very hard work. When a cow gets sick, there is no proper medical treatment facility available. Even if we inform or call the Upazila Livestock Officer, he doesn't take it very seriously."

The owner of Zara Agro, Mr. Mamun, said, "I have produced 25 cows from the two cows I started with. Yet till today, the Upazila Livestock Officer of Mirsarai has not visited my farm. I called many times in emergencies, but it was of no use."

There are three employees working at Zara Dairy Farm. One of the employees is Kalamia. When I spoke with him, he started crying and said, Two months ago, one of our cows died without any treatment. Its current market value was 120,000 Taka.

The owner, Haji Abdullah Al Mamun, said, It is very difficult to run the farm by paying the salaries of three employees, and also providing feed and medicine for the cows. But I can't give up on the establishment I built with my own hands.

There is no timely medical facility. It is not possible to give high-quality vaccines to the cows on time. If we buy vaccines from the local market, we don't get good quality semen. The price of cattle feed is also very high.

Currently, about 160 liters of milk is produced from his farm. He meets his family's needs with the milk and sells the extra in the market. But even with that, it is difficult to cover the expenses of the cattle farm.

At the time of writing this report, he said, "If the Upazila Livestock Officers visit our farm once or twice a month, we will be more encouraged to raise and produce cattle.

Later, when contacted over the phone, the Upazila Livestock Officer said, If you contact us on time, we do take quick action.

Indian passenger

flight from Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Based on a tip-off, a team from the CIID's Chittagong regional office identified him after crossing the airport's green channel. Later, a search was conducted and a capsule-like gold substance hidden inside his clothes was recovered.

Customs intelligence sources said that the initial weight of the recovered object, including the packing materials, was 455 grams. Work is underway to determine the actual weight and purity of the gold by removing the packing materials with the help of a goldsmith. The initial market value of the recovered gold is around one crore taka. Following the incident, the necessary legal action under the Customs Act is being taken and a criminal case is being filed against the detained passenger.

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department said that intelligence surveillance and special operations will continue in the future to prevent smuggling of gold and other goods using international airports.

Cigarettes, gold ornaments

Airlines flight number BG-148 arriving from Dubai, three suspicious baggage items were found on baggage belt number 1 without passengers. Later, 370 cartons of Mond brand foreign cigarettes were recovered after searching the baggage items. At the same time, 111 more cartons of foreign cigarettes were seized from various passengers arriving on other flights. A total of 481 cartons of cigarettes were seized in the operation. The estimated value of the seized cigarettes is 21 lakh 64 thousand 500 taka. Considering the applicable customs duty and 621 percent Total Tax Incidence—TTI, the total value of the cigarettes is about 1 crore 56 lakh 5 thousand taka. The handbag of passenger Md. Tajul Islam, passport number A16264704, who arrived on the same flight, was searched and 99 grams of gold ornaments hidden in a clever way were recovered.

Verification of the passenger's passport revealed that he had previously imported 100 grams of gold ornaments without paying customs duty through an entry in his passport on June 10, 2026.

As per the Baggage Rules, 2025, there was no scope for duty-free import of gold ornaments in excess of the prescribed limit in the same year, 99 grams of newly brought gold ornaments were seized. The estimated market value of the seized gold ornaments is 18 lakh 74 thousand 565 taka and the total value including duty and tax is about 3 million taka.

Another 12 kg of banned Gauri cream was seized in the operation. Its estimated value is 2 lakh 40 thousand taka.

In addition, a total of 11 liters of foreign liquor or whiskey of different brands were seized from various passengers arriving from Kolkata. The estimated value of the seized liquor is 2 lakh 20 thousand taka. Its total value including applicable 610.30 percent duty and tax is about 15 lakh 62 thousand taka. Value of seized goods

The estimated value of the goods seized in the operation including duty and tax—

* Foreign cigarettes: 1 crore 56 lakh 5 thousand taka

* Gold ornaments: 3 million taka

* Banned Gauri cream: 2 lakh 40 thousand taka

* Foreign liquor: 15 lakh 62 thousand taka

Total value: 2 crore 4 lakh 7 thousand taka.

The activities of taking further legal action regarding the seized goods are ongoing as per the Customs Act, Baggage Rules and other applicable laws. The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department will continue such operations to prevent smuggling, customs and tax evasion and import of prohibited goods.

2th Death Anniversary of Former

2001 to 2003. He also served as a Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Beyond politics, L.K. Siddiqi made remarkable contributions to education, healthcare and social development. He was one of the founding members of Agrabad Mother and Child Hospital and played a leading role in establishing Agrabad Women's College, Agrabad Girls' School, Bhatari Bijoy Smarani College, and Sitakunda Girls' School and College.

He also served as the founding President of the Agrabad Residential Area Socio-Cultural Association, former Chairman of Agrani Bank, Governor of Rotary District 3280, Syndicate Member of the University of Chittagong, and former President of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB). In 1979, he represented Bangladesh at the 34th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Political colleagues and local residents remember him as a leader of integrity, courtesy and unwavering dedication to public service. His commitment to people's welfare over personal interests earned him respect across political divides.

To mark the anniversary, the family has organized Qur'an recitation (Khatm-e-Qur'an), a prayer gathering, and food distribution among orphan children at his residence in South Rahmatnagar, Muradpur Union, this morning. Meanwhile, the



Dhancha Cultivation Increasing in Fakirhat, Dependence on Chemical Fertilizers Decreasing

S A,Kamal Fakirhat (Bagerhat) Correspondent

To increase soil fertility and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, dhancha cultivation is rapidly increasing in Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat.

According to the Department of Agriculture, dhancha cultivation has increased from 17 hectares last year to 33 hectares this season. This time, over 800 farmers in the upazila have cultivated this crop to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilizers.

On Friday (July 31) at the Lakhpur field in the upazila, farmers Ferdous Sheikh, Harun Bishwas, Muhibul Islam, and Dipankar Adhikari were seen mixing dhancha grown on 3.5 acres of land into the soil to prepare organic fertilizer for the Boro season. This is reducing the use of chemical fertilizers while also improving soil health. The activities in the field are being supervised by Upazila Agriculture Officer, Agriculturist Sheikh Sakhawat Hossain.

Upazila Agriculture Extension Officer Md. Touhidul Islam said, From just 3 kg of dhancha seeds, it is possible to produce 1,200 to 1,500 kg of green organic fertilizer. Dhancha traps nitrogen from the air and increases the organic carbon and fertility of the soil.

Farmer Azhar Sheikh from Moubhog said, By cultivating dhancha on 104 decimals of land, I got about 5,000 kg of green organic fertilizer. I am using this organic fertilizer not only for Boro paddy but also in vegetable fields, and I am getting good yields and better prices.

Upazila Agriculture Officer, Agriculturist Sheikh Sakhawat Hossain said, Dhancha increases the activity of beneficial microorganisms in the soil and helps in crop production. Following the advice of the agriculture office, farmers are cultivating dhancha once a year on two or three-crop land to protect soil health and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers.



Two Brothers Tragically Drown in Shayestaganj

Staff Reporter.

This heartbreaking accident occurred on (July 30) around 9:30 AM in Shoiljura village, Shayestaganj Upazila.

Shrabon Sarkar (8) was a first-grade student at the local Puitiya Government Primary School.

Sourav Sarkar (6) was Shrabon younger brother.

Father's Name, Bakul Sarkar, Village Shoiljura.

According to local sources, on Thursday morning, the ball of the two brothers fell into the water near their house. While trying to retrieve it, they accidentally fell into the water.

After searching extensively, family members and locals rescued them and rushed them to the hospital.After examination, the doctors on duty pronounced both children dead.

Upon receiving the news, police from Shayestaganj Police Station visited the scene.

Sub-Inspector (SI) M. Irfan Uddin of Shayestaganj Police Station confirmed.

This tragic incident has cast a shadow of grief over the area and the bereaved family.



