



PM directs restoration of waterways around Dhaka

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today asked the concerned authorities to restore waterways surrounding the capital to improve water-based transportation and ease urban mobility. He also directed the authorities concerned to take effective measures to prevent pollution of the rivers surrounding Dhaka, improve the capital's drainage system, and ensure normal water flow by main-

taining navigability. The directives came at a meeting on restoring waterways around Dhaka, chaired by the prime minister at the Cabinet Division's Conference Room at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin. He said the meeting decided to make the waterways around Dhaka operational again. It also decided to consider proposals from interested private companies to allow them to operate

water buses on the water routes. Shadhin said the Prime Minister also directed the authorities to plant different species of trees alongside the walkways constructed along the riverbanks to help protect the environment and enhance the scenic beauty of the rivers. Minister for Road Transport and Bridges, Railways, and Shipping Shaikh Rabiul Alam, State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sheikh Faridul Islam, Mayors

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Consumer rights law penalises offenders, awards complainants 25pc of realised fines

Staff correspondent

The Consumers' Right Protection Act, 2009, provides the legal framework to take action against food adulteration, fraud, over-charging, misleading advertisements and various other practices that violate consumers' rights.

Anyone found guilty of violating the law may face imprisonment, a fine, or both. At the same time, if a complaint is proven, the complainant is entitled to receive 25 per cent of the fine realised from the offender, a provision aimed at encouraging consumers to report violations.

The law is not limited to combating food adulteration. It also empowers the authorities to take action against offences such as tampering with weights and measures,

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Myanmar expresses strong interest in expanding trade ties with Bangladesh

Staff correspondent

Myanmar has expressed strong interest in increasing economic engagement with Bangladesh by expanding bilateral trade, resuming border commerce and strengthening connectivity between the two neighbouring countries. The interest was conveyed by Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Kyaw

Soe Moe during a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktarir at the Ministry of Commerce today, said a press release.

The ambassador proposed the resumption of the suspended border trade, suggesting that it could initially be restarted on a limited or temporary basis to benefit traders and people living along

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Social movement, local manufacturing key to renewable energy transition: Titumir

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser on the Ministries of Finance and Planning Prof. Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir today stressed the need a nationwide social movement for renewable energy, expanding local manufacturing of solar technologies and pursuing a balanced energy mix to accelerate Bangladesh's clean energy transition and strengthen long-term energy security. Addressing a seminar titled "Distributed Renewable Energy: The Future Solar Solution for Bangladesh" at the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) auditorium in the capital, he said Bangladesh must move beyond policy commitments alone and build broad-based public participation to make renewable energy a people's movement. "The first task is to create demand through a social movement. Once citizens articulate that demand, the market will naturally respond with supply," he said, adding

that collective action is essential to building a livable planet for future generations by protecting nature, biodiversity and the environment. Titumir said Bangladesh has a long history of successful public movements - from the mass literacy campaign and canal excavation programmes to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) - demonstrating that citizen participation can drive national transformation. He called on civil society organisations, NGOs and microfinance institutions to spearhead a nationwide campaign for renewable energy adoption, describing access to clean energy as a right that should be available to every household. The adviser said renewable energy could significantly reduce household expenditure, increase savings and create new opportunities for investment, thereby helping break the cycle of inherited poverty. Referring to the country's growing dependence on imported fuel, he said Bangladesh

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NBR offers up to 5pc tax rebate for returns filed by Sept 30

Staff correspondent

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced a tax incentive of up to 5 percent, capped at Tk 25,000, for individual taxpayers and Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) taxpayers who submit their income tax returns between July 1 and September 30 under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 2023.

According to an NBR press release issued today, eligible taxpayers who file their returns within the stipulated period will receive a tax rebate equal to 5 percent of the tax payable under Section 173 of the Income Tax Act, 2023, subject to a maximum benefit of Tk 25,000, said an NBR press release issued today. The revenue authority said no tax incentive will be available for returns submitted between October 1 and December 31.

However, taxpayers filing returns between January 1 and March 31 will have to pay an additional amount equivalent to 2 percent of the tax payable or Tk 3,000, whichever is higher, under Section 173(2) of the law. For returns submitted

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Govt starts process to repatriate former IGP Benazir from UAE: Humaiun Kobir

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir on Sunday said the government is initiating the process of bringing back former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Home Ministry has started the necessary process and discussions are ongoing, he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in response to a question over media reports that Benazir has been released on bail in the UAE. "If there is progress, you will be informed by the Home Ministry or our Foreign Ministry. You will get an update from the Home Ministry. I have just come from the meeting. It would not be right to talk about something that I am not fully aware of yet," the Adviser said. Several media outlets have reported that Benazir Ahmed has been released on bail in the UAE.

Former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed was arrested in Dubai by the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

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Arguments in case against Obaidul Quader, 6 others on Aug 4

Staff correspondent

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 today fixed August 4 for the start of arguments in a crimes against humanity case filed over killings during the July Mass Uprising against seven individuals, including Awami League (AL) General Secretary and former minister Obaidul Quader. The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, passed the order as the testimony of witnesses in the case, concluded today. The other accused of the case are - Awami League Joint General Secretary A F M Bahauddin Nasim, former State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat, Jubo League President Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and General Secretary Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, President of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League Saddam Hossain and its General Secretary Wali Asif Inan.

The second tribunal on

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Police must be the true friend of the people and a symbol of the country, Home Minister

Special correspondent, Rajshahi.

Salahuddin Ahmed said Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah, Rajshahi, that police will not work as the "muscle force" of any particular party or group. Instead, police must become the true friend of the people and a symbol of security.

Ensuring public safety and transforming the police force into a modern, efficient, and humanitarian service-oriented organization, completely free from partisan influence, is the main goal of the current government.

The Minister made these remarks as the chief guest at the Passing Out Parade of the 1st Phase of the 27th BCS (Police) Batch at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah, Rajshahi District.

The Minister said that due to extreme politicization during the past fascist regime, the

morale of the police force was damaged. The government has taken various steps to rebuild it. To restore professionalism in the force, a strict policy of rewards and punishments based on honesty and discipline has been implemented. He added that those who show courage and do commendable work are being rewarded, while punitive action is being taken against those involved in crimes or disciplinary violations.

Congratulating the new officers participating in the parade, the Minister said this joyous moment should have come to them much earlier in their lives. The endless deprivation and inhuman suffering they endured for 18 long years as victims of the past autocratic and fascist government's revenge is extremely painful. After the fall of the autocratic regime, he extended sincere greetings to all officers for

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The current government is walking on the path shown by the League, Dr. Shafiqur

Staff Correspondent

Those who were subjected to torture in the opposition for the past 17 years are again adopting the fascist traits and path of the previous government after coming to power, said Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr. Shafiqur Rahman. He raised the question and said, "You were also oppressed like us, so why are you going to be oppressors now?" He said this as the chief guest at a discussion titled 'Jan Dib, Juli Dib Na' organized at the Abdus Salam Hall of the National Press Club at 10:30 am on Sunday (August 2). Dr. Shafiqur Rahman said, "The current ruling party should think about how the people of Bangladesh, especially the leaders and activists of the opposition political party, scholars, journalists, civil society and ordinary working people have spent their days under extreme torture for 17 and a half years." But even after being liberated through a bloody mass uprising, the same behavior of repression and oppression of the previous government is being retained.

The current practice of conspiracy, propaganda and force to suppress opposition is nothing but an exact photocopy of the previous government. Regarding the Election Commission, the Jamaat Amir said that a person known as an active worker of BNP has been

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New intercity trains planned on Dhaka-Pabna, Dhaka-Khulna routes

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Railway has taken the initiative to launch two new intercity trains on the Dhaka-Pabna and Dhaka-Khulna routes on a priority basis as around 200 new passenger coaches are set to be added to its fleet this month. Railway officials said the new trains are expected to improve connectivity and ease travel for passengers in the western region. According to railway sources, several new railway routes have been opened in recent years, including the Jamuna Bridge-Pabna line in 2018, the Dhaka-Padma Bridge route in 2022, and the Khulna-Mongla route in 2024. However, adequate train services could not be introduced on these routes due to a shortage of coaches. Once the new coaches are added to the fleet, the Ministry of Railways plans to launch intercity trains on the Dhaka-Pabna and Dhaka-Khulna routes. It is also considering introducing

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Draft of CMSF under verification of the ministry

Staff correspondent

The government has initiated the process of enacting a new law titled Bangladesh Capital Market Stabilization Fund Act, 2026 to strengthen the country's capital market, enhance transparency, and safeguard investors' interests. The draft law has been prepared by the Financial Institutions Division and is now undergoing verification and policy review by the Ministry of Finance.

Officials concerned said the proposed legislation aims to transform the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) into a more effective and self-sustaining statutory institution by establishing a comprehensive legal framework for managing unclaimed cash dividends, shares, and other financial assets with greater transparency and accountability. Market stakeholders believe the law will enable the CMSF to function as a modern, centralized digital platform for cash dividend dis-

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ICSB holds training on Finance Act 2026 to boost tax, VAT compliance

Staff correspondent

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB) today organized a training programme on the "Finance Act, 2026: Changes, Impact and Practice" to familiarize professionals with the latest fiscal reforms and their practical implications. The day-long training, held at the Management FBS Club Limited in the capital, brought together ICSB members, senior corporate officials and professionals from different sectors, said a press release. Speaking at the inaugural session, Md. Mizanur Rahman FCS, Treasurer of

ICSB and coordinator of the programme, highlighted the importance of understanding the changes introduced through the Finance Act, 2026, saying the training was designed to help professionals effectively implement the new tax and VAT provisions. Md. Shabbirul Alam Chowdhury, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of ICSB, delivered the welcome address and moderated the session. The training featured presentations by officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and experienced tax and corporate finance professionals. The resource persons included Rezaul Karim,

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Bring the stranded Bangladeshis home

We are alarmed by a recent report that highlighted the horrors faced by Bangladeshi migrant workers who were lured to Russia with promises of a better future but later had little choice but to fight in the Ukraine war. Many of them also ended up in Ukrainian jails as prisoners of war (POWs). The stories of these men go beyond isolated incidents, pointing to exploitation by domestic actors and their transnational network, the crippling desperation and helplessness plaguing the country's youth, and the government's apathy and unpreparedness. This is especially alarming given that at least 104 Bangladeshis had been reportedly recruited into the Russian military as of February 2026, while at least 34 of them had been reportedly killed.

The stories of these men go beyond isolated incidents, pointing to exploitation by domestic actors and their transnational network, the crippling desperation and helplessness plaguing the country's youth, and the government's apathy and unpreparedness. This is especially alarming given that at least 104 Bangladeshis.

In Russia for which he spent Tk 6 lakh; but once he lost this stable work, he had to join the Russian military. Like him, Sarwar paid an exorbitant amount to an agency and travelled to Russia to work on a gas project, but when the project expired, he signed contracts written in Russian and joined the military. Kamrul, meanwhile, alleged that he was deceived by an Uzbek broker who offered to take him to Italy, but after he gave them several lakhs of taka in advance, he too ended up in Russia. All three men mentioned in our report were desperate to recover the money they had spent on a journey built on deception, which pushed them towards increasingly dangerous choices.

What is puzzling is that none of the POWs were contacted by the Bangladeshi authorities. Why is the government showing such apathy in repatriating these men who only hope to return home as soon as possible? The indifference on the government's part, compounded by the lack of initiatives to dismantle the trafficking networks preying on young desperate men, deeply disappoints us. We strongly urge the government to begin the repatriation process of the stranded Bangladeshis in war zones. Also, investigations against the local recruiting agents and their related offices involved in such fraudulent activities must be strengthened, along with initiating widespread awareness programmes. Above all, the root of the problem that leads a section of our youth to consider sailing for the dangerous unknown must be addressed. Young people should be able to see at least a safe future in their own homeland.

PM directs restoration

of Dhaka south and north city corporations Abdus Salam and Shafiqul Islam Khan and Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman, and senior officials of the relevant ministries and agencies attended the meeting.

Govt starts process to repatriate

police in connection with a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Bangladesh. GeographicReferenceOn June 14, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed disclosed the development in Parliament .He said the UAE authorities informed the Bangladesh government of the arrest on June 12. “We will bring him back to Bangladesh soon,” the minister said, describing it as a great success of Bangladesh Police. In April 2025, the Interpol issued a red notice against the former police chief

Police must be the true friend of the

regaining their rightful status and position.

Addressing the new ASP probationers, the Minister said, You are entering your professional life at a historic turning point for the country. In the eyes of the law, from a political activist on the streets to a marginal farmer everyone is equal, We must always be careful that no one faces any kind of discrimination while seeking services. He further said that chain of command, discipline, loyalty, and integrated leadership are the core strengths of the force.

The Minister also said that in the current age of information technology, new officers must acquire the highest level of technical knowledge in cyber security and crime investigation. The government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption so all police members must perform their duties with honesty and sincerity.

Expressing optimism, the Minister said that the members of the 27th BCS (Police) Batch 1st Phase will further enrich the Bangladesh Police Force by utilizing the knowledge, wisdom, and experience they have gained in various professions over the last 18 years.

Paying tribute to the spirit of the Liberation War and the sacrifices of the martyrs of the 2024 student-mass uprising he urged the new ASP probationers to perform their duties according to public expectations and aspirations to build a peaceful, developed, and democratic Bangladesh.

Special guests present at the event included Land Minister Mizanur Rahman Minu,local Members of Parliament, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md. Ali Hossain Fakir, Principal of Bangladesh Police Academy G.M. Azizur Rahman,Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner, Dr. A.N.M. Bazlur Rashid, and DIG of Rajshahi Range, Md. Ashiq Sayeed Senior military and civilian officials, invited guests from home and abroad, parents of the ASP probationers, and journalists from various media outlets were also present.

At the event, the Minister inspected the parade and received the salute. He also distributed awards to trainee Assistant Superintendents of Police for excellence in various categories. Best in Field Activities Award Trainee ASP Dr. Md. Nurul Huda Bhuiyan, Best Shooter Trainee ASP ABM Mamun, Best Academic Award Abu Numan Mohammad Khairul Islam, Best Probationer Overall ASP Dr. Md. Nurul Huda Bhuiyan A total of 58 trainees 57 from the 27th BCS (Police) Batch 1st Phase and 1 from the 28th BCS (Police) Batch entered their practical professional life through today's passing out parade. Later, in a press briefing regarding the recent law and order situation and the recovery of explosive-like objects in Ashulia and Motijheel, the Home Minister said that the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC)and the DMP Bomb Disposal Unit have safely neutralized the items. Stating

Can AI address the shortage of speech therapists in Bangladesh

Md. Neyamul Hossain

potential to serve as a “digital clinical extender.” By using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), AI platforms can bring evidence-based practices directly into homes. An app, trained on specific phonological patterns, can act as a helpful tutor, enabling daily exercises instead of forcing families to wait weeks for an appointment in a city clinic. Moreover, algorithms do not experience cognitive or emotional fatigue. An AI tool can listen to a child with a stutter repeat a sound thousands of times without impatience, recording objective acoustic details—like voice onset times and shifts in

While global rates of communication disorders increase, Bangladesh faces a critical shortage, with only a few hundred qualified SLTs registered with the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council (BRC). Into this gap comes artificial intelligence. Large language models and acoustic algorithms have progressed well beyond simple voice-to-text transcription. Today's clinical AI systems can analyse phonetic issues, identify dysarthric acoustic features, and give real-time feedback on articulation through smartphone apps. As these tools become increasingly common, they ignite a pressing debate among health administrators, developers, and clinicians: does AI provide a viable way to make speech therapy more accessible, or does it threaten the human clinicians who are essential for ethical rehabilitative care?

Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badgeTo understand why AI seems like an urgent necessity, we must look at Bangladesh's structural issues. Specialised education in communication disorders is highly

pitch—that a human ear might miss in a regular session. For resource-limited NGOs and state initiatives, like the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons' disability services and help centres, incorporating AI into clinical processes can help expand care beyond urban regions. Anxiety among clinicians regarding AI, however, does not stem from fear of technology but from the clear limits of software in understanding human nuances. Speech-language therapy is a dynamic field that involves neurology, anatomy, psychology, linguistics, and emotional understanding. When an SLT sits across from a non-verbal child or a stroke survivor, they can observe subtle micro-expressions, assess muscle tone, check for swallowing challenges, and adjust their approach based on the child's emotional state. An app cannot provide hands-on guidance for tongue placement during speech, offer comfort during moments of distress, or modify

treatment strategies when a neurodivergent child faces sensory overload. While technology can process language, it is human connection that restores communication.

In Bangladesh, this human connection is especially important. Communication disorders carry a heavy social stigma. Mothers often get blamed for developmental delays, and families face social isolation. Human clinicians frequently go beyond medical treatment to act as counsellors and advocates, helping navigate complex family dynamics, dispelling myths, and fostering supportive home environments. This kind of holistic support cannot be reduced to code or replicated by a chatbot. Beyond these philosophical concerns lies a technical challenge: data bias. Most global AI speech models depend on

Western, English-language, and neurotypical data. If used locally without adjustments, their accuracy can drop significantly. The Bangla language has a unique phonetic structure that includes aspirated consonants and retroflex sounds. Additionally, the linguistic landscape of Bangladesh features many regional dialects. An ASR model trained only on standard Cholito Bhasha spoken in Dhaka is likely to misunderstand speech from a child raised in Sylhet, Chattogram, or Barisal. Misinterpreting dialect differences as speech problems, or failing to recognise genuine neurological delays due to algorithmic limitations, can lead to serious diagnostic issues. So, to effectively navigate this transition, policy should move beyond a simple “AI versus human” debate and towards a combined clinical model. The Ministry of Social Welfare and the BRC must create clear guidelines for digital therapeutic tools. AI should be classified as assistive medical software, with oversight from registered SLTs for diagnoses and treatment plans.

Under government initiatives from the ICT Division, public universities and health institutes should support the creation of open-source Bangla clinical speech datasets. This would help ensure local software is accurate in its phonetic analysis. Degree programs at Dhaka University, PISER, and BHPi should include health informatics and digital therapeutics. This will prepare future clinicians to effectively use AI for documentation, acoustic assessments, and monitoring patient compliance at home. Recordings of minors and vulnerable individuals must be protected with strong encryption and regulations, following the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013, to avoid unauthorised commercial use. AI is not a replacement for clinical care or a stand-alone solution; it is a tool to expand access. When trained professionals use AI, it can help create a healthcare system that optimises practice while allowing clinicians to oversee patient progress.

was banned on August 1, 2024, the democratic parties including BNP and LDP strongly protested against it. But it took only a few days for those who had taken that decision to perpetuate power to fall. This is a sign of Allah's judgment and power.

The discussion meeting held under the chairmanship of Bangladesh Labor Party Chairman Dr. Mustafizur Rahman Iran was attended by LDP Chairman Dr. Col. (Retd.) Oli Ahmed, Bir Bikram.

The meeting was attended by top leaders of other democratic political parties, activists of the 24th People's Uprising, and journalists.

New intercity trains planned

a commuter train on the Dhaka-Gopalganj route and extending the Dhaka-Khulna service to Mongla.General Manager of Western Railway Farid Ahmed said a proposal is being prepared to initially launch the two new intercity trains on the Dhaka-Pabna and Dhaka-Khulna routes.Meanwhile, passengers in the Rajshahi and Jashore regions have demanded the immediate resumption of suspended local train services and replacement of old coaches on five existing trains.Member Secretary of the Greater Jashore Rail Communication Development Struggle Committee Zillur Rahman Vitu and General Secretary of the Rajshahi Raksha Sangram Parishad Zamat Khan urged the authorities to resume the suspended train services and reopen closed railway stations at the earliest. Acknowledging the shortage of manpower, Farid Ahmed said initiatives have been taken to gradually reopen closed stations and resume suspended train services through fresh recruitment and the appointment of station masters on a contractual basis.

Social movement, local

should promote household-level renewable energy solutions, including solar-powered cooking systems, to reduce pressure on gas supplies and cut imports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).“The transition to renewable energy is not merely an environmental necessity; it is also an economic strategy that can strengthen household resilience and national self-reliance,” he observed.Highlighting his second priority, Titumir underscored the importance of developing a strong domestic manufacturing base for renewable energy technologies.He said Bangladesh should locally produce photovoltaic (PV) panels, batteries, inverters and other components required for solar power systems instead of relying heavily on imports.“Local manufacturing will strengthen supply chains, create jobs, promote technological innovation and make renewable energy more affordable for consumers,” he said.The adviser noted that Bangladesh, as South Asia's second-largest economy and one of the world's largest consumer markets by population, possesses the scale needed to support a competitive renewable energy manufacturing industry.Citing Pakistan's rapid expansion of distributed solar systems, Titumir said Bangladesh has the potential to move even faster if government initiatives are matched by strong public participation and private-sector investment.Turning to his third priority, the adviser said Bangladesh must adopt a balanced energy mix to ensure energy security while gradually increasing the contribution of renewable sources.“We are not saying conventional energy will disappear overnight. Rather, Bangladesh needs a diversified energy mix in which renewable energy assumes a progressively larger share,” he said.He said greater reliance on renewable energy would reduce import dependence, enhance energy security and help the country cope with global uncertainties arising from geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions and climate-related challenges.“Uncertainty has become the new global normal. Bangladesh must move from a culture of dependence to a culture of self-reliance,” he said.Titumir said the government has already undertaken a paradigm shift in its renewable energy policy by introducing fiscal incentives, including tax and duty benefits.



Fakhrul promises eye camps in every upazila

Staff correspondent

Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Sunday inaugurated a five-day free eye treatment camp in Thakurgaon and assured that initiatives will be taken to organise such eye camps in every upazila across the

country. He said the government is working continuously to improve healthcare services in Thakurgaon, with the district hospital already upgraded from 250 beds to 600 beds. Fakhrul, also BNP secretary general, said admission of students to Thakurgaon Medical College will begin from next year. Politics (Right) Thakurgaon Diabetic

Association, with support from Nepal, organised the eye camp. The minister said healthcare-focused development activities are being implemented as quickly as possible. "Initiatives will be taken to arrange such eye camps in every upazila, and efforts will also be made to ensure regular continuation

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Misinformation, disinformation now biggest challenge: Info Minister

Staff correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon today said that while information scarcity was the primary challenge in the past, misinformation and disinformation have now emerged as the most formidable obstacles. "In the era of information overflow, misinformation and disinformation are being spread systematically to influence public perception," he said. The Minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organized on the occasion of Department Day of Mass Communication and Journalism department of Dhaka University (DU) today. DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. A B M Obaidul Islam and New Age Editor Nurul Kabir were present as special guests on the occasion held at Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium. Addressing vari-

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Meal programme to be expanded to all govt primary schools in phases: Hajjaj

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj today said the 'School Meal' programme will be expanded in phases to all government primary schools across the country to ensure nutritious food for school students. "The government's primary objective is to ensure nutrition for every primary school student," he said when World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh Country Director and Representative Ms. Coco H. Ushiyama paid a courtesy call on him at his office at the Secretariat here. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the expansion of the school meal

programme in government primary schools across Bangladesh, ensuring nutritious food for students, the possibility of introducing cooked hot meals on a pilot basis in the future, effective monitoring of the programme, and strengthening digital management, among other related issues. Hajjaj said transparency, accountability, and a technology-based monitoring system are crucial for the successful implementation of the School Meal programme. The discussion also highlighted the experience of India's school meal programme and its relevance to Bangladesh's social and cultural context. The State Minister stressed the need for separate need-based plans, taking

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Police alert a routine security reminder, not based on specific intelligence: DB chief

Staff correspondent

The recent security alert for police issued following a series of bomb scares and recoveries of suspicious objects in Dhaka and elsewhere was not based on any specific intelligence, but was a routine reminder aimed at strengthening security measures, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner (Detective Branch) Mohammad Shafiqul Islam said on Sunday. Responding to a question at a briefing at the DMP Media Centre, he said police remain vigilant at all times to ensure public safety as well as the security of police personnel and instal

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Khateeb and Muezzin Killed in Fish Pickup Truck Collision in Mirsarai

Jewel Nag, Mirsarai, Chattogram

Two motorcycle riders, who served as the khateeb and muezzin of a local mosque, were killed after their motorcycle was struck by a fish-laden pickup truck in Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram on Sunday afternoon. The fatal accident occurred on the old Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in the Chowdhuryhat area under Jorarganj Union.