Feni Probasi Kalyan Trust Extends Aid to Tornado-Affected Ex-Expatriates

Staff Reporter

Feni Probasi Kalyan Trust' has stepped forward to support financially insolvent former expatriates whose lives were upended by a recent tornado in the Medhyam Swarajpur area under Matiganj in Feni. As part of its humanitarian initiatives, the organization distributed cash assistance directly to the affected families. During the distribution, representatives of the trust visited the disaster-struck area, interacted with the victims, and inquired about their overall situation. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives emphasized that the trust's core mission is to stand by expatriates in times of both joy and adversity. They expressed hope that this financial aid would help these former migrants—who lost everything in the natural disaster and are living in misery—turn their lives around. The organization also assured that such social and humanitarian efforts will continue in the future to support those in need.

Sitakunda Upazila and Municipal units of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), along with its associate organizations, have arranged a prayer, Milad and discussion meeting at the Municipal Hall at 4:00 pm. The day's programmes will conclude after Maghrib with a visit to his grave at the family graveyard in South Rahmatnagar. L.K. Siddiqi rests in eternal peace at his family graveyard in South Rahmatnagar. His lifelong dedication, integrity, visionary leadership and service to the people continue to inspire future generations. Though time moves on, his legacy remains deeply cherished by the people of Sitakunda.



Trump announces Hamas disarmament agreement, but challenges remain

International Desk

Hamas announced on Friday that it had agreed to disarm, marking a potentially major step toward ending the conflict in Gaza. However, significant obstacles remain, and it is uncertain whether the agreement will ultimately be implemented. Israel has not yet responded publicly to the announcement, which was first revealed by President Donald Trump just hours earlier. The development comes nine months after a U.S.-mediated ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was signed.

President Trump is holding Friday's Cabinet meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, marking the first Cabinet gathering there during his second term. A previous attempt to convene at Camp David in May was canceled due to poor weather conditions.

On Thursday, Trump indicated that he may withdraw acting Attorney General Todd Blanche's nomination for the permanent position rather than accept Senate Republicans' demands related to a broad tax audit immunity agreement that would benefit both the president and his family members.

Zelenskyy seeks Trump's support for expanded Starlink access

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged Trump and other U.S. officials to help secure expanded access to Elon Musk's Starlink satellite communication network for Ukraine, with the goal of improving its ability to conduct operations inside Russia.

The request reflects Ukraine's efforts to reduce its dependence on U.S.-supplied Patriot air defense systems, which have become increasingly scarce as the conflict involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran continues. On Friday, Trump also appeared to soften his earlier pledge to allow Ukraine to

manufacture Patriot interceptors under license.

According to a source familiar with the discussions, Zelenskyy personally raised the Starlink proposal during an Oval Office meeting with Trump earlier this week. He later reiterated the request to lawmakers on Capitol Hill, emphasizing the system's potential role in targeting operations within Russia. Both individuals who disclosed the conversations spoke anonymously because the discussions were private. Trump did not commit to approving the request. White House suggests possible new military action against Iran

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt reiterated the administration's criticism of Iran, accusing Tehran of violating a memorandum of understanding on a truce that had been signed with the United States last month. She alleged that Iran subsequently attacked commercial vessels and was responsible for the deaths of American service members. Leavitt stated that President Trump would not tolerate what she described as Iran's continued terrorist activities and warned that the country would face ongoing consequences unless it engaged in meaningful negotiations.

Her remarks followed Trump's comments earlier on Friday, in which he suggested that U.S. military operations against Iran could continue. Speaking during a Cabinet meeting, Trump said the United States intended to strike Iran forcefully until it reached a point where it could no longer sustain the conflict.

U.S. dismisses case over Reflecting Pool damage

Federal prosecutors have dropped charges against former Olympian David Hearn, who had been accused of damaging the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Government attorneys said that evidence gathered after the indictment showed the damage was caused by improper installation by the contractor and the accelerated pace of the construction project, rather than Hearn's actions.

UK PM Burnham opens ‘No. 10 North’ in Manchester to shift power beyond London

International Desk

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has opened a new government office in Manchester, saying the move marks the beginning of a major shift in political power and investment away from London.

The new office, known as "No. 10 North," is about 260 kilometres from the prime minister's official residence at 10 Downing Street and is central to Burnham's plan to give more powers and funding to regional leaders across the UK.

Burnham, who previously served as Mayor of Greater Manchester before becoming prime minister, said the office represents "a North Pole that balances the South Pole" of Westminster politics.

"This is not just another office. It represents a fundamental change in how the country approaches growth and investment," he said on Friday.

Burnham plans to work from the Manchester office at least one day each week alongside a permanent team of advisers, civil servants and policy experts.

More powers for local leaders

As part of the new approach, Burnham announced that regional mayors will be allowed to keep a larger share of income and busi-



ness tax revenue collected in their areas.

He described the move as the biggest transfer of power, funding and responsibility from the central government in a generation, although details of the funding arrangements have yet to be released.

Burnham hopes the policy will help create jobs and boost economic growth in areas that have struggled with industrial decline, unemployment and population loss.

Building on Manchester's success

During his nine years as Greater Manchester mayor, Burnham oversaw major investment in the city, including new housing, public transport and business development. Supporters say his approach combined public investment with private sector partnerships while giving local communities greater control over housing, transport and public services.

Burnham now wants to apply the same model across the country.

Mixed reactions

Political analyst Rob Ford of the University of Manchester said the move shows Burnham is serious about reducing the UK's traditionally centralised system of government.

"The UK is one of the most centralised democracies in the developed world. Changing that will be a major challenge," Ford said.

Critics, however, argue that Manchester's economic success has not benefited all surrounding communities and say Burnham must ensure other regions also receive greater powers and investment.

Support from regional leaders

Supporters welcomed the decision to establish a government office outside London.

Rose Marley, chief executive of Cooperatives UK, said holding government meetings in Manchester would make it easier for organisations outside the capital to engage with ministers.

She also said the move could help ensure a wider range of regional voices is heard in national decision-making.

Some residents also supported the initiative but said similar offices should eventually be created in other parts of England to ensure balanced regional development.

Burnham said No. 10 North is intended to become a permanent centre for regional decision-making as part of his government's broader plan to reduce the UK's long-standing economic divide between London and the rest of the country.

SAARC Journalist Forum signs strategic MoU with ICJ parent

International Desk

The SAARC Journalist Forum (SJF) and ICJ Global Media Group LLC, operator of the Intercontinental Connection of Journalists (ICJ), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a three-year strategic partnership aimed at strengthening international cooperation among journalists, promoting press freedom, and expanding professional opportunities for media professionals across South Asia and beyond.

The agreement was signed by Raju Lama, International President of the SAARC Journalist Forum, in New York, and Saša Dobrijevic, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ICJ Global Media Group LLC, in Belgrade, Serbia. SAARC Journalist Forum to host Dhaka Conference this year

According to the MoU, both organizations will collaborate to advance independent journalism, enhance professional standards, and increase the global visibility of journalists from South Asia. The partnership is based on mutual respect, professional ethics, and institutional cooperation. The agreement reflects both organizations' shared commitment to defending press freedom and supporting responsible journalism.

Under the agreement, the SAARC Journalist Forum will join the ICJ Friends institutional network. The partnership includes reciprocal digital promotion, with both organizations displaying each other's official logos and website links, as well as the creation of an official institutional profile for SJF on the ICJ platform to showcase its activities, achievements, and initiatives. The MoU also encourages SJF-affiliated journalists to become ICJ members, providing access to an international media network, professional training, publishing opportunities, press credentials, participation in global media panels, and eligibility for ICJ awards. Premium members will also gain access to the ICJ Marketplace for the international distribution of investigative and exclusive journalism.

The agreement outlines cooperation in joint projects, information sharing, online exchanges, and coordinated initiatives designed to strengthen media solidarity across South Asia and globally. It further clarifies that the MoU is an expression of goodwill and does not create legally binding financial or commercial obligations between the two organizations.

Thousands of migrants return to Morocco after mass crossing into Spain's Ceuta enclave

International Desk

Tens of thousands of migrants who entered Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta from Morocco voluntarily returned home on Friday, a day after the unprecedented influx created chaos, triggered a humanitarian emergency, and reignited debate over immigration across Europe. At least 57 people lost their lives during the mass crossing.

Ceuta President Juan Jesús Vivas estimated that around 60,000 migrants entered the territory, a figure equal to roughly 70% of the enclave's population. Spanish authorities later estimated the total at about 50,000, adding that more than 48,000 had already returned to Morocco by Friday evening, with more leaving throughout the day.

Many migrants swam several kilometers to reach Ceuta, while others attempted to cross through border barriers. Some encountered security forces using water cannons, tear gas, and warning shots to stop them. Officials said many of the fatalities resulted from drowning, while others were killed in a stampede near the Tarajal border crossing.

Spain deployed additional police officers and military personnel to restore order in Ceuta, located on the Strait of Gibraltar. On the Moroccan side, security forces clashed with migrants trying to reach Spanish territory. The incident also prompted Italy and France to announce tighter border controls for arrivals from Spain.

Describing the situation as unsustainable, Vivas said Ceuta was facing an unprecedented crisis. At the same time, groups of migrants also attempted to enter Melilla, Spain's other North African enclave, where confrontations with police were reported.

Spanish prime minister condemns border crossing

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited Ceuta on Friday, calling the mass crossing a violation of Spain's territorial integrity. He blamed human trafficking networks for encouraging migrants to make the dangerous journey, saying smugglers had misled many young people and exposed them to deadly risks.

According to Spain's Interior Ministry, approximately 50,000 migrants crossed into Ceuta from Morocco beginning Thursday. By Friday evening, more than 48,000 had voluntarily returned. Rachid Sbihi, head of an association representing Civil Guard officers, described the situation as a severe humanitarian crisis. Thousands of migrants, including many unaccompanied minors, spent the night in parks and on sidewalks, while others wandered the streets without shelter or assistance.

Moroccan authorities did not immediately comment on Spain's figures.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the scenes in Ceuta as unacceptable, stressing that migration into the European Union must follow established legal procedures. She called for an end to dangerous crossings, stronger action against smuggling networks, and faster returns under existing laws.

Dozens killed during dangerous crossing

Officials said several of the 57 victims drowned while attempting to swim into Ceuta, while others died during a crush of people trying to cross the breakwater near Tarajal Beach. The shoreline was left scattered with abandoned belongings, including shoes and flotation devices.

Many migrants said they had hoped to find better economic opportunities in Spain but chose to return after witnessing the disorder.

Twenty-one-year-old Abdulah Buji from Tetouan said poor



wages and limited job opportunities in Morocco had prompted him to make the journey. However, after failing to find work in Ceuta and seeing the chaotic conditions, he decided to return home.

Human rights organizations reported that Moroccan security forces used water cannons and fired warning shots into the air to prevent additional migrants from crossing into Ceuta.

Morocco's ambassador to Spain, Karima Benyaich, said her government supports legal, orderly, and safe migration but did not explain what had triggered the sudden surge.

Most migrants reached Ceuta by swimming from the Moroccan town of Fnideq, roughly five kilometers away, while others crossed from nearby Belyounech, where the distance is shorter. Spanish authorities linked the mass crossing to a recent Supreme Court ruling that prevents the immediate deportation of migrants arriving by sea. Sánchez argued that human smuggling networks had misrepresented the court's decision, encouraging thousands to attempt the dangerous crossing.

Migration policy comes under renewed scrutiny

The crisis has intensified criticism of Sánchez's immigration policies. Earlier this year, his government approved residency and work permits for hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrants already living in Spain, arguing the measure would help address labor shortages and the country's aging population. The policy excluded migrants who entered the country after Jan. 1.

Opposition figures claimed the government's approach encouraged irregular migration. Madrid regional leader Isabel Díaz Ayuso accused Sánchez of allowing Spain to be overwhelmed through Ceuta.

The United States also expressed support for Spain, condemning the border breach and describing it as a violation of sovereignty and human rights. The U.S. State Department blamed the incident on Spain's migration policies, a claim rejected by the Spanish government.

Sánchez defended his administration's approach, insisting that the events in Ceuta were unrelated to the legalization program. The crisis also prompted Italy to temporarily reinstate border controls for travelers arriving from Spain under the Schengen system, while France announced stricter checks along its border with Spain.

Pressure spreads to Melilla

The unrest extended to Melilla, Spain's second North African enclave, where migrants also attempted to cross from Morocco. Violence erupted in the Moroccan border town of Bni Nsar, where migrants clashed with police, throwing stones and setting police vehicles on fire. Local media and rights groups reported injuries among security personnel and dozens of arrests.

Like Ceuta, Melilla is a self-governing Spanish territory on the North African coast, although Morocco continues to claim sovereignty over both enclaves.

Marine Corps says F-35B stealth fighter crashed in California, pilot ejected safely

International Desk

The U.S. Marine Corps says the pilot of an F-35B stealth fighter is expected to live after ejecting from the jet before it crashed in California.

The jet went down Friday near the Miramar air base in San Diego. "The pilot ejected, was transported to a local medical facility in stable condition for evaluation and treatment of non-life-threatening injuries," the Marine Corps said in an updated statement.

Aerial video from a news helicopter showed a plume of black smoke rising from the wreckage in a dirt field, with multiple military and firefighting vehicles and people standing nearby. What appeared to be white flame retardant covered the ground, and at least one person was spraying the wreckage with a fire hose.

Wade Lott saw the crash as he drove to work at a concrete company just south of the flight line.

"It just blew up, it was crazy," said Lott, 36, who watched from his truck as two jets descended toward the runway together. The first landed without incident, but the second suddenly began slowing down, almost as if it were trying to hover, Lott said. When the jet was about 100 feet (30 m) above the ground, the pilot ejected and their parachute deployed as they rose about 200 feet (61 m) into the air just in time.

"The jet hit the ground right next to another plane," said Lott. "It plowed into the runway and just blew up."

Candace Hadley, a spokesperson for San Diego Fire, said firefighters were on scene to respond to a vegetation fire that sparked near the crash site. She referred additional questions to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

The base used to host the Navy fighter pilot training school depicted in the original "Top Gun" movie, and was known as "Fightertown USA" in its heyday. The school was relocated to Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada in 1996 after the base was transferred to the Marine Corps.

The U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force together have more than 630 F-35s, according to a 2024 analysis by the Government Accounting Office. The F-35B is one of several versions, and has an engine designed for short takeoffs and



vertical landings. A single F-35B costs about \$109 million. The report estimated that the overall F-35 program will cost roughly \$2 trillion after the military buys more than 1,800 more jets and operates them for decades to come.

A Marines statement called Friday's crash a "Class A mishap." That's the most severe mishap category, used when the damage totals more than \$2 million, an aircraft is destroyed or a service member killed. In the Air Force alone, there have been at least 17 other "Class A mishaps" involving F-35 aircraft since 2000, according to Air Force Safety Center statistics. At least seven other military aircraft mishaps have happened in the U.S. this year, according to the Flight Safety Foundation's Aviation Safety Network database.

The F-35s are considered the safest and most capable fighter jets the military has in its fleet, according to the Lexington Institute think tank that focuses on defense technology and national security.

There have been fewer crashes involving any of the F-35 models since the jet was adopted in 2015 compared to other fighters when those planes were new, and fatal crashes are rare in F-35s.

In five F-35 crashes, the pilots were able to eject, though at least one sustained injuries. That pilot was injured when an F-35 crashed near the international airport in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 2024. The jet was heading an Air Force base in California from Texas.