The deceased were identified as Zainal Abedin (35), son of Abdus Salam of Charsharat village under Maghadia Union, and Jahir Uddin (52), son of the late Khorshed Alam. Zainal Abedin was the President of the Olama Dal of Ward No. 9 in Ichakhali Union and served as the Khateeb of Dargahpara Kala Pir Shah Jame Mosque. Jahir Uddin was the mosque's Muezzin. According to eyewitnesses, the two men were returning home

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Illegal Sand Mining with Dredgers Right Under Administration's Nose in Bijoyanagar, B. Baria. 11 Influential Persons Named as Leaders



Staff Correspondent, B. Baria

In Chandura, Budhanti, and Islampur areas of Bijoyanagar Upazila, Brahmanbaria, an illegal sand mining business is thriving with dredger machines set up right under the administration's nose.

Locals allege that under the leadership of 11 influential people, sand is being extracted from rivers and agricultural land at night and sold. During an on-site visit and in videos sent by locals, large piles of freshly extracted sand were seen stacked along the riverbank. Dredger pipes and machines were scattered all around.

According to residents, the illegal sand mining is being led by Shihab, Khokon,

Long-Haired Shahin, Member, Captain, Nazrul, Sharif, Hannan, Sajid Member, and Shafiq Mia.

Under their patronage, dredgers have been operating for a long time at various points in Chandura, Budhanti, and Islampur. Several local residents, who requested anonymity, said that the dredgers

run with loud noise from 12 AM till dawn every day. As a result, the riverbanks are eroding, agricultural land is being damaged, and water is getting polluted. Despite repeatedly informing the administration, no remedy has been found. Environmentalists say that extracting sand with dredgers in this way reduces the navigability of rivers, accelerates river erosion, and puts biodiversity at risk. When asked about this, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Bijoyanagar said, "We have received the complaint. A swift investigation will be conducted and legal action will be taken through mobile court. Our operation against illegal sand extraction

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Armed Robbery on Moving Bus in Cox's Bazar, Two bKash Salesmen Attacked, Tk 5.7 Million Looted

Md Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

A daring armed robbery took place on a moving passenger bus along the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar Highway on Sunday afternoon, where two bKash sales representatives were attacked with sharp weapons and approximately Tk 5.7 million was looted by an organized gang. The incident occurred near the 14 No. Bridge in the Bed Bagan area on the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar Highway. The injured

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Madaripur woman finds success in dairy farming

Staff correspondent

Determination, hard work and strong family support have helped Nusrat Jahan Sathi become a successful woman entrepreneur through dairy farming in Madaripur. By raising and selling cattle, she has not only achieved financial independence but has also emerged as an inspiring figure for women in her community, encouraging others to pursue self-employment through commercial livestock farming. Sathi, originally from Rajdi in Kalkini upazila, married Kazi Emarat Hossain of Syedabali area in Madaripur town. After her marriage, she found that her father-in-law had been involved in cattle farming for many years. Inspired by the family tradition and encouraged by her husband, she established Amira Dairy Farm in front of her home in 2019. She began her journey with just 10 cattle. However, due to a lack of experience, she lost several animals in the first year, suffering significant financial losses. Refusing to give up, she sought advice from experienced farmers on farm management, cattle nutrition, healthcare and hygiene. With improved knowledge and dedication, she gradually expanded her farm and at one point raising

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Exemplary Public Service in Karerhat: Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb Stands by People Day and Night. Government eyes?

Mirsarai correspondent, Chattogram

Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb, a dedicated young political worker and social worker, has become a symbol of trust and love for the general public of Karerhat Union No. 1 under Mirsarai Upazila. From improving local transportation infrastructure to standing by people day and night in their joys and sorrows, he has set an exceptional example of social and humanitarian service. According to local sources, Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb recently renovated dilapidated roads in various neglected areas of Karerhat Union—particularly in Ward No. 8—entirely at his own initiative and personal expense. As a result, thou-



sands of residents have finally gained relief from long-standing mud, waterlogging, and commuting hardships. Inspired by the dynamic and strong leadership of Nurul Amin MP, Member of Parliament for the Chittagong-1 (Mirsarai) constituency,

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Smiles on the Faces of 397 Children in Remote Khagrachhari Hills: Chalks and Slates Distributed

Staff Reporter

Winding mountain paths—where the only options for transport are local Chander Gari (jeeps) or motorcycles—lead to some of Khagrachhari's most remote schools, spreading the light of education nearly 10 kilometers away from the nearest market. Standing beside the students of these institutions, who persevere despite geographic challenges and infrastructural limits, is the social organization Elevating Society for Skill Development (ESSD). Between July 26 and July 28, essential educational materials—including chalks and slates—were distributed to 397 underprivileged students across seven schools and education centers in remote areas of Khagrachhari Sadar, Matiranga, and Panchhari upazilas. The program was conducted with support from the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund of DBL Ceramics Limited. Institutions That Received Support Khagrachhari Sadar: 83 students from Uttar Ganjapara Non-Government Primary School and 73 students from Rabidhan Para Non-Government Primary School.



Matiranga Upazila: 92 students from Doldoli Asha Ofnong Non-Government Primary School and 99 students from Adarshagram Anwar Begum Talimul Quran Madrasa.

Panchhari Upazila: Students from Purba Domdopara Center, Domdopara Center, and Santalpara Center.

The Harsh Realities of Life and Education in the Hills During the distribution, Shadman Bin Samad, Director (Management, Programs & Finance) of ESSD, and Program Manager Farhan observed the ground realities of the remote hill tracks firsthand. They noted that maintaining educational opportunities in the hills is immensely challenging. Beyond difficult transportation, acute

◆ see page 7

JU professor says ethical senses led her to remove Hasina's portrait

Staff correspondent

As the July Uprising reached its peak, a portrait of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was hanging on the wall of the then Jahangirnagar University's Bangla department chairperson's office room part of the official formality. Professor Dr Shamima Sultana, the department chair during the uprising, said she removed it on August 1, 2024 being led by her conscience which told her the picture no longer deserved to be hung anymore at her office room. "It was a personal act of my ethical protest, believing that the picture could no longer remain hanging on my office wall," she said in an interview coinciding with the second anniversary of the uprising that eventually toppled the Awami League government. Sultana said she joined the uprising being led by her long-held commitment to oppose injustice rather than any political motivation.

"My participation in the July Uprising was not an isolated or sudden decision. It was a continuation of the values I upheld since my student days," she said.

The professor said she had previously supported the 2018 Quota Reform Movement, the Safe Roads Movement and anti-graft protests on the university campus. She said the night of July 15, 2024 appeared to her as a defining or turning point of the movement when the students were attacked at the Vice-Chancellor's residence when she felt "there was no room left for silence".

Sultana said she subsequently joined fellow teachers in symbolic protests and remained alongside students on the street until the movement ended. The professor said she kept both her office and the department chair's room open to provide students with shelter during emergencies and facilitated protestors also to use the

◆ see page 7

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড

আলোকিত গ্রাম, উন্নতির বাংলাদেশ

৮০ টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়ে অভিযোগ আছে?

বিদ্যুৎ বিল সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো অভিযোগ জানাতে আমাদের অফিসিয়াল চ্যানেলের মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করুন।

অভিযোগ জানান আমাদের অফিসিয়াল হেল্পলাইন

হেল্পলাইন নম্বর ১৬৮৯৯ (সারা দেশে ২৪/৭)

সরাসরি উপস্থিত হোন সংশ্লিষ্ট পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ অফিসে আপনার অভিযোগ সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব সহকারে সমাধান করা হবে

গ্রাহক অভিযোগ নিরসনে আমরা সদা তৎপর

সর্বোচ্চ গ্রাহক সেবা নিশ্চিত আমাদের বন্ধপরিকর

বিদ্যুৎ আছে, উন্নয়ন আছে আলোকিত হোক প্রতিটি ঘর



Severe Gas Crisis in Feni: Extreme Suffering from Kitchens to Filling Stations

Staff Reporter

A severe gas crisis has gripped the entire Feni district, causing immense hardship for residents, transport drivers, and local business owners alike. From household kitchens to CNG filling stations, long waits and acute distress have become the norm everywhere.

According to local sources, acute low gas pressure has been prevailing across various areas of Feni for quite some time. Households, in particular, face a complete outage of gas from morning until noon, leaving homemakers in dire straits over daily cooking. As a result, people are being forced to spend extra money on alternative solutions like LPG cylinders or traditional mud stoves.

?Meanwhile, a drastic drop in gas pressure at CNG filling stations has led to endless queues of vehicles. Drivers wait for hours in line without getting the required amount of gas. This has triggered a public transport shortage, causing severe suffering for daily commuters.

?Victims of the crisis have demanded urgent intervention from the relevant authorities to permanently resolve the gas shortage and restore a normal supply as soon as possible.

Fakhrul promises

of these programmes,” he added.Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Bangladesh Pratik Karki, Chairman of Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) Prof Dr Chet Raj Prant, Chairman of Biratnagar Eye Hospital Padma Narayan Chaudhury, Thakurgaon-3 MP Zahidur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Rafiqul Huq, Superintendent of Police Belal Hossain, District BNP President Mirza Faisal Amin, physicians and eminent personalities were present at the event. During the five-day camp, underprivileged and low-income people from different parts of the district will receive free eye examinations, treatment and necessary medical advice. More than 3,000 patients have already registered.

Misinformation, disinformation

ous queries from students, Zahir Uddin Swapon said, while information distortion was possible even during times of limited information flow, the risk has multiplied manifold today. Modern political processes often design disinformation campaigns to target swing voters and shift public opinion during national elections worldwide, making perception management a major battlefield."Freedom of journalism remains a challenge, but the threat posed by fake and distorted news has taken up a far greater space. We are working sincerely to address this issue by leveraging technology and modern mechanisms despite our limitations," he added.Highlighting the professional security and dignity of journalists, the Info Minister said that many media outlets issue identity cards to journalists without offering proper salaries, leaving workers in vulnerable conditions.To resolve the issues, the Minister emphasized a consensus among media entrepreneurs, editors, and the journalist community to bring the profession under a structured financial security and dignity.Furthermore, Swapon said that the work for formation of a 'Media Commission' is progressing steadily after initial consultations with key stakeholders. Recommendations from all previous media reform reports will be evaluated to establish standard journalistic guidelines and strengthen the media ecosystem, he assured.

Meal programme to be expanded

into account differences between urban and rural areas, geographical diversity, and varying socio-economic conditions across the country.Ushiyama said the school meal programme not only ensures students' nutrition but also plays an important role in increasing school attendance, preventing dropouts, improving the quality of education, and promoting healthy eating habits. She noted that WFP has achieved positive results in different countries by integrating school meal programmes with school gardens, nutrition education, and local agricultural systems.The meeting also discussed the improvement of the existing Integrated Primary Education Information Management System of the Directorate of Primary Education and WFP's technical support for developing an integrated information management system in the future. Both sides agreed on the need to enhance the effectiveness of the school meal programme. Senior officials of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and WFP were present at the meeting.

Illegal Sand Mining with

will continue. Locals have demanded that the dredgers be stopped immediately and strict action be taken against those involved.

Armed Robbery on Moving Bus i

victims were identified as Arman (28), son of Hasan, from South Jaliapara in Teknaf, and Ekram (23), son of Mohammad Sayed, from Katabonia in Sabrang. Both are employed as sales representatives for bKash.

According to Jafar, Arman's uncle, the two employees had withdrawn cash from a bank in Teknaf and were traveling on a Palki passenger bus to deliver the money to a bKash outlet in Hnila. Upon reaching the Bed Bagan area near the 14 No. Bridge, a group of robbers who had allegedly been lying in wait blocked the highway by felling a tree, forcing the bus to stop.

Eyewitnesses said the robbers, armed with locally made weapons and sharp knives, boarded the bus and specifically targeted the two bKash employees. They assaulted both men with sharp weapons before fleeing with approximately Tk 5.7 million in cash.

Following the incident, members of the Police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Coast Guard, and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) rushed to the scene and launched a search operation. Several items believed to have been left behind by the robbers were recovered. However, no suspects had been arrested as the gang managed to flee before law enforcement arrived.

Police officials said the identities of the robbers have not yet been established. An investigation is underway, and operations are continuing to identify and apprehend those responsible for the robbery.

Madaripur woman finds

the number of cattle more than 40.