Glen Hansard, Oscar-winning Irish musician, dies in motorcycle crash

Entertainment Desk

Marketa Irglova, left, and Glen Hansard accept the Oscar for best original song for "Falling Slowly" from the motion picture "Once" at the 80th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 24, 2008. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File)

Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard, who won an Academy Award for the 2007 film Once, died in a motorcycle crash near Dublin early Wednesday, his management company said. He was 56. Music& Audio

ATC Management told Irish broadcaster RTE that Hansard's family was "deeply shocked and heartbroken" by his death. Tributes poured in from fellow musicians and artists, including Bruce Springsteen, who said he was "heartbroken" by the loss of "a great musician, a good friend and a generous and gracious man."

Irish police said a man in his 50s died after a single-vehicle motorcycle crash in Lucan, west of Dublin, shortly before 4:30 a.m. Wednesday. Police did not identify the man, saying he was treated at the scene but was later pronounced dead. Hansard built a career in both acting and music. He appeared as a member of a Dublin soul band in the 1991 hit film The Commitments before gaining international recognition as a singer-songwriter.

He won the Oscar for best original song in 2008 for "Falling Slowly," which he co-wrote with his Once co-star Marketa Irglova. The film tells the story of two struggling musicians who form a close bond while pursuing their musical ambitions.

Once was later turned into a Broadway musical featuring songs by Hansard and Irglova. The stage production won eight

Tony Awards in 2012, including best musical. Hansard was the longtime frontman of the rock band The Frames and also formed the musical duo The Swell Season with Irglová. He released several solo albums, including Didn't He Ramble, which earned a Grammy nomination for best folk album in 2016.

Ireland's President Catherine Connolly described Hansard as one of the country's great singer-songwriters. "Glen was one of the vital driving influences of the Irish music world, bringing people together in the sharing of live music," Connolly said. "He will be sorely missed by all who knew him or experienced his work."

Actor and comedian Chris O'Dowd praised Hansard's "energizing melodies and soulful, searching voice," saying his music helped make difficult times easier, quiet periods more beautiful and happy moments more memorable. RockMusic

Hansard began his musical journey as a street busker in Dublin. He later became known for leading the city's annual Christmas Eve busk outside the Gaiety Theatre, where well-known Irish musicians perform for the public to raise money for a homelessness charity.

Former Irish President Michael D. Higgins remembered Hansard as a "wonderful musician and performer" who also devoted much of his life to addressing social problems.

In 2023, Hansard performed a powerful rendition of The Pogues' "Fairytale Of New York" with Irish singer Lisa O'Neill at the funeral of The Pogues frontman Shane MacGowan. The performance moved mourners, with some members of the congregation dancing in the church aisles.

Hansard is survived by his wife, Finnish poet Maire Saarisita, and their 3-year-old son, Christy.



Badhon to star in film 'Gulshaner Chameli'

Entertainment Desk

Mohammad Iqbal was originally a producer. Later he also came to direction. He made movies 'Kill Him', 'Dead Body' and 'Revenge'. These movies have been discussed on various issues. However, they did not get that much success. Now he is making a new movie titled 'Gulshaner Chameli'. Two days ago, it was announced that the film will star Indian actress Madhumita Sarcar in the title role.

Now, news has come that Azmeri Haque Badhon will be playing an important role in the film. She will be seen in the role of a lawyer. Badhon confirmed the news to the media. She said that she had an initial conversation with director-producer Iqbal. She liked the story and the arrangement. Now Badhon will officially sign the contract for the movie next week. Badhon said that she liked the respectful way she was offered to act in the film. Along with this, Badhon is also positive about the other artistes in the film. She agreed after considering all aspects.

Ariana Grande takes a restrained approach on 'Petal'



Entertainment Desk

Ariana Grande is showing a quieter side on her latest album "Petal," stepping away from the powerful vocal performances that have long defined her music.

Her eighth studio album and first full-length release since the end of her "Wicked" run and 2024's "Eternal Sunshine," "Petal" features 12 tracks that see the pop star taking a more inward and controlled approach.

The change is clear from the lead single "Hate That I Made You Love Me." With its smooth hook and understated vocals, the song offers an early glimpse of the album's new direction. It became Grande's 10th No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100.

Rather than relying on her trademark vocal power, Grande delivers the song in a softer style, allowing the bubbling synths and gentle pop arrangement to take center stage. The track was produced with Ilya Salamanzadeh, who has worked with Grande since 2018's "Sweetener," and Swedish hitmaker Max Martin.

For an artist famous for effortlessly hitting big notes, the restrained performance feels almost like an experiment. But it works, giving the song an easy, relaxed quality.

That sense of effortlessness runs through much of "Petal." On "Oh Well," upbeat production contrasts with lyrics that deliv-

er a clear message of moving on from a troubled relationship. "Petal" also offers a range of musical textures, though most of them are cooler and more laid-back than what listeners may expect from Grande. The album occasionally comes close to sounding carefree, but it still maintains the charm associated with her music.

The record carries a moody R&B feel, with some of its smoothness reminiscent of SZA. "Freak" feels more like a dream—or perhaps a nightmare—with hazy layers of vocals creating an intimate and slightly mysterious atmosphere.

Grande largely avoids the elaborate vocal runs and huge vocal moments that have become her trademark. Instead, she embraces a more controlled style. While the change shows artistic growth, some longtime fans may wonder whether the subtle approach will keep them fully engaged.

The album becomes more energetic in its final third. Grande brings back some of her more dynamic style on "Like I Do," particularly over its heavy bass, while "Never Get Over Me" builds slowly around the line, "The grass is way greener / Since I been beneath ya."

"Bad Thing (Bunny Hop)" is one of the album's strongest moments. It captures the excitement of a new crush through dreamy guitars, a driving beat and playful lyrics. Grande's distinctive way of shaping her words adds to the song's appeal.

The album closes with "Nowhere, Nobody," which combines a retro-style vocal melody with vocoder effects.

In promotional material for "Petal," Grande described the album as something "full of life and growing through the cracks" of something difficult and challenging.

That idea fits the record to some extent. Its 12 songs find moments of happiness beneath atmospheric production and subdued melodies. More importantly, "Petal" shows what happens when one of pop's most powerful vocalists deliberately chooses to hold back.

Rather than trying to prove what her voice can do, Grande seems more interested in exploring what it can say when she turns down the volume.

Zendaya's 'Spider-Man' press tour outfits fuel fan theories about MJ's fate

Entertainment Desk

Zendaya's fashion choices during the promotional tour for Spider-Man: Brand New Day have sparked online speculation that her character, MJ, could face a tragic fate in the new Marvel film.

Fans on social media have pointed to the actor's mostly black outfits during the press tour, suggesting they may hint at a major storyline involving MJ. However, there has been no official confirmation from Marvel Studios or the filmmakers.

Zendaya and her longtime stylist, Law Roach, are well known for using fashion to reflect themes from the films they promote. During the tour, Zendaya wore a blue-and-red outfit in Rome, colours closely linked to Spider-Man's costume. She also appeared in a grey-blue dress featuring web-inspired details.

For most of the remaining promotional events, however, she chose black outfits, a colour often associated with mourning in Western cultures. At an event in China, she wore a black Versace gown with black net detailing, even though white is traditionally considered the colour of mourning in China and several other Asian countries.

These fashion choices have led some fans to speculate that MJ may die in Spider-Man: Brand New Day. The theory gained further attention after Zendaya said in a



recent interview: "As a fan of Peter Parker, I always want him to have a happy ending, but I don't know, guys... it's not looking good." Marvel actors are generally bound by strict non-disclosure agreements that prevent them from revealing plot details before a film's release.

Fans have shared various theories online, with some suggesting the outfits were carefully chosen to hint at MJ's storyline. Others believe they are simply part of Zendaya's signature fashion-forward promotional style.

For now, the speculation remains unconfirmed. Audiences will learn what happens to MJ when Spider-Man: Brand New Day opens in cinemas worldwide.

Director Rafi 'leaks' Nazifa Tushi's look from film 'Andhar'

Entertainment Desk

A major flaw in Bangladeshi cinema, which has been present in horror films for a long time, is about to be fixed.

Behind the scenes, director Raihan Rafi's new and big-budget film 'Andhar' is in the works. The film had already created a buzz in the entertainment industry, but now the director himself has added new fuel to it! He has created quite a stir in the internet world by suddenly posting a picture of the shooting monitor screen on social media.

Earlier, Rafi had written in a humorous post, "You guys do the official promotion. I'm starting to officially release the unofficial first leak from yesterday." Immediately after those words, actress Nazifa Tushi came on screen. Fans and Dhallywood lovers are now curious to see Tushi's appearance on the monitor screen, even in a cosmic thriller or a horror atmosphere.

In the caption of the film, director Raihan Rafi wrote, "'Andhar's' first leak! A screenshot taken from the monitor during the shooting. Not an official still, not a poster. Just a moment."

Rafi, praising Tushi, also said, "But this one frame clearly shows how amazing Nazifa Tushi looks in 'Andhar'. Nazifa Tushi has been seen in many roles before. You will see her most enchanting presence in 'Andhar'."

According to director, Tushi's 'enchanting' look has added a new charm to the horror thriller.

Shakib Chowdhury and Bassbaba Sumon have woven the main story of the film based on their long-standing research on ghosts and mysteries and experience in directing the popular late-night horror radio show 'Bhoutik' on Asian Radio 90.8 FM. Later, Adnan Adib Khan was involved in weaving the story.

The film stars talented actors like Siam Ahmed, Nazifa Tushi, Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Gazi Rakayet, Mostafa Monwar and Tanzika Amin.



Top 3 winners of 'Lux Super Star 2025' to cast in Shihab Shaheen's 'Café Umbrella'

Entertainment Desk

Director Shihab Shaheen is set to helm a new web film, 'Cafe Umbrella', featuring the top three winners of 'Lux Super Star 2025' -Bidushi Barnita, Nazah Nawar and Amina Islam.

Filming is scheduled to begin on August 1, with shooting taking place in Dhaka, its surrounding areas and several other districts. The web film is expected to premiere on OTT platform iScreen later this year.

According to Shihab Shaheen, 'Cafe Umbrella' is an ensemble drama comprising multiple interconnected storylines. The romance-drama will weave together three or four parallel narratives centred on relationships, love and human emotions.

Despite its title, the filmmaker clarified that the story is not centred on a café or food. The project was announced during the grand finale of 'Lux Super Star 2025'.

He added, "The project featuring these three winners was announced on the day of the grand finale, and this is the one we are now making. I don't want to reveal the story just yet. The poster and promotional materials will be released soon, and audiences will then get a glimpse of what the story is about."

The three winners will star opposite actors Tawfif Mahbub, Partha Sheikh and Arefin Jilani. 'Mirakkel' actor Saidur Rahman Pavel and Sanjida Tasnim will appear in key roles, alongside Saberi Alam and Shirin Alam.

To prepare the newcomers for the project, Shaheen recently conducted a 15-day acting workshop with the cast.

Storm Reid turns to music to show a more personal side of herself

Entertainment Desk

Actress Storm Reid wants her new music to show fans a side of her they may not often see — a young woman still figuring out love, relationships and life.

Reid, 23, released her new single "Shotty" on Friday, hoping listeners will get to know the more personal and less polished side of the actor they have seen on screen.

"I think people might think I have it all together when I really don't," said Reid, known for her roles in "Euphoria," "A Wrinkle in Time" and "The Last of Us," for which she won an Emmy in 2024.

"I'm a normal girl trying to figure it out," she said.

"Shotty" follows her debut single, "Clean Sweep," and marks another step in her music career, which she began pursuing more seriously over the past year. She has already recorded more than 25 songs.

Reid said she plans to focus on creating her first EP after completing work on Teyana Taylor's directorial debut, "Get Lite." She wants to take her time developing a project with a clear and connected story.

She is releasing her music independently through her own label, 1720 Music, a move she said gives her more creative control while keeping open the possibility of working with a major label later.

"With the indie route, you have a little bit more autonomy of what you want to do and how you do things," she said.

Reid also hopes her label can help create opportunities for other musicians.

"I want to sign people. I want to sign songwriters and pro-



ducers and artists, and give them opportunities," she said.

Music has quickly become almost as important to Reid as acting, although she plans to continue working in film and television. Her upcoming projects include Netflix's "Roommates" and "Get Lite."

Working on "Get Lite" also pushed her to develop her dancing and become more comfortable performing, skills she hopes will help when she eventually takes her own music to the stage.

"It's as big and as important as acting is," Reid said of music. "It's something that I want to continue to do and want to continue to grow at."

Reid said her years in Hollywood have helped her deal with criticism, including comments from people who questioned whether she deserved her Emmy.

"People didn't feel like I deserved to win an Emmy, but it's still sitting in my house," she said.

"It's still in my mama's house, so I don't really care what people say." Since releasing "Clean Sweep," Reid said she has mostly avoided reading online comments so that negative reactions do not affect her.

She said the response so far has been largely positive and supportive, adding that she is excited for listeners to hear more of her music.

For Reid, the move into music is ultimately about showing that she is more than the polished image people may have of her. "Not everything is gonna be perfect. Not everything is gonna be prim, proper and pristine and eloquent," she said. "Like yeah, that's a part of me, and I can do that, and I can do it really well. But also ... this is me too."



Infantino drops World Cup investment plan after strong backlash from football leaders



Sports Desk

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has abandoned his controversial plan to bring private investors into the commercial side of the World Cup after facing strong opposition from football governing bodies, senior FIFA officials and national associations. Infantino announced on Friday that he was withdrawing the proposal, saying it had created divisions that were no longer in the best interests of world football. "After listening carefully to all views, it has become clear that the project has created divisions that outweigh its intended benefits," he said in a statement. The decision came less than two weeks after Infantino celebrated what FIFA described as the successful conclusion of its expanded World Cup, which generated record revenue and strengthened his position ahead of next year's FIFA presidential election. Campaigns& Elections What was the proposal? The plan would have created a new FIFA subsidiary, called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), to manage the organisation's commercial business,

including World Cup broadcasting rights, sponsorship, ticket sales and hospitality. FIFA planned to raise about \$4.2 billion by selling around a 20 percent stake in the new company. The lead investor was expected to be Thrive Eternal, an investment firm launched by Joshua Kushner, whose brother Jared Kushner is US President Donald Trump's son-in-law. Under the proposal, each of FIFA's 211 member associations would have received \$20 million from the investment, double the current amount they are due over the next four years. FIFA also projected higher payments in future World Cup cycles. Why did it face opposition? The proposal drew criticism from several FIFA vice presidents, senior FIFA executives, UEFA, football bodies in Asia and North America, national leagues and political leaders. Many feared that private investors would push for larger tournaments and more matches to increase profits, putting further pressure on an already crowded international football calendar. Critics also said Infantino developed

the proposal without properly consulting football stakeholders. UEFA took the strongest position, warning that European football associations could boycott FIFA competitions unless the plan was withdrawn. Europe's teams regularly dominate FIFA tournaments, making UEFA's opposition particularly significant. Support remained limited. Infantino's traditional supporters in Africa largely stayed neutral, while South American football body CONMEBOL said it would carefully review the proposal before taking a position. Many smaller football associations stood to benefit financially from the increased funding, while wealthier football nations showed less interest in the offer. Questions over Infantino's future Although Infantino has now dropped the proposal, questions remain about whether he can fully restore confidence before FIFA's presidential election next March. Campaigns& Elections The controversy also led to the resignation of senior adviser Carlos Cordeiro, who criticised the investment plan, while FIFA Chief Operating Officer Kevin Lamour publicly defended colleagues involved in the dispute. Infantino was re-elected unopposed in 2019 and 2023 and is eligible to seek one final four-year term. Potential challengers mentioned by football observers include Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi and FIFA vice president Victor Montagliani, although no official candidates have announced plans to run. The failed investment proposal has become one of the biggest challenges to Infantino's leadership since he became FIFA president in 2016.