She currently has nine cattle heads in her farm, including three dairy cows. Despite caring for her three children—the youngest being just two years old—she continues to manage the farm efficiently. She plans to expand the business again once her children are older.In addition to cattle farming, Sathi also raises ducks, chickens and pigeons. Her farm currently includes around 80 ducks, 40 chickens and 20 pairs of pigeons, providing additional income and helping her build an integrated livestock farm.Rising feed prices, however, remain a major

challenge for livestock farmers as feeding a medium-size cow costs approximately Taka 300 to Taka 500 per day.According to people involved in the livestock sector, cattle for fattening are generally purchased for Taka 70,000 to Taka 80,000 and sold after several months of proper feeding and care.

Dairy farming, on the other hand, requires purchasing young female calves and raising them over a longer period. With proper management, a cow purchased for around Taka 60,000 can later be sold for Taka 200,000 to Taka 300,000 generating substantial profits while allowing farmers to recover their investment relatively quickly.Sathi shared early struggle of raising her dairy farm with BSS.

"I was devastated after losing several cattle in the first year. But I never lost my patience or determination. Today, I care for every animal as if it were my own child. I ensure timely feeding, a clean environment, regular treatment and vaccination. I want more women to become entrepreneurs and transform their lives. Greater access to government training and easy-term loans would encourage many more women to join this sector," she said.Farm worker Solesman Sheikh said, cattle farming is labor-intensive but highly rewarding when managed properly. "The animals need to be fed twice a day, bathed regularly and provided with medicine and veterinary care whenever necessary. Maintaining cleanliness significantly reduces the risk of disease," he said.Mahmuda Akter Kona, former Deputy Director of the Department of Women's Affairs in Madaripur, said, Sathi's success demonstrates that women can make significant contributions to the livestock sector through confidence and perseverance. "Entrepreneurs like Sathis are creating positive social change and inspiring others," she added.Nurunnahar Jui, president of the women's development organization Nakshi Kantha, described Sathi's achievements as an example for other women.

Madaripur District Livestock Officer Dr. Mohammad Achir Uddin said the department regularly provides technical guidance on disease prevention, vaccination, feed management and farm operations.

Entrepreneurs like Nusrat Jahan Sathi are a source of inspiration. We hope more women and men will be encouraged to engage in commercial livestock farming by following Sathi's example, he hoped.

Police alert a routine security

lations.Shafiqul said the reminder was issued in the wake of several recent bomb-related incidents and the spread of rumours.

"We always remain alert. Recently, there have been a few bomb scares and some rumours. We are active on these issues. Such reminders are issued from time to time to ensure the security of police vehicles, installations and personnel," he said.Describing the directive as a routine reminder, the DB chief said police were asked to remain more cautious so that all police vehicles and facilities remain secure.Asked whether law enforcement agencies have received any specific intelligence about possible attacks targeting police, he replied in the negative, saying, "There is no specific intelligence. However, we always remain alert. Our senior officers supervise us, and those working in the field have been reminded to exercise greater caution."Replying to a question about the improvised explosive device (IED) recovered from an umbrella beneath Motijheel Metro Rail Station, Shafiqul said the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit was leading the investigation while the DB is conducting a parallel inquiry.He said efforts are underway to identify and arrest those involved, but declined to disclose further details as the investigation is continuing.sked whether investigators have identified any organisation behind the incident, the DB chief said such acts are generally not carried out by a single individual and are usually intended to promote a particular mandate or ideology.Earlier on Saturday, the Police Headquarters Operations Control Room issued an emergency message instructing all field-level units to strengthen security measures.According to the directive, members of extremist groups or criminals could target police vehicles, including jeeps, pickups and buses. It instructed officers to park duty vehicles only in safe locations when temporarily halted and keep them under constant surveillance.It also called for enhanced security of vehicles parked at police stations, police lines and office premises through regular patrols, increased monitoring and heightened vigilance for suspicious persons or objects.Although Police Headquarters did not issue an official statement, Assistant Inspector General (Media) AHM Shahadat Hossain told the media that such directives are issued regularly to keep police personnel alert and active, adding that there is no reason for public concern.

Over the past week, several bomb scares have been reported in the capital.On July 24, police recovered and defused a powerful IED concealed inside an umbrella beneath the Motijheel Metro Rail Station. Authorities later said it had been placed targeting the route of the Hindu community's Ulto Rath Yatra procession.The following day, a sack with an umbrella protruding from it near Bangladesh Bank triggered panic, but no explosives were found. SouthAsians & DiasporaOn Saturday, two suspicious bags and sacks recovered at Mirpur-10 and Farmgate metro stations were examined by the DMP Bomb Disposal Unit, which confirmed that neither contained explosive materials. Police sources said the latest directive was issued to reinforce vigilance among field-level officers in light of these recent incidents.

Khateeb and Muezzin Killed in

on a motorcycle after completing an urgent task. As they reached the Chowdhuryhat area, a speeding fish-laden pickup truck traveling from the opposite direction collided head-on with their motorcycle.

Local residents rushed the victims to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty physician declared both of them dead.

Dr. Shafayat Hossain, the emergency department physician at Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, said the two men were brought to the hospital in critical condition. After examination, they were pronounced dead.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Abdul Halim of Jorarganj Police Station said police rushed to the hospital after receiving news of the accident. Legal procedures, including the inquest of the bodies, are currently underway.

Smiles on the Faces of 397

scarcity of pure drinking water plagues these families, forcing them to trek 7 to 10 kilometers daily just for drinking water. Monsoon landslides and damaged roads make travel even more precarious.

ESSD authorities confirmed that such sustainable initiatives will continue in the future to pave the way for quality education and community development for underprivileged hill children. They expressed hope that integrated efforts will bring a lasting positive impact on these children's educational journeys.

Exemplary Public Service in

Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb has dedicated himself to the overall development of the union. His constant involvement in community-based social and humanitarian activities has earned widespread praise across all walks of life.

?Local residents and youth representatives shared, "Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb is not just a political figure; he is a primary refuge for ordinary people in times of trouble. Day or night, whenever called upon, he is always there beside us."

?Regarding his efforts, Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb said, "Serving the people under the guidance of our honorable MP is my primary goal. The love of the people of Karerhat is my main inspiration. In the future, to build Karerhat into a pros-

perous and model union, I seek the opportunity to serve the public directly by contesting in the upcoming Union Parishad election."

?Rezaul Karim Haq Saheb's name is now on everyone's lips as a Member candidate for Ward No. 4 in the upcoming Karerhat Union Parishad election. Locals expect that if such a young, people-friendly, and dedicated individual is elected as a public representative, the overall development of Karerhat Union will accelerate significantly.

General public says where is government eyes?

JU professor says ethical

office's Wi-Fi system to communicate with people across the country and abroad.Sultana said Abu Sayeed's killing at Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University and subsequent reports of civilian deaths fundamentally changed her perception of the situation.

She said the removal of Hasina's picture was "not an impulsive or emotional decision"."I felt that a government which failed to protect its citizens and instead used state power against them had lost its moral legitimacy," the professor said.sked whether she feared any consequences, Sultana said the sense of "responsibility became stronger than fear" as she watched young people risking and losing their lives.

"The incident quickly gained nationwide attention after photographs of removal of the portrait spread widely on social media," she said.

Recalling a deeply personal moment, Sultana said her son embraced her after she returned home and told her, "Mom, I'm proud of you".

She, however, said the decision also triggered strong reactions, including abusive phone calls, threatening messages, personal attacks and attempts to discredit her within the university.

"Leaflets were distributed against me on the day of the incident and the university Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, later decided to issue her a show-cause notice, although I never officially received it," Sultana said.She added that after the change in university administration following August 5, the decision was revoked by the new Vice-Chancellor.

Reflecting on the episode, the professor said she had never regretted her decision. "I do not consider it a personal achievement . . . It was simply a symbolic act of protest while standing against injustice was my duty as a teacher," she said

NBR offers up to

between April 1 and June 30, the additional tax will be 5 percent of the tax payable or Tk 5,000, whichever is higher, the release added.

The NBR said the incentive is aimed at encouraging voluntary tax compliance and motivating taxpayers to file their returns early, thereby strengthening the culture of tax compliance and making tax administration more efficient and orderly.The board also noted that it launched its e-Return service for the 2026-27 tax year on July 22, 2026.

Taxpayers can submit their returns online through the NBR's e-tax portal and pay taxes using bank transfers, debit and credit cards, as well as digital payment platforms including bKash, Nagad and Rocket.

After submitting accurate information, taxpayers can instantly obtain an acknowledgement receipt and tax certificate through the online system.

The NBR said its officials will provide assistance through the call centre and other electronic channels during office hours on working days to resolve any issues related to online return filing.

The board urged all eligible taxpayers to submit their income tax returns by September 30 to avail themselves of the tax incentive.

ICSB holds training on

Second Secretary (Customs: Policy), NBR; Md. Nazmul Hossain, Second Secretary (Tax), NBR; Md. Abdul Aziz FCS, Manager (Finance and Accounts) of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited; Hadisul Alam FCS, CEO and Chief Consultant of Hadisul Alam & Associates; and Dipongkor Dutta FCS, Chief Financial Officer of Divine Mercy Hospital.The sessions covered major amendments to VAT, customs and income tax laws introduced under the Finance Act, 2026, as well as practical applications relating to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), VAT Deducted at Source (VDS) and individual income tax compliance.

Former Commissioner of Income Tax of the NBR Md. Nuruzzaman Khan attended the programme as the guest speaker and shared his insights on the implementation of the new fiscal measures.The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session where participants discussed practical challenges in applying the new provisions with the resource persons.At the closing ceremony, Md. Sharif Hasan FCS, Vice President of ICSB, distributed certificates among the participants.

he institute said the training was arranged as part of its continuing professional development initiatives to strengthen the capacity of corporate professionals in dealing with evolving tax and regulatory requirements.

Draft of CMSF under

tribution, making the process more efficient, transparent, and investor-friendly.

The proposed framework will also allow investors to obtain tax-challans and tax-deduction certificates for dividends received during a fiscal year from a single platform, significantly simplifying tax compliance.

he draft of the CMSF law proposed proper management of the long-term unclaimed assets, including cash dividends, bonus shares, right shares, and IPO/QIO refunds.

iginal owners or their legal heirs will be able to reclaim these assets through a verified claims process.

The law proposes constituting a Board of Directors comprising a chairman, representatives from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), other financial and market-related institutions, and independent members. A Chief Executive Officer will oversee the fund's day-to-day operations.The fund's assets will be used to support market stability and protect investors' interests, while investments in approved and secure sectors may be made with the Commission's approval.The proposed legislation also requires regular auditing, proper accounting, and publication of annual reports to ensure accountability.

In addition, the draft provides for penalties against violations, concealment of information, and misuse of fund assets.Once enacted, it will repeal the existing Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Capital Market Stabilization Fund) Rules, 2021.Md. Wasi Azam, Additional Director of the CMSF Operations Department, told BSS that the proposed law would empower the CMSF to operate as a digital dividend distribution centre, helping strengthen investor confidence and contribute to a more stable capital market.DHAKA, Aug 02, 2026 (BSS)- The government has initiated the process of enacting a new law titled Bangladesh Capital Market Stabilization Fund Act, 2026 to strengthen the country's capital market, enhance transparency, and safeguard investors' interests.The draft law has been prepared by the Financial Institutions Division and is now undergoing verification and policy review by the Ministry of Finance.Officials concerned said the proposed legislation aims to transform the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) into a more effective and self-sustaining statutory institution by establishing a comprehensive legal framework for managing unclaimed cash dividends, shares, and other financial assets with greater transparency and accountability.

Market stakeholders believe the law will enable the CMSF to function as a modern, centralized digital platform for cash dividend distribution, making the process more efficient, transparent, and investor-friendly.

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Md. Wasi Azam, Additional Director of the CMSF Operations Department, told BSS that the proposed law would empower the CMSF to operate as a digital dividend distribution centre, helping strengthen investor confidence and contribute to a more stable capital market.

Call for prioritising distributed renewable energy to cut fuel imports

Staff correspondent

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Bangladesh should prioritise distributed renewable energy, including rooftop solar and battery storage, to reduce dependence on imported fuels and strengthen energy security, Coordinator of the Distributed Renewable Energy Platform (DREP) Khondaker Golam Moazzem said on Sunday.