Italy and AC Milan legend Franco Baresi dies at 66

Sports Desk

Franco Baresi, the former AC Milan captain who was one of Italy's most acclaimed defenders, has died. He was 66. His death was announced on Friday by Milan, the soccer club where he spent his entire 20-year playing career. No cause of death was given. "The entire history of AC Milan is in tears," Milan said. In August 2025, Baresi underwent surgery to remove a pulmonary nodule and subsequently began a course of immunotherapy. His last public appearance was at the opening ceremony for the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in February, when along with former Inter Milan defender Giuseppe Bergomi, he carried the torch into the San Siro — the stadium he formerly played in. "His example and integrity will be forever etched into the Club's DNA, just as his iconic number 6 shirt is," Milan added. "The condolences AC Milan extends to Franco Baresi's family at such a difficult time are shared by every Rossonero, who feels this loss as their own." Baresi was on Italy's team that won the World Cup in 1982.

"With the passing of Franco Baresi, Italy loses not only one of the greatest champions in its sports history, but also an example of loyalty, professionalism, and dedication," Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said on X. One-club player Baresi, who was widely regarded as one of the best defenders of all time, was a true one-club player. He progressed through the ranks at Milan and made his first team debut at the age of 17, in April 1978. He chose to stay with Milan even after it was relegated to Serie B — for the second time in three seasons — in 1982, just before he helped Italy win the World Cup that summer, and was given the captaincy at the age of just 22. Baresi made more than 700 appearances for the Rossoneri, captaining the team to global dominance in the late 1980s and early 1990s. With Milan, Baresi won three Champions League trophies, six Serie A titles, two Intercontinental Cups, three European Supercups and four Italian Supercups. "For generations, Franco embodied the values, character and excellence that define this club," Milan owner Gerry Cardinale said. "Even as he battled his greatest



challenge over the last year, he was always there for the club, quietly reminding us all what it means to wear these colors. "Franco's legacy is profound and will endure forever. Our thoughts are with his family and all those whose lives he touched." In his final interview with the Gazzetta dello Sport last year, Baresi said he recalled being a "Milanista" (Milan fan) as a little kid. "When I arrived at Milanello (Milan's training center) for the first time as a 14-year-old it seemed like entering paradise," Baresi said. First jersey to be retired As well as the 1982 World Cup, Baresi also helped Italy finish runners-up in the 1994 competition — although he was one of three Azzurri players to miss a penalty in the shootout defeat to Brazil in the final. Baresi finished runner-up to teammate Marco van Basten in the Ballon d'Or awards in 1989. When Baresi retired in 1997, Milan also retired his No. 6 jersey — which was a first for Italian soccer. The club also held a celebration match in his honor, featuring many soccer stars Baresi had played with and against. Baresi was made honorary president of Milan in 2020.

Cunningham says off-court protests are not affecting her focus with Fever

Sports Desk

Indiana Fever guard Sophie Cunningham said she is not concerned that rallies linked to her views on transgender athletes are becoming a distraction for her team. Speaking before Friday night's WNBA game against the Portland Fire, Cunningham said she remains focused on basketball despite protests held outside recent Fever games. "I come in and do my job," Cunningham said. "People who know me understand that I care about others, love basketball and want to inspire young people. I'm here to play basketball and be myself." A small group of supporters gathered outside the arena before Friday's game, marking the second straight Fever game where rallies were held in support of Cunningham. A similar event took place before Indiana's game against the Seattle Storm earlier this week. Each rally drew around two dozen participants. Cunningham said she had no involvement in organising the demonstrations. "People are simply exercising their right to free speech. I respect those who choose to speak their views," she said. Another rally is planned for Sunday's game between the Fever and the Minnesota Lynx in Minneapolis. The protests followed Cunningham's recent public support for banning transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports. During Tuesday's game in Seattle, two Cunningham supporters sat courtside holding signs. Following an incident involving the fans, the WNBA fined Seattle Storm



co-owner Celeste Keaton an undisclosed amount and suspended her for five games. The Storm later apologised for the incident, saying the team remains committed to providing a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone attending its games. In Portland, Cunningham was booed by sections of the crowd when she entered the game, while many fans waved pink, blue and white transgender flags. Despite the off-court attention, Indiana secured a 112-98 victory over Portland for its fifth straight win. Cunningham scored 13 points, while Caitlin Clark recorded the fourth triple-double of her WNBA career with 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Fever coach Stephanie White acknowledged the controversy has created challenges but said the team remains focused. "We want the attention to be on basketball and our progress as a team," White said. "At the same time, this is part of the league's growth, and we have to manage these situations while continuing to have conversations."

Kazi Salahuddin re-elected as SAFF president

Sports Desk

Kazi Md Salahuddin has been re-elected as the president of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). Following his re-election, SAFF congratulated Salahuddin, saying the achievement reflects his dedication, vision and continued commitment to the development of football in South Asia. In a message posted on its official Facebook page on Saturday, SAFF said, "This achievement is a testament to your dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to the development of football in South Asia." The regional football body expressed hope that Salahuddin's new term would bring greater progress, unity and success for the football community in South Asia.

Sports promote discipline, keep youths away from drugs: KDA Chairman

Sports Desk

Chairman of Khulna Development Authority (KDA) Advocate S.M. Shafikul Alam Mona today said there is no alternative to sports in protecting the young people from drugs, juvenile gangs and different social crimes. "Sports are a source of healthy recreation, reflecting discipline, unity and teamwork. Football teaches leadership, instant decision-making, loyalty and mutual respect," he said while inaugurating the final of the 32-team Zia Memorial Mini-Bar Football Tournament at Balur Math in the city's Ward No. 21 on Friday afternoon. The tournament was organised by Young Star Boys Club. Mona, also president of Khulna city BNP, said regular sports activities help keep young people disciplined, physically fit and mentally healthy at a time when excessive screen time has become a growing concern. He said the KDA is committed not only to developing urban infrastructure but also to ensuring a healthy environment, adequate playgrounds and a vibrant city where the younger generation can grow up in a healthy atmosphere. After the programme, Mona joined a prayer gathering at Mariam Jame Mosque on Dilkhola Road in Ward No. 30 and later inspected the construction work of Sritalabari Temple.

Hockey's special mental performance workshop held

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) today (Saturday) organized a special mental performance workshop titled "Train Your Mind" for national hockey players at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in Dhaka. The workshop aimed at enhancing the players' mental strength, psychological resilience and overall performance on the field. The programme was designed to help players improve concentration, build self-confidence, manage emotions and develop a winning mindset to perform effectively under pressure during competitive matches. Organizers expressed optimism that the initiative would play a significant role in improving the standard of



Bangladesh hockey under the slogan "Not a Dream, This Time History." The workshop was conducted by a team of experienced freelance consultant and mental health professionals. Freelance consultant Arif Siddiqui served as the lead trainer, while freelance consultant Md. Hanif worked as the associate trainer. Jannatul Ferdous, Clinical Psychologist at Prottoy, was also part of the expert panel, providing guidance on the players' mental health and psychological well-being. The BHF believes that in modern hockey, mental preparation and tactical awareness are just as important as physical fitness. Through this workshop, the federation hopes the players would be better equipped to cope with the psychological pressures of international competitions and deliver improved performances for Bangladesh.