GeographicReference“Distributed renewable energy should be viewed as a distinct component of the country's renewable energy strategy rather than being grouped with conventional utility solar and wind projects,” he said while speaking at a seminar titled “Distributed Renewable Energy: The Future Solar Solution for Bangladesh” organised by the Economic Reporters’ Forum (ERF) at its auditorium in collaboration with the DREP.Prime Minister's Adviser for Finance and Planning Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir attended the seminar as the chief guest.Moazzem, also the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) research director, said renewable energy discussions in Bangladesh generally focus on large-scale solar, wind or hydropower projects, but distributed renewable energy offers a different approach by generating electricity close to where it is consumed.“Unlike utility-scale power plants that require vast tracts of land and extensive transmission infrastructure, distributed renewable energy systems can be installed on residential and industrial rooftops, agricultural land and other small sites,” he said.Moazeem mentioned that electricity generated from these systems can either be consumed directly or supplied to the national grid through distribution networks.He said such systems include rooftop solar installations under net metering, industrial rooftop solar, agrivoltaics, battery-backed renewable energy systems, solar home systems and solar-powered irrigation.The DREP coordinator noted that one of the biggest advantages of distributed renewable energy is that it does not require large areas of land, addressing one of the common criticisms of utility-scale renewable energy projects.Presenting data on the sector’s current capacity, he said Bangladesh now has around 213 megawatts (MW) of rooftop solar connected through net metering, while another 94 MW comes from rooftop solar systems outside the net metering scheme. GeographicReferenceSolar home systems contribute around 263 MW, solar irrigation pumps 60 MW, while solar charging stations, drinking water systems and solar street lighting account for about 17 MW. Mini grids add another six MW.Altogether, Bangladesh has around 655 MW of distributed renewable energy capacity, Moazzem said.He said the sector has significant growth potential as industries increasingly turn to rooftop solar because of gas shortages and rising energy costs. “The country’s energy crisis is unlikely to disappear soon, while reliance on imported fuel will become increasingly expensive. Therefore, Bangladesh must expand the use of domestic energy resources, including renewable energy and rooftop solar,” he said.The CPD research director said energy-efficient technologies, battery storage and rooftop solar will play a growing role across industries, agriculture, transport, households and healthcare facilities.Electric vehicles, battery systems, solar irrigation, mini grids and electric cooking appliances are also expected to become more widespread in the coming years, he added.Moazzem also announced that the Distributed Renewable Energy Platform, launched in July 2025, will work on policy research, legal and regulatory reforms, technology development, financing mechanisms and community-level expansion of distributed renewable energy across the country.The platform currently comprises five member organisations: ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Solar & Renewable Energy Association (BSREA), CPD, Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN) and SOLshare. The platform will also engage with the government, private sector and development partners while drawing lessons from countries such as China and Vietnam to accelerate the adoption of distributed renewable energy in Bangladesh. GeographicReference

Recommended pry assistant teachers begin indefinite sit-in, demand appointments within Aug

Staff correspondent

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Candidates recommended for appointment as assistant teachers in government primary schools began an indefinite sit-in in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the capital on Sunday, demanding that the government complete their appointments within August.The demonstration began around 11:00am under tight police security.

A total of 14,384 candidates were recommended for appointment following the government primary school assistant teacher recruitment examination held on January 9 this year. However, despite completing the recruitment process, the recommended candidates have yet to receive their appointment letters.The candidates had earlier demanded that the government issue the appointment notification by July 29, but no such order was issued.On Saturday, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education announced that the recommended candidates would join their respective workplaces on October 29.However, the ministry issued another notice on Sunday, bringing forward the joining date to October 1.



French wildfire near Bordeaux contained as firefighters battle separate blaze in Provence

Entertainment Desk

A massive wildfire near Bordeaux that burned an area four times the size of Paris and forced around 224,000 people to evacuate remained contained on Sunday, although it was still burning. Meanwhile, a separate wildfire in the Provence region stopped spreading overnight but had not yet been brought under control. Around 3,000 firefighters were deployed across the two fire zones, working to extinguish hotspots, create firebreaks and secure burned areas as high temperatures and strong winds continued to pose the risk of flare-ups. The wildfire in the Gironde region scorched about 420 square kilometres in just 10 days before authorities announced over the weekend that its spread had been stopped. "The fire is now fixed, which does not mean that the fire is extinguished," the Gironde prefecture said on Sunday, using the French firefighting term for a blaze that has been contained within its perimeter. The region remains under France's highest red forest fire alert, with dry weather, soaring temperatures and afternoon winds raising concerns that the flames could reignite. Additional firefighting teams from Ukraine, Lithuania and French Polynesia were expected to arrive on Sunday and Monday to strengthen the response. Scientists at World Weather Attribution said in a rapid analysis released on Thursday that human-caused climate change had doubled the likelihood of the extreme fire conditions that fueled the wildfires in France. According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate

Change Service, Europe is the fastest-warming continent, with temperatures rising at twice the global average rate since the 1980s. The Gironde wildfire triggered one of the largest peacetime evacuations in modern French history, leaving many thousands of residents still displaced or unable to return home. In southeastern France's Var department, nearly 1,500 firefighters continued battling another wildfire that burned around 18 square kilometres in just over a day. Officials said the fire in the Gros Bessillon hills was stabilised on Sunday morning, meaning it had not expanded overnight. However, unlike the Gironde wildfire, it had not yet been officially declared contained. Firefighting aircraft assisted ground crews as they worked to prevent the flames from reaching villages surrounded by vineyards, olive groves and wooded hills in the Green Provence region. About 2,500 people were evacuated as the fire threatened nearby communities. The latest blaze is the fourth major wildfire to hit central Var since July 19. Earlier this week, another smaller wildfire near Brignoles forced Hollywood actor George Clooney, his family and around 700 other residents to evacuate before firefighters brought it under control. Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu said the country's wildfires were largely under control but warned that changing weather conditions continued to pose a serious challenge. He also announced the appointment of a national coordinator to oversee reconstruction efforts in fire-affected areas. More than 1,170 square kilometres have been burned by wildfires across France since the beginning of the year.

DR Congo's Ebola outbreak becomes largest on record : WHO

Entertainment Desk

The ongoing Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo has become the largest ever recorded in the country, surpassing the 2018-2020 epidemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday. According to the WHO's latest disease outbreak report, the DRC had recorded 3,605 confirmed Ebola cases caused by the Bundibugyo virus as of Thursday, including 1,587 deaths, resulting in a case fatality rate of 44 percent. The previous largest outbreak, which affected eastern DRC between 2018 and



2020, recorded 3,317 confirmed cases. Initially limited to the Mongbwalu health zone in Ituri province, the current outbreak has spread over the past two months to 49 health zones across five provinces — Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele and Tshopo. The WHO said 151 health workers have been infected during the outbreak, with 44 of them dying, underscoring continuing gaps in infection prevention and control at healthcare facilities. The UN health agency warned that insecurity, population displacement, frequent movement of people and cross-border travel are hampering surveillance and response efforts, increasing the risk of further transmission. The outbreak is unfolding in conflict-affected areas where access to healthcare, clean water, food and shelter remains limited. Attacks on health facilities have also disrupted response operations and increased the risk of undetected spread. Describing the risk within the DRC as "very high," the WHO called for a major expansion of disease surveillance, testing, clinical care, infection prevention, community engagement and logistical support to contain the outbreak.

Saudi crown prince urges Trump to avoid escalating Iran conflict



Entertainment Desk

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman urged US President Donald Trump not to escalate the conflict with Iran during a phone conversation on Saturday, as Trump considers launching new military strikes against Tehran, according to a person familiar with the discussion. The call, first reported by media, came amid growing concerns

in Riyadh that US attacks on Iran's energy facilities or other critical infrastructure could trigger retaliatory strikes against Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states' energy assets. The source, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said the crown prince sought clarification from Trump about the military options under consideration. Trump warns of continued military action against Iran. A White House official confirmed the leaders spoke but declined to disclose details of the conversation. Earlier this week, Saudi Arabia joined the United States in strikes targeting logistics and weapons facilities used by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, while continuing to advocate renewed US-Iran negotiations to end the five-month conflict. The crown prince also sent Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman to Washington for separate meetings with Trump and Vice President JD Vance on Iran strategy. Trump has vowed retaliation after Iran's failed attack on a US base in Jordan. The State Department on Saturday issued security alerts for Americans in 10 Middle Eastern countries, warning of possible flight disruptions and heightened regional risks as tensions continue to rise.

Trump to pause Iran strikes after framework for ending war is reached

Entertainment Desk

US President Donald Trump said Saturday he would order American forces to suspend further strikes on Iran, claiming that key Middle East allies had agreed on the basic framework of a deal aimed at ending the five-month-long war. In a social media post, Trump said the proposed agreement would ensure the "immediate, complete and total" reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and eliminate what he described as Iran's nuclear threat. He said he had decided to cancel a planned attack "for the future benefit of the world" and for "a successful and prosperous Iran," while making clear the decision depends on the parties being able to quickly reach a final agreement. Trump also said Israel had agreed to work with the United States to complete the deal. Iran did not immediately respond publicly. The announcement came a day after Trump suggested the US was close to launching renewed large-scale strikes to pressure Tehran into negotiations. The US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, saying the campaign was intended to weaken Tehran's missile capabilities, stop it from developing nuclear weapons and end its support for allied armed groups. However, the goals and timeline of the conflict have shifted repeatedly, and an earlier ceasefire agreement reached in mid-June collapsed within weeks. Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressed concern during a phone call with Trump that any escalation could trigger Iranian



attacks on Saudi and other Gulf states' energy infrastructure, according to a person familiar with the discussion. Separately, the US State Department issued fresh security alerts for Americans across several Middle Eastern countries, warning of possible flight cancellations, temporary airspace closures and other travel disruptions. Iran has also repeatedly targeted vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz without its authorization during the conflict.



13 die as tourist plane crashes during Nazca Lines flight in Peru

Entertainment Desk

A sightseeing plane carrying European tourists to view Peru's famed Nazca Lines crashed into a field outside the city of Nazca on Saturday, killing all 13 people on board, local authorities said. According to Nazca's municipal government, the aircraft departed from the nearby city of Ica and was operated by Peruvian airline Aerodiana. The company says it has been offering scenic flights over the UNESCO-listed Nazca Lines for the past 14 years using Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft. The Nazca Lines are vast geoglyphs etched into the desert centuries ago by Peru's Indigenous inhabitants. The giant figures, depicting various animals, can only be fully viewed from the air or from specially built observation towers. Peru's Transportation Ministry said the victims included seven Italian tourists aged between 18 and 54, two 52-year-old Spanish nationals, and two German tourists aged 77 and 78. The remaining victims were pilot Américo Salazar and co-pilot Irenka Guanilo del Carpio. President Keiko Fujimori expressed sorrow over the tragedy and said authorities were considering a temporary suspension of operations at the airport. She said a final decision would be taken after receiving reports from the relevant ministries. Executive Branch Peruvian authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the crash. Aerodiana did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

All 10 climbers buried in Pakistan avalanche confirmed dead

Entertainment Desk

Renowned British-Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja and nine fellow climbers who were buried in an avalanche on Pakistan's Broad Peak have been confirmed dead, his expedition company said on Saturday as recovery efforts continued. Elite Exped, Purja's expedition company, announced that all 10 members of the team had lost their lives in the avalanche that struck on Thursday, describing the tragedy as a devastating loss for the global climbing community. "The world has lost one of mountaineering's greatest climbers," the company said in a statement, expressing condolences to the families of all those who died. Rescue teams had recovered four bodies by Friday, with three of them brought down despite severe weather that disrupted helicopter operations. Military-supported search teams resumed efforts on Saturday to recover the remaining victims. Irfan Arshad Khan, president of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, said the deaths of climbers from different countries represented a profound loss to the international mountaineering community. He praised military personnel, civilian rescuers and Sherpas involved in the operation, saying the Himalayas and Karakoram continue to inspire adventurers while reminding them of the significant dangers posed by high-altitude expeditions. Earlier on Saturday, local police official Tahir Khan said the remains of Omani climber Nathira Ahmed were being flown to Islamabad, while the bodies of American climber Mallory Geis and Nepali climber Bahadur Gurung remained at a hospital in Skardu, the main city in Gilgit-Baltistan. According to China's Xinhua News Agency, citing the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, a Chinese climber was also



among those killed in the avalanche. The expedition was led by Purja, also known as Nims Dai, a Nepal-born former British Army soldier who gained worldwide recognition after climbing the world's 14 peaks above 8,000 metres in a record 189 days in 2019. His achievement was featured in the Netflix documentary 14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible, although the record was surpassed in 2023. Elite Exped described Purja as an inspirational leader whose determination, humility and belief in human potential motivated climbers around the world. In a statement, Geis' family remembered her as "a bright light" who was deeply loved by family and friends. The expedition marked Geis' first attempt to climb an 8,000-metre peak in Pakistan. For Pakistani guide Sakhi, who worked with the travel company Moving Mountains, it was expected to be his final expedition. Besides being an experienced mountaineer, he was also known as a geographer and high-altitude photographer. Fatal accidents are not uncommon in Pakistan's northern mountain ranges, where climbers face hazards including avalanches, falling ice and rocks, extreme altitude and rapidly changing weather conditions.