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Ten-man Tottenham beat Chelsea 2-1 in Sydney



Sports Desk

Brazil striker Richarlison scored a 90th-minute winner and club record signing Sandro Tonali got his first goal as 10-man Tottenham beat London rivals Chelsea 2-1 in a feisty pre-season friendly in Sydney on Saturday. Both sides fielded strong line-ups and Spurs struck first on 19 minutes through Tonali's deflected strike before Estevao levelled the scores barely two minutes later. Tottenham defender Kevin Danso was given a straight red card just three minutes after coming off the bench at the break for bringing down Joao Pedro, with Chelsea dominating proceedings in the second half. But in front of 80,363 fans at Stadium Australia, they failed to capitalise and Spurs stunned them with a late winner. The loss means new Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso will head to Hong Kong for a clash with Juventus on Wednesday on the back of his first defeat, following a 6-4 victory over Western Sydney Wanderers last week. The Spaniard has overseen a string of high-profile signings since being appointed, headlined by Morgan Rogers from Aston Villa, as he bids to rejuvenate the

club after their disappointing 10th in the Premier League last season. Spurs, who fared even worse, coming 17th to narrowly miss relegation, have also been on a spending spree with Matheus Fernandes arriving from West Ham and Tonali from Newcastle. They fly home after a 2-0 win over Auckland FC and 1-1 draw with Sydney FC. Most of Chelsea's close-season signings have yet to link up with the squad, including Rogers. But right-back Marco Palestra, who joined from Atalanta, got his first minutes while Cole Palmer and Estevao started after a slew of youngsters were used against Western Sydney Wanderers. Tottenham midfielder Fernandes, who missed the Sydney game with "fatigue in his calf muscle", was again absent, as was James Maddison with a "small problem". But Tonali made his maiden start along with fellow new recruit Andy Robertson. After a cagey start, tempers flared when Conor Gallagher hacked down Chelsea's Dario Essugo in the 10th minute with players pushing and shoving each other. Gallagher was shown a yellow card and Essugo continued. Spurs broke the deadlock after a nice break down the right from Manor Solomon, who fed Tonali on the edge of the box with his shot taking a deflection. But it was a short-lived lead as Estevao headed home at the far post after Romeo Lavia broke free from midfield and they went to the break at 1-1 with Spurs having the better half. Danso's brain-fade allowed Chelsea to dominate the second-half with Estevao rattling the crossbar among a slew of chances. But, in a worry for Alonso, they failed to make the most of the extra man and Spurs stole their thunder when Richarlison side-footed home at the death.



Tourist dies while parasailing at Cox's Bazar beach

Staff Reporter

A tourist died after falling into the sea while parasailing at the Sea Sports Parasailing Point in the Dariyanagar area along Cox's Bazar's Marine Drive on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Shouvik Roy, a resident of Khulna district. He had travelled to Cox's Bazar with a tour group. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station, said the accident occurred at around 12:30 pm in the Dariyanagar beach area. Subaktagin Mohammad Sahel, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, said Shouvik was brought to the hospital at around 2:10 pm but had died before arrival. "Initially, it is believed that he died after falling into the sea. However, the exact cause of death will be known after the autopsy report is received," he said. Mahmudul Hasan, Executive Magistrate of the District Administration's Tourism Cell, said the tourist was critically injured after falling into the sea while parasailing. He was rescued and taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.The body has been kept at the hospital morgue, and necessary legal procedures are underway, he added. Meanwhile, locals alleged that although parasailing has operated in Cox's Bazar for years, questions remain over safety measures. They said previous accidents involving the same operator had sparked nationwide concern, but effective steps to improve safety or hold those responsible accountable had not been taken.Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mannan said no permission had been granted to operate parasailing on the beach. "They are operating parasailing illegally. Despite being evicted several times, they have continued the operation secretly. Necessary action will be taken against the operators," he said.

Debt and deception: The story behind a 'kidney trafficking' case

Staff Reporter:

What began as a desperate attempt to escape crushing debt has left a poor day labourer with one kidney, little money and a long legal battle.For Montu Mia, a resident of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha, the promise of Tk 10 lakh seemed like a lifeline. He was lured into donating a kidney under the assurance that a wealthy woman in Dhaka urgently needed the organ and would pay him the agreed amount, according to a case filed in Number 5 Cognisance court.Instead, Montu claims he received only Tk 50,000 after undergoing surgery in Nepal.According to the case statement, Montu had accumulated debts from NGOs and local lenders while struggling to support his family through daily wage work.It was during this difficult period that several brokers approached him with what they described as an opportunity to eliminate his debts forever. Driven by financial desperation, Montu agreed.The accused arranged his passport, gave him Tk 50,000 in advance in early January this year and then transported him through India to Nepal, where surgery was performed to remove one of his kidneys, it said.After remaining in Nepal for several days for post-operative care, he was sent back to Bangladesh without receiving the remaining Tk 950,000 promised under the agreement.When he demanded the rest of the money, the accused denied owing him anything, according to the case statement.After failing to secure justice through local mediation, Montu filed the case.The court directed Kalai Police Station to treat.



Dialogue on drafting of Human Rights Defenders Protection Act held in Rajshahi

Staff Reporter:

A dialogue was held with the participation of local journalists, human rights activists and representatives from various professions here today. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) organized the event with the aim of collecting opinions and recommendations at the local level for drafting the Human Rights Defenders Protection Act (Draft). The dialogue held at Hotel Warisan was organized with the cooperation of Rajshahi's partner organization under the Nagorikata Programme, which is implemented with the support of the European Union and the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh. The program titled "Engage Now: Enhancing Engagement of Women, Youth and other Marginalized Groups to Foster Accountability and Advance Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh" was moderated by Rokonzaman, Project Coordinator of Ain o Salish Kendra. Former Chairman of Rajshahi Education Board Prof Dipakendra Nath Das, Editor of the Daily Sonali Sangbad Liakat Ali, Director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association Dil Sitara Chuni and Social Watchdog Jamat Khan, among others also spoke.The main objective of the dialogue was to collect local-level opinions, experi-

ences and recommendations on the proposed Human Rights Defenders Protection Act (Draft) to ensure a favourable environment for the safety, security and independent work of human rights defenders. Participating journalists, human rights workers and various professionals held detailed discussions on the current challenges, risks and necessary legal protections in the work of human rights defenders. Participants in the discussion said that formulating an effective and timely law is extremely important to ensure a safe and independent environment for human rights defenders to perform their duties. They presented constructive opinions and recommendations on various aspects of the proposed law, which will help make the draft law more realistic, participatory and effective. Ain o Salish Kendra said that as part of drafting the Human Rights Defenders Protection Act (Draft), dialogues are being organized in phases in different regions of the country with local journalists, human rights activists, lawyers, members of civil society and other stakeholders. The opinions and recommendations received from these dialogues will play an important role in finalizing the draft law and will help ensure a safe and supportive environment for human rights defenders in the country.



Education in the stitch of nakshi kantha, festive mood at result publication in Bidyaniketan

Staff correspondent

Amidst a festive atmosphere to the rhythm of the traditional Orang dance of the indigenous community, students, parents and local residents of Shishu Provat Bidyaniketan welcomed Advocate Shafiqul Haque Milon, MP.The rhythm of the dance reflected the lifestyle, culture, religious beliefs and deep love for nature of the indigenous society.Amidst that colorful arrangement, the publication of examination results and tree plantation program turned into a celebration of joy.The event was organized at 10 am today on the school premises of Shishu Provat Bidyaniketan in Bhugrail Christianpara, Paba Upazila, for the publication of examination results and tree plantation.This exceptional educational institution is run on the income from each stitch of Nakshi Kantha, and the students burst into excitement upon receiving their results.As the chief guest at the event, lawmaker Shafiqul Haque Milon handed over the examination results to the students, congratulated the achievers, and planted saplings of various species of fruit, forest and medicinal trees on the school premises with the participation of parents and students.To spread the message of environmental conservation, he handed over a tree to each student and entrusted them with the responsibility of taking care of it. Surjo Biswas, a student who secured first position in the half-yearly Class Four examination after receiving a guava sapling as a gift, said, I am very happy to have secured first position. The MP gifted me a guava tree, which I will plant at home and take care of regularly. When the tree grows, I will not only eat its