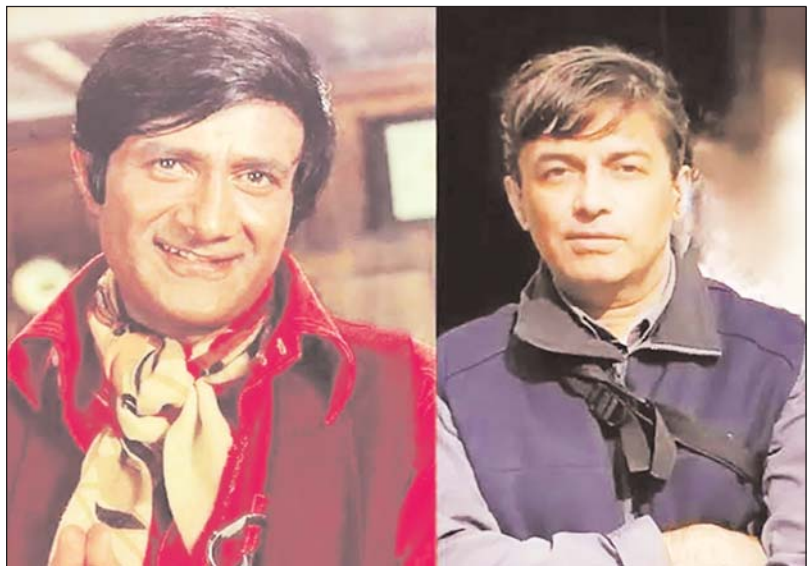


Gauahar Khan criticises Nikhil Chinapa over menopause remark

Entertainment Desk

Actor Gauahar Khan has criticised Nikhil Chinapa over a remark he made about menopause and perimenopause while responding to her comments about his gameplay on reality show Alliance. Calling the remark “insensitive,” Gauahar said it showed a lack of understanding of women’s health and said Nikhil owed an apology to the women in his life. The controversy began after Nikhil was asked by Telly Masala about Gauahar’s social media posts supporting her husband, Zaid Darbar, who is currently a contestant on Alliance, NDTV reports. Gauahar had earlier accused contestant Mini Mathur of being biased toward Kushal Tandon. She also alleged that Mini and Nikhil were playing the game together instead of giving other contestants, including Zaid, a fair chance. Gauahar and Kushal briefly dated after meeting on Bigg Boss in 2013. Responding to the question, Nikhil said he had never met Gauahar personally but had heard from Zaid that she respected him.

He then said Mini might know more about the matter because she “deals a lot with menopause and perimenopause,” suggesting she could have insights into why Gauahar made those comments. Gauahar later expressed her disappointment in a series of videos posted on Instagram. She said it was upsetting to see menopause being used to explain or dismiss a woman’s opinion. Gauahar said it was sad to see men remain ignorant about women’s health despite having families and sufficient life experience to understand the sensitivity surrounding menopause and perimenopause. She said she was particularly surprised that Nikhil had brought up the issue while responding to her views about his performance as a contestant on Alliance. Gauahar clarified that her comments were only about Nikhil’s gameplay and that she had never criticised him personally. She said she had always admired him. She also said she was pleased that Zaid had told Nikhil that she was fond of him, adding that she still considered him a great person with a good personality and an impressive body of work.



Dev Anand's son Suneil Anand dies at 70

Entertainment Desk

Legendary actor Dev Anand's son, Suneil Anand, has died. He was 70. His death was confirmed by his family to news agency PTI on Tuesday, July 28. Anand's niece, Gina Narang, shared a statement on behalf of the family. “With heavy hearts, our family mourns the passing of Suneil Anand. We are comforted by the outpouring of love, prayers, and support, for which we are truly grateful. We kindly request privacy as we navigate this difficult time together,” the statement read. Suneil has acted in Anand aur Anand (1984), Car Thief (1986), Main Tere Liye (1988), and Master. His first directorial venture, Master, a martial arts film, was released in 2001. The family did not disclose the cause of death. He was the son of Dev Anand and Kalpana Kartik. Further details about his death are awaited. Dev played the lead in the film, casting himself opposite Raakhee and Smita Patil, while his son played the supporting role. Unfortunately, the film tanked at the box office. Then, Suneil got another shot with Sameer Malkan’s 1986 film Car Thief, in which he played the lead role opposite Vijaya Pandit. Backed by Dev Anand’s production house Navketan Films, the film also starred Rajendra Kumar and Asha Parekh. However, Alas, even that didn’t did not fare well at the box office.

UK TV comedy star and naturalist Bill Oddie dies

Entertainment Desk

UK television personality Bill Oddie, best known for his role in the TV comedy series “The Goodies” and presenter of nature programmes, has died aged 85, his agent said Monday. “Bill was a multi-talented celebrity -- wildlife presenter, broadcaster, comedian, writer, songwriter, musician and conservationist,” his agent David Foster said in a statement. “Yet it was never fame that he valued. Instead he encouraged us to respect and protect the environment. “He taught us the wonder of it. He protested, lobbied and campaigned for it,” Foster added, hailing Oddie as “the country’s best loved birder”. Oddie, who grew up in Birmingham, came to fame as one of the trio in “The Goodies”, starring with Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke-Taylor in the comedy sketch show which ran from 1970 to 1982. The three met as students at Cambridge University, and joined the Footlights Club, where their contemporaries included British comedians John Cleese and Eric Idle, who were later to create “Monty Python’s Flying Circus”. Several of the songs written for “The Goodies” were UK chart hits, including “The Funky Gibbon” in 1975. Oddie was a passionate birdwatcher and conservationist, and presented various shows across the BBC and Channel 4, including the nature programme “Springwatch”. He later led a vocal campaign against a government-backed cull of badgers, blamed for spreading tuberculosis to cattle. “It’s quite clearly a travesty,” Oddie told AFP in 2013 as he joined a patrol to save the badgers.

Kangana Ranaut clarifies ‘gutter generation’ remark

Entertainment Desk

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut stirred controversy after she said that some young Hindu women flaunt freedom without accountability and called them ‘generation gutter’. After backlash over her comments, Kangana took to Instagram and posted a reel clarifying her position. Kangana made a reel for her ‘media friends’ and went on to say, “Hum log nahi chahte hai ki hamare ghar ke bachcho ko koi ashleel sabdo se ye sexualise kar de. Ghar ke buzurg ke saamne sharmindagi mehsoos ho. Hum iss tarah ka behaviour accept nahi karte hain aur usko normalise nahi hone denge (We do not want our kids to use these vulgar words and get sexualised. It will bring shame. We don’t accept this kind of behaviour and won’t normalise it).” Kangana said that the media is ganging up on her and did not show how she congratulated the Skyroot programme and also wished the best for the NEET examinees. But for a few followers and comments, these channels have shown her remarks, and some feminists are also questioning why women should have the ‘burden of dignity.’ She added, “Excuse me? Kya aap apne beti ko aisa sikhayenge? Discipline mein rehna koi choice nahi hai! Agar aapko samaj mein rehna hai toh samvidhaan ke hisaab se chalna padega. Aapki aazadi waha khatam hoti hain jaha mera naak aur kaan shuru hote hain (Will you teach this to your daughters? It is not a choice to stay disciplined. If you want to stay in society, then you have to follow the constitution. Your



freedom stops at my nose and ears).” Kangana added that just because someone does not know her family members well does not give them the right to verbally abuse and call them slurs. “PM ko exam buddy kehte hain bachche. Koi unko leader, dost, parivaar, koi unko bhagwaan maanta hai. Kisi ki feelings hurt nahi kar sakte hai. Ye koi cool banna nahi hai. Ye ek basic civic sense hai aur agar apko nahi aati hai toh sikhna padega (People call our PM exam buddy. Some consider him a friend, a leader and even their God. This is basic civic sense, and you need to learn it).” The actor urged people not to be influenced by the ‘feminazi’ and ruin their lives. “Iss bhaundepan ko sirf aap apne kamre mein display kar sakte hai. Bahar jakar aapko maryada mein rehna padega... Aap ka andhakaar wali zindagi ho jayegi (This rubbish can be displayed indoors only. Outside, you will have to stay within limits or else the future will be dark).”

Alia Bhatt voices concern over Assam floods

Entertainment Desk

Actor Alia Bhatt has lent her voice to the growing concern over the devastating floods in Assam. Deeply disturbed by the situation, the actor took to social media to express solidarity with those affected and urged her followers to support ongoing relief efforts. The actor lamented that despite the floods occurring every year, the nature of the crisis “still catches us off guard”. On Tuesday, Alia took to Instagram Stories to voice concern over the devastating floods in Assam, calling for immediate relief efforts. She also appealed to her followers to step forward and extend support to those affected during the crisis. “Right now, floods are affecting so many parts of our country with Assam being among the hardest hit, facing an incredibly challenging time,” Alia wrote in the note posted on her Stories. Alia continued, “More than 60 lives have been lost. Lakhs of people have been displaced. Entire families have lost their homes, their land, their livestock... and for some, even the people they love. It happens every year and it still catches us off guard.” “Assam needs immediate relief right now, and it’ll need support for the long road to recovery. If you’ve been wondering how you can help, I’ll be sharing a few ways we can support relief efforts over the next few days, through organisations working on the ground,” she wrote while ending the note with hashtag, “#CircleOfHope”. Besides Alia, actor Bhumi Pednekar has also been using her platform to raise awareness about the flood crisis in Assam. She also urged people to support relief efforts in flood-hit Assam while recalling the cumulative relief efforts in Punjab last year. She shared videos on her Instagram handle to highlight flood-affected Assam, which include the displacement of several villages, an increasing death toll and others.



Government moves to blacklist ‘Event Sajai’ over Atif Aslam concert chaos

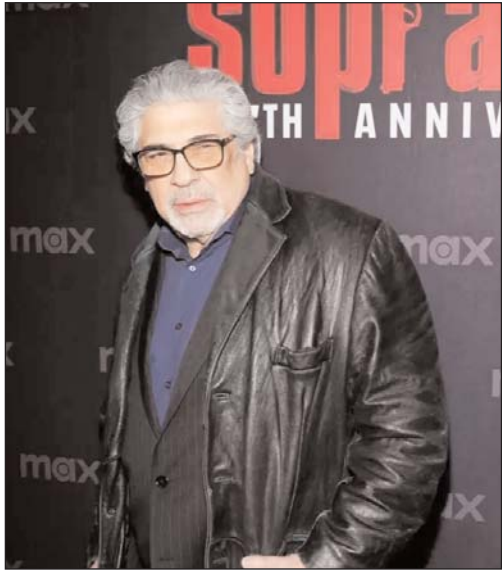
Entertainment Desk

The home ministry has asked the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to blacklist Event Sajai and take legal action against the organiser over alleged permit violations, mismanagement and security lapses at Pakistani singer Atif Aslam’s concert in Dhaka. In a letter sent to the cultural affairs secretary on Jul 26, the ministry said the organiser had changed the venue without prior approval, violating the conditions attached to the event permit. Deputy Secretary Israt Jahan, who signed the letter, confirmed the directive to bdnews24.com. The concert, titled “Main Stage featuring Atif Aslam”, was held on Friday at Courtside on Madani Avenue in the capital’s Bhatara. It was organised by an event management company called Main Stage. Permission for the concert, however, had been obtained by Event Sajai, an affiliate of Main Stage. The concert was initially scheduled to be held at Cricketers Academy on the 300 Feet Road. A day before the event, Main Stage Chief Executive Kazi Rafsan told a news conference that the venue had been changed because rain had made it impossible to build the stage at the original location. The home ministry said the last-minute change breached the permit conditions. According to the letter, Event Sajai had been granted permission to hold the cultural programme at Cricketers Academy. It said the organiser changed the venue “without prior approval, triggering widespread disorder, raising concerns over law and order and prompting a strong backlash from concertgoers”.