fruits but also encourage others to plant trees. In his speech as chief guest, MP Milon said tree plantation is not just a program, it is our responsibility to the future generation. To protect the environment and biodiversity, every person must plant more trees and take care of them. If we can instill love and a sense of responsibility for nature in children from an early age, it will be possible to build a green and livable Bangladesh. Regarding the tree plantation program, he said that the program of planting 25 crore trees in five years announced by Tarique Rahman, will play an important role in environmental conservation and combating the adverse effects of climate change.he tree plantation at the school was done as part of that program.Praising the Bidyaniketan, he further said Shishu Provat Bidyaniketan is a bright example of education, self-reliance and harmony. The coordination of education with women's economic empowerment that has taken place here is exemplary for the country. Sumi Murmu's initiative has proved that with sincerity, big changes can be brought about even with limited resources. Everyone must extend a helping hand to take this institution forward.The event was presided over by Sumi Murmu, Chairman of Nari O Shishu Kalyan Sangstha and founding director of Shishu Provat Bidyaniketan. Special guests at the event, organized with the support of Nari O Shishu Kalyan Sangstha, were Father Paul Peter Costa of Bhugrail Church, Paba Upazila BNP Member Secretary Abdur Razzak, Krishak Dal Central Committee Rajshahi Division Assistant Organizing Secretary Wadud Hasan Pintu, District Jubo Dal member Iftekharul Islam Doni and village chief Julian Biswas.

All pro-democracy forces contributed to July movement: Rumon

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon today said the anti-fascist July movement was the result of the collective contributions of all pro-democracy people in the country, not the achievement of any individual or a single political party. "The anti-fascist July movement was not the achievement of any individual or a single party; rather, it was the result of the collective contributions of all pro-democracy people in the country," he said.Rumon was addressing a discussion and photo exhibition titled 'Bangladesh in the Face of Bullets, The End of Fascism', organised by Amra BNP Poribar and the Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.Information and Broadcasting.

Worker killed, another injured in septic tank wall collapse in Bagerhat

Staff Reporter, Bagerdhat

A construction worker was killed and another injured after the wall of an under-construction septic tank collapsed at a madrasa in Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat this afternoon. The accident occurred at the premises of Gulishakhali Fazil Madrasa near Gulishakhali Bazar, where workers were constructing a septic tank.According to police, fire service and local sources, a section of the septic tank wall suddenly gave way, trapping two workers under the debris.Local residents began rescue efforts before personnel from Morelganj Fire Service and Civil Defence arrived at the scene and joined the operation. After about an hour, Atiar Rahman, 35, was recovered dead, while injured worker Nayan was rescued and taken to a hospital for treatment.Morelganj Fire Service and Civil Defence Team Leader Md Golam Faruk said the rescue team responded after receiving a call through the national emergency service 999. He said continuous rain and a large crowd at the site hampered the operation.The deceased, Atiar Rahman, was the son of Badrul Alam and hailed from Agrail village in Jessore district. Morelganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Mahmudur Rahman said legal formalities were underway and an investigation had been launched to determine the cause of the accident.

CDA's master plan draft finalized

Staff Reporter:

Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has finalized the draft of Chattogram Metropolitan Master Plan (2025-2050) aimed at transforming Chattogram into a well-planned, sustainable, and modern city. The plan will be finalized based on feedback from the citizens in next 60 days from Sunday (August 2). At a press conference today in his office CDA chairman Engineer Belayet Hossain discussed various elements of the master plan. During this event, information was shared regarding the project's progress, the public opinion collection process, and strategy for implementation. According to CDA sources, 25 year master plan encompasses approximately 1,255 square kilometers, including 41 city corporation wards and adjacent municipalities and upazilas. CDA master plan has been prepared aimed at transforming Chattogram into a well-planned, sustainable, and modern metropolis, chairman said.

Staff Reporter:

A 51-member full executive committee of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal for No. 2 Hinguli Union under Mirsarai Upazila in Chattogram has been formally announced. Alamgir Hossain Mizhi has been nominated as the President, while Humayun Kabir has been named the General Secretary. The official approval was granted on Friday (July 31) through a joint statement signed by Mirsarai Upazila Shramik Dal President Didarul Alam Master and General Secretary Abu Salek. Key Executive Appointments Senior Vice-Presidents: Humayun Driver and Salim Ullah Vice-Presidents: Monjurul Islam, Md. Didar, Kamal Uddin, and Mohidul Islam Sheikh Senior Joint General Secretary: Shahadat Hossain Khokon Joint General Secretaries: Didarul Alam, Md. Saiful Islam, and Saiful Islam Organizing Secretary: Nazrul Islam Munna Joint Organizing Secretaries: Matin Driver, Jamshed Alam, and Nuruzzaman Other Secretarial Posts Office Secretary: Md. Mezba (Assistants: Nurun Nabi and Nur Alam) Publicity Secretary: Nabi (Assistants: Mostafa, Selim, and Nur Alam) Finance Secretary: Bahar (Assistant: Mosharraf Hossain) Labor & Legal Affairs Secretary: Shahadat Hossain (Assistant: Rakib Hossain) Religious Affairs Secretary: Abdul Rahim Badsha (Assistant: Jahiur Islam Bhutto) Sports Secretary: Joyнал Abedin Akash



43pc Aman seedling planting completed in Rangpur region

Staff Reporter. Rangpuyr

Aman rice seedling planting has already been completed on 43 percent of the target land in the Rangpur agricultural region, where farmers are continuing the process in full swing amid frequent rains. Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) said farmers have already transplanted Aman rice seedlings on 2,67,267 hectares of land, 43 percent of the targeted land area for cultivation of the crop, till date.Talking to BSS, Additional Director of the DAE for Rangpur region Md Shirajul Islam said that farmers are likely to achieve the set farming target of Aman rice this season as transplantation of seedling continues amidst favorable climatic conditions in the region. The DAE has fixed a target of producing 20,05,028 tonnes of clean Aman rice (30,07,542 tonnes in terms of paddy) from 86,020 hectares and 20,737 tonnes of local varieties of Aman rice from 11,010 hectares. Earlier in the last season, farmers produced 20,00,614 tonnes of clean Aman rice and 18,88,538 tonnes of clean Aman rice from 6,16,299 hectares of land in the previous season in the region. Meanwhile, farmers have prepared seedbeds on 34,586 hectares of land, which is 13.77 percent more than the 30,401 hectares of land required for Aman rice cultivation on the target land of 6,21,550 hectares.

Two-day national job fair 'Jobspecs 2026' begins at KUET

Staff Reporter:

A two-day national job fair titled "Jobspecs 2026" began at the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) today, aiming to connect students and fresh graduates with leading employers from across the country.The fair, being held on August 1-2, has been organised by Spectrum-A, the Skill Development Club of KUET. Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Dr Muhammad Maksud inaugurated the event as the chief guest. Among others present were Director of Students' Welfare Prof Dr Md Hasan Ali, Spectrum-A Moderator and Prof of the Mechanical Engineering Department Prof Dr Md Shariful Islam, faculty members, representatives of participating companies and students and job seekers from different universities.A total of 20 leading national and multinational companies are taking part in the

fair, offering opportunities for permanent employment, internships, professional networking and direct interaction with human resource representatives.Organisers said the fair is designed to strengthen the link between students, fresh graduates and employers, thereby enhancing employment opportunities for young job seekers.They said job seekers from 34 universities across the country have already submitted their resumes while 33 partner clubs from different universities have collaborated to ensure nationwide student participation.Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the guests stressed that in today's competitive job market, academic excellence alone is not sufficient.They said professional skills, industry exposure and practical workplace knowledge are equally important for career success.They noted that initiatives like "Jobspecs 2026" provide an effective platform for students and fresh graduates.



(Assistant: Jahidul Islam) General Members and Future Pledges In addition to the executive posts, 6 respected members and 13 general members have been included to complete the 51-member panel. Following the announcement, the newly appointed leaders expressed their commitment to strengthening the Shramik Dal's organizational framework at the union level and playing an active role in securing the rights of the labor community.