'The Sopranos' actor Vincent Pastore dies at 80

Entertainment Desk

Veteran actor Vincent Pastore, best known for playing Salvatore “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero in the acclaimed television series The Sopranos, has died at the age of 80. Bob McGowan, who managed Pastore during and after his time on The Sopranos, told The meida that actor Vincent Curatola informed him of the death on Saturday. Pastore was found at his home on New York’s City Island after friends and colleagues had been unable to contact him for several days. McGowan remembered Pastore as a loyal client, generous supporter of charities and someone always willing to help others. Longtime representative Robert Attermann described him as kind, warm and devoted to his fans, noting he never refused requests for photographs or autographs and regularly encouraged aspiring actors. Actor Michael Imperioli paid tribute on Instagram, recalling decades of friendship, work and travel together, and praised Pastore’s deep commitment to his family and friends. Pastore began his acting career in the 1980s and appeared in films including Goodfellas and Awakenings in 1990. He became widely recognized for his 30-episode portrayal of FBI informant “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero in The Sopranos. Born in the Bronx and raised in New Rochelle, New York, Pastore served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War before attending Pace University. He is survived by his daughter, Renee



Entertainment Desk

Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate will press for their release from a US jail as they fight the British government’s efforts to extradite them to face charges of rape, assault and facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation, the brothers’ lawyers told reporters on Monday. Andrew Tate, 39, and Tristan Tate, 38, were arrested in Miami on Jul 18. Britain’s Crown Prosecution Service said on July 19 it had brought new charges against the brothers relating to alleged offenses involving four alleged victims between July 2010 and August 2017. The arrests marked a new chapter in the widening legal trou-

bles for the brothers, who have built a large online following promoting their views on masculinity and wealth. Andrew Tate has previously described himself as a misogynist. Andrew Tate and Tristan Tate had previously faced rape and human trafficking charges in Britain related to three alleged victims, the Crown Prosecution Service said. A British judge issued a warrant for their arrests in January 2024. They have not appeared in British court to enter a plea to those charges. Britain is seeking to extradite the brothers to face both sets of charges. Prosecutors with the Miami US Attorney’s Office said in court papers that US Magistrate Judge Lauren Louis should keep the brothers detained because there was a risk they could flee and because they posed dangers to the community. Joseph McBride, a lawyer for the Tate brothers, denied that the brothers were a flight risk, noting that they had attended their required court hearings in Romania, where they have been under criminal investigation since 2022 on human trafficking allegations. “Innocent men don’t flee from justice. Innocent men lean in to justice because justice vindicates them at the end of the day,” McBride told reporters outside the federal courthouse in Miami after a status conference before Louis. The brothers will file a legal motion seeking their release on bail by Aug 5, and a hearing over their bid for release will take place on Aug 13, defense lawyer Jacqueline Perczek said.



Alonso welcomes Mudryk's Chelsea return after doping ban



Sports Desk
Mykhailo Mudryk will be welcomed with open arms when he rejoins Chelsea this week in Hong Kong, manager Xabi Alonso said, but the Ukrainian will not be rushed back after winning his appeal against a doping ban. The Ukraine international winger was suspended for four years after failing a 2024 drug test that revealed the presence of a low concentration of meldonium, a prohibited substance. He was cleared on Friday to resume his career after the Football Association and the World Anti-Doping Agency "resolved his appeal". "We are happy, especially for him,

because we are not able to understand what he has been through in this time and how he feels at the moment," Alonso said in Sydney. "We want that he feels part of the team, because he has not had this for a long time, and that he has the support from everyone: from the club, from the teammates, from the staff. "To be honest, we were not expecting to have this great news at this moment, so we are very happy learning that he will be here with us." Mudryk will join Chelsea for the next leg of their pre-season tour in Hong Kong where they face Juventus on Wednesday, Alonso said, after a 2-1 defeat to London rivals Tottenham in Sydney on Saturday. But the Spaniard cautioned that

Mudryk's reintegration would be a slow process. The 25-year-old, who joined Chelsea from Shakhtar Donetsk for €62 million (\$83 million) in 2023, has not played since November 2024. "It will take time," Alonso said. "But once there's a change, things will start moving, and for him, it's a massive change (from) training on his own every day. "I think that had to be really, really hard because he wanted to play football, he wanted to be part of the team, and he was not allowed to do that for such a long time. "So once this meeting has happened, now we can move on and after we will see if he makes progress quicker or slower. But we need to do the work." Tottenham boss Roberto De Zerbi managed Mudryk at Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk and was also happy to see him back. "He's my son, he's a cool guy, a top player, hopefully he can show what he suffered the last two seasons in this coming season, maybe not against Tottenham, but he's a lovely guy," said the Italian. Mudryk filed his appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport and changes to WADA procedures in the interim meant that had his failed test produced the same result now, charges would not have been brought.



Winning start for champions Orlando Pirates

Sports Desk
Orlando Pirates began their defence of the South African Premiership title with a 2-0 victory over promoted Milford in Soweto on Saturday. Both goals came from South African internationals as Oswin Appolis put the Buccaneers ahead on 24 minutes and Tshepang Moremi struck after 85 minutes. Pirates won the richest African league for the first time in 14 years last season, pipping Mamelodi Sundowns by one point in a tense climax. Winger Appolis broke the deadlock when his free-kick close to the penalty area was deflected past goalkeeper Siphamandla Hleza. Pirates wasted scoring chances before striker Moremi broke clear, rounded Hleza and stroked the ball past a defender and into the net. "I expected more given our domination. We had sufficient chances in the opening half to seal victory by half-time," said Morocco-born Pirates coach Abdeslam Ouaddou. "Some of our players were a little tired after the World Cup," added the former Fulham and Premier League defender. Pirates supplied eight of the South African 2026 World Cup squad. Substitute Wandile Duba scored twice as Kaizer Chiefs won 3-1 in Mbombela against Kruger United, the other club promoted to the top flight.

Eala stuns Osaka to book Washington final against Pegula



Sports Desk
Alexandra Eala stunned former world number one Naomi Osaka 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the women's final of the WTA and ATP Washington Open, where she will face third-ranked Jessica Pegula. The 21-year-old Philippines left-hander delivered an impressive victory over the four-time Grand Slam winner from Japan to reach her second career WTA final, having dropped the first last year at Eastbourne. "I'm super proud of my performance," Eala said. "I played really well and I had a great mentality and I stayed locked in until the end." Eala, set to jump to a career-best 24th in the world rankings, had previously ousted second seed Elina Svitolina for her sixth top-10 victory of the year after dethroning 2025 Washington champion Leylah Fernandez. It was the first meeting of the Asian stars, Eala facing one of the idols of her youth. "She definitely has aura and she definitely has power," Eala said of Osaka. "I remember watching her finals in the Australian Open and US Open so really a great experience to share the court with her and I'm really

happy I was able to produce that level against her." Osaka, ranked 13th, was thwarted in her bid for an eighth career WTA title and first since taking the 2021 Australian Open. "I hit a lot of unforced errors, so that was probably one of the main reasons," for the loss, Osaka said. Pegula, seeking her 12th career WTA title and third of the year, eliminated Russia's Diana Shnaider 7-5, 6-4 in the other semi-final. "It's going to be a battle," Pegula said of the final. "Alex, I'm a big fan of her. She's the future of the tour and she's already here." Pegula, who won her first WTA title in 2019 at Washington, fell behind 5-2 against Schnaider, but the 32-year-old American top seed battled back to reach her fourth final of the year. A semi-finalist at this year's Australian Open, Pegula has lifted trophies at Dubai and Charleston this season. - 'More well rounded' - Pegula beat Eala in a 2025 Miami semi-final in their only career meeting. "I'm more well rounded. I'm physically a little bit better. I've improved on a couple of my strokes. Serve has also improved quite a bit," Eala said of her game then and now. The men's final will send American Taylor Fritz, ranked 10th, against either Chile's Alejandro Tabilo or 19-year-old Spaniard Rafael Jodar. Fritz fired 13 aces in ousting 33rd-ranked countryman Brandon Nakashima 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. "I dug very deep just to keep holding," said Fritz, who seeks an 11th career ATP title and first since last year at Eastbourne. Jodar, assured of cracking the world rankings top 20 next week, won his first ATP title in April at Morocco. Tabilo, ranked 30th, seeks his fourth career ATP trophy after winning at Auckland and Mallorca in 2024 and last year at Chengdu.

Russian teen Liutova reaches first WTA final in Memphis

Sports Desk
Russian 16-year-old Kristina Liutova is into the final in her first WTA Tour-level event, booking a title shot in Memphis with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Elvina Kalieva on Saturday. Liutova, ranked 229th in the world, will be the youngest player to contest a WTA final since American Coco Gauff in Austria in 2019. The first player born in the 2010s to make a WTA final, she called her week in the 250-level event a "miracle journey" after her quarter-final win over sixth-seeded Caty McNally. In her first WTA main draw match she advanced past top-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova, who retired with heat illness with Liutova leading 7-6 (7/2), 4-6, 5-4. She beat Australian Maya Joint in the second round before knocking off McNally 6-3, 6-4. In Sunday's final she will face either 114th-ranked Czech Darja Vidmanova or 83rd-ranked Renata Zarazua of Mexico.

Infantino under pressure as UEFA demands accountability over failed World Cup plan

Sports Desk

UEFA has declared it has no confidence in FIFA President Gianni Infantino after he abandoned a controversial plan to sell a stake in World Cup profits to private investors, deepening a leadership crisis in world football. The proposal sought to place FIFA's commercial operations, including the men's and women's World Cups, into a \$20 billion company with 20% owned by private investors. The plan collapsed on Saturday following strong opposition from UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), CONCACAF and an internal revolt within FIFA. Infantino drops World Cup investment plan after strong backlash from football leaders Aleksander Ceferin, UEFA President, said the current FIFA leadership had lost the confidence of Europe and many others in global football, insisting those responsible for the proposal must be held accountable. CONCACAF also demanded a full review of FIFA's leadership, calling the initiative another example of poor governance. The backlash intensified after FIFA senior adviser Carlos Cordeiro resigned and chief operating officer Kevin Lamour criticized the proposal as the project of "one person." Infantino has previously withdrawn controversial plans, including a \$25 billion SoftBank-backed competition in



2018 and a biennial World Cup proposal in 2021. Despite being re-elected unopposed in 2019 and 2023, Infantino now faces mounting pressure ahead of FIFA's next presidential election. Candidate nominations close on Nov. 18, with the vote scheduled for March in Rabat, Morocco. Qatar's Football Association backed Infantino's decision to withdraw the proposal, saying unity should take priority.

Messi returns as Inter Miami draw 2-2 against Columbus Crew

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi returned to Major League Soccer action after World Cup duty on Saturday, coming on in the second half as his Inter Miami side drew 2-2 with Columbus Crew. Two weeks after Argentina's loss to Spain in the World Cup final, Messi was back on the pitch, entering in the 53rd minute to the delight of fans at Miami's Nu Stadium. But Messi could not mark his return with a goal, twice shooting wide. Uruguayan Luis Suarez scored his seventh goal in his last four games to put Miami 1-0 up in the 16th minute. Miami's former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder Casemiro scored an own goal in the 34th minute which drew Columbus level at 1-1. Suarez provided the assist for Noah Allen to head Miami into a 2-1 half-time lead



But midfielder Brais Mendez, making his Columbus debut after arriving from Real Sociedad in Spain, curled in a second equalizer from an 84th-minute free-kick. The result ended Miami's six-match winning streak and kept them in second place in the Eastern Conference behind Nashville, who drew 2-2 at DC United. Los Angeles FC and Vancouver Whitecaps remain level at the top of the Western Conference after they drew 1-1 at Vancouver's BC Place. Son Heung-min extended his scoring streak since the MLS resumed after the World Cup to four goals in four matches as he put Los Angeles ahead in the 37th minute. But Vancouver's German star Thomas Mueller converted a 76th-minute penalty. The former Tottenham star Son, who had shouldered much of the blame for South Korea's failure to make it to the knockout rounds of the World Cup, also earned MVP honors in the MLS All-Star Game on Wednesday.

Commonwealth Games poster boy Kerr delivers mile gold in Glasgow

Sports Desk

Fresh from setting a new world record in the mile, Josh Kerr delivered Commonwealth Games gold for Scotland on home soil in the highlight of Saturday's action, which saw 44 gold medals won. Kerr was 12 seconds slower than the mark of 3min 42.66sec he set in London last month to break Hicham El Guerrouj's record that had stood for 27 years. But the Olympic silver-medallist could afford to whip up the crowd in celebration as he crossed the finish line in Glasgow after pulling well clear of the field. "This was the championships of my season," said Kerr, who finished a disappointing 12th in Birmingham four years ago. "I didn't put my performance together like I wanted to in 2022 and I think a British crowd deserves more from me, so I owed them that for sure." Australia's Cameron Myers took silver and Timothy Cheruiyot of Kenya the bronze as another Scot and former world champion Jake Wightman missed out on the podium. Abbey Caldwell led home an Australia 1-2-3 in the women's mile ahead of Jessica Hull and Claudia Hollingsworth. Kenya's Mathew Kipsang produced a decisive kick away from the pack on the final lap to win the men's 5,000m and denied Australia's Ky Robinson double gold after his success in the 10,000m. Robinson finished second with India's Gulveer Singh taking bronze to add to his 10,000m silver. Australia edged a thrilling men's 4x100m to win gold from the outside lane. Lachlan Kennedy, Joshua Azzopardi, Calab Law and Rohan Browning crossed in a time of 38.07 seconds to seemingly edge out Canada. However, the Canadians were disqualified to bump Nigeria into silver and give Ghana a bronze medal. In the afternoon session, Samuel Ogazi lived up to expectation to win gold for Nigeria in the men's 400m. Ogazi, who set the fourth fastest time ever in the 400m earlier this year, was a class apart as he led home Trinidad and Tobago's Jereem Richards and South Africa's Zakithi Nene. "I didn't want to come out here and disappoint. I just had to go out there and do my thing," said Ogazi, who was not holding back on his ambitions going forward. "Maybe an Olympic gold, a world championship gold,



become the greatest athlete ever. That's what I'm working towards." Dejeanea Oakley was just as dominant in the women's 400m for one of five Jamaican golds on the track on Saturday. They stormed to victory in the women's 4x100m and first ever mixed 4x400m Commonwealth final. Navasky Anderson stormed down the final straight to win the men's 800m, while Jordan Scott landed gold in the men's triple jump. There were two more Australia golds as Matthew Denny won the discus and Kurtis Marschall the pole vault. - Jamaicans exact Aussie revenge - But there will be no Australian gold in the netball after Jamaica produced a huge upset to defeat the holders 46-45 in front of the watching Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Catherine, and their children. Jamaica will face New Zealand in Sunday's final after exacting revenge for defeat in the final four years ago. "We knew we had it in us. We're carrying a bit of vengeance from the last Commonwealth Games," Jamaican captain Shamera Sterling-Humphrey said. The royals were also spotted at the velodrome on the Games' "Super Saturday". "Incredible atmosphere at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. Watching world-class talent compete and seeing the power of sport to bring people together is truly special," the Prince and Princess said in an Instagram post. Emma Finucane became the first Welsh woman to win three gold medals at a single Commonwealth Games after adding the sprint and 1000 metre time-trial titles to her part in the team sprint on Friday. "I absolutely love what I do, so I just want to go out there and ride my bike and enjoy every moment," said Finucane, who could add a fourth gold in the keirin on Sunday.



Modern multi-storey complex planned for Rupsha New Market: KDA Chairman



Khulna Correspondent

Khulna Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Advocate SM Shafiqul Alam Mona yesterday said Rupsha New Market is not only one of Khulna city's key commercial hubs but also a promising economic centre for the region, serving thousands of shoppers every day.

He said the KDA has undertaken a multi-dimensional plan to modernise the market, sustain business activities and ensure a safer and more convenient environment for traders and customers alike.

"The KDA is working for planned urban development and commercial expansion in the Khulna region, particularly in the metropolitan area, following the directives of Prime

Minister Tarique Rahman," he added.

Mona made the remarks while exchanging views with leaders of the KDA Rupsha New Market Shop Owners' Association, the Khulna Shrimp Traders' Association and other businessmen at the KDA conference room yesterday.

He said the authority has taken up a project to transform Rupsha New Market into a modern, clean and business-friendly commercial centre. As part of the initiative, a detailed plan will soon be finalised for constructing a multi-storey commercial complex aimed at improving the market environment and making it more attractive to buyers and traders.

The KDA chairman also warned that drives would be conducted against illegal structures and encroachments to preserve the city's beauty and reduce public inconvenience.

He urged traders to refrain from occupying footpaths, KDA land or other public and private properties illegally for business purposes.

KDA members Md. Iqbal Hossain and Ruhul Amin Kutubuddin Ahmad, Chief Engineer Kazi Sabirul Alam, Director Dr. Zakia Sultana, General Secretary of the KDA Rupsha New Market Shop Owners' Association SM Nurul Alam Dipu, President of the Khulna Shrimp Traders' Association SM Nuruzzaman Biplob and its General Secretary Md. Wahiduzzaman Manjir, among others, spoke at the meet-



'Resistance against corruption must be built from the family itself': Divisional Commissioner

Rajshahi Correspondent

Commissioner of Rajshahi Division, Dr. A.N.M. Bazlur Rashid said resistance against corruption must be built from the family itself and children must be taught honesty, morality and a sense of responsibility from an early age.

If educational institutions and families work together, it is possible to build a corruption-free generation. Such events with the participation of students will play an important role in bringing positive change in society.

He said these things in his speech as the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony of the anti-corruption debate, essay and painting competition at Nanking Darbar Hall in the city yesterday.

A total of 200 students from eight secondary-level educational institutions of the metropolitan area participated in the competition jointly organized by the Integrated District Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Metropolitan Corruption Prevention Committee.

Among them, a total of 17 were awarded in the debate, essay and painting competitions. In addition, consolation prizes were given to all participating students.

The event was presided over by Md. Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Assistant Director of the Integrated District Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Rajshahi.

The welcome speech was delivered by Ehsanul Huda Dulu, General Secretary of the Metropolitan Corruption Prevention Committee.

At the time, Professor Md. Humayun Kabir, Director of Secondary and Higher Education, Rajshahi Region, and Toufiqueur Rahman Lablu, President of the Metropolitan Corruption Prevention Committee, spoke as special guests while the program was conducted by Abdur Rokon Masum, member of the Metropolitan Corruption Prevention Committee.

Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Deputy Assistant Director of the Integrated District Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission, was present.

Awsaf Nahian Adib, a student of Rajshahi Collegiate School, was selected as the best speaker in the corruption prevention debate competition.

Expressing his feelings, he said, 'This achievement has inspired me to be more responsible. I want to use the power of logic to create awareness against corruption. In the future too, I will speak in favor of honesty and morality.'

Mehrima Hasan Aroni, a student of River View Collectorate School, secured first place in the painting competition.

She said, 'I tried to highlight the harmful aspects of corruption through my painting and feeling very good securing the first place. This recognition will encourage me more to do social



Two Terrorists Arrested with 1 Firearm (Pistol), 9 Rounds Ammo,and Local Weapons in Jorarganj Police Raid.

Jwel Nag,Mirsarai correspondent

Under the leadership Mr. Mohammad Abdul Halim, Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station,SI (Unarmed) Md. Faruk Uddin along with accompanying officers conducted a raid based on secret information.

On 02/08/2026 at 02:20 AM they arrested 2 terrorists from the residence of accused Borhan Uddin located at Ward No. 08, East Hinguli, under 2 No. Hinguli Union, Jorarganj Police Station.

The arrested persons are Borhan Uddin,Md. Rahim Ullah Rony.

Items recovered from the possession of accused Borhan Uddin.

One black colored semi-automatic 7.62 foreign pistol .

One silver colored magazine,

A total of 09 (nine) rounds of live bullets.

One long knife with wooden handle .

One knife with wooden handle wrapped in red tape .

One folding switch gear.

01 (one) bottle of Indian-made Skop syrup.

Item recovered from the possession of Md. Rahim Ullah Rony,

01 (one) bottle of Indian-made Skop syrup,

Borhan Uddin (34),Father,Abul Kashem, Mother,Surjahan Begum ,

Address: East Hinguli Kadamtala, Bismillah Haji Bari, Ward No. 08, 2 No. Hinguli UP, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram.

Rahim Ullah Rony, (35),Father,Late Mohammad Ullah, Mother: Hasina Begum

Address,Chhatrua (Sarkar Taluk), Ward No. 05, 1 No. Korrrerhat UP, PS- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram.

Pending Cases Against Borhan Uddin (34),9 cases including Jorarganj PS Case No-2 dated 02/07/2025 under sections 143/341/323/325/307/364/506/34 of the Penal Code, and other cases under Penal Code, Special Powers Act 1974, and Explosive Substances Act 1908.

He also has Mirsarai PS Case No-20 dated 18/06/2023.

Pending Cases Against Rahim Ullah Rony,9 cases including multiple cases under the Narcotics Control Act 2018 for drugs, and cases under Penal Code for theft. Cases are registered in Jorarganj, Lohagara, Patiya, Chhagalnaiya, Ramu, and Sitakunda Police Stations.

Legal action has been taken against the accused and they have been sent to the Hon'ble Court.

Child with measles symptoms dies at RpMCH

Rangpur Correspondent

Another nine-month old baby named Shaon died of measles symptoms at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RPMCH) on Saturday night, taking the child death toll from measles in Rangpur division to 12.

Officials of the Rangpur Divisional Health Director's office confirmed this information on Sunday afternoon.

Shaon, son of Sweet Mia of Sadar upazila in Nilphamari district, died while undergoing treatment in the hospital's measles isolation ward.

In addition, 20 patients with measles-rubella symptoms have been identified in Rangpur division in the last 24 hours.

Of them, one is undergoing treatment at Lalmonirhat General Hospital while five others at Nilphamari, four at Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital and 10 at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.

From March 30 to August 2 (Sunday) this year, 2,150 patients with measles-rubella symptoms have been identified in Rangpur division and 2,098 patients have recovered and returned home after recovery.

Currently, 52 patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in the division.

Man held with 394 pieces of Yaba tablets in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) personnel arrested an alleged drug dealer with 394 pieces of Yaba tablets from the Madhya Pirjabad Rahmatpara area of Rangpur metropolis yesterday.

On a tip-off, a team of Rangpur DNC searched a house in the area, seized the contraband Yaba tablets and arrested the man from the house at 12:30 noon, said a press release.

The arrested was Md Bulbul Mia, 2, son of late Abdul Hakim of the Madhya Pirjabad Rahmatpara area under Kotwali Metropolitan Police Station of Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RpMP) in the city.

Inspector of the DNC, Rangpur S M Eltas Uddin filed a case in this incident against the arrested person with Kotwali Metropolitan Police Station of RpMP.

The arrested person along with the seized drugs

RAB-7 Arrests Fugitive Sentenced to Life Sentence in 17-Year-Old Murder and Robbery Case

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

RAB-7 (Chattogram) has arrested Shahidul Islam, alias Masud, alias Masum (45), a fugitive sentenced to life imprisonment in a sensational murder and robbery case filed in Chaddagram, Cumilla. He was arrested on Saturday morning (August 1) from the Silonia Matha area under Daganbhuiyan Police Station in Feni district.

The arrestee, Shahidul Islam, is the son of the late Fazlul Haq of South Charchandia village under Sonagazi Police Station in Feni district.

?According to RAB-7 sources, a murder and robbery case was filed with Chaudhagram Police Station in Cumilla on May 16, 2009 (Case No. 23, under Sections 302/396/34 of the Penal Code). The court found Shahidul Islam guilty and sentenced him to life rigorous imprisonment alongside a fine of BDT 50,000, failing which he would have to serve an additional six months of simple imprisonment.

?Shahidul had been in hiding to evade arrest ever since the court pronounced the verdict. Recently, an intelligence team from RAB received a tip-off indicating that the fugitive was staying in the Daganbhuiyan area of Feni.

Based on the information, a smart operational team of RAB-7 conducted a drive at around 9:15 AM on August 1 in the Silonia Matha area of Daganbhuiyan and successfully apprehended the convict against whom an arrest warrant had been issued.

RAB informed that the arrested accused has been handed over to Feni's Sonagazi Police Station for further legal action.



School Dresses, Bags and Shoes Distributed Among Students in Fakirhat

S A.Kalam, Fakirhat (Bagerhat) Correspondent

As part of the nationwide initiative announced by the Honorable Prime Minister to distribute free jute-made school bags, school dresses, and shoes to primary school students, these items were distributed among 58 students at Doharmouvog Government Primary School in Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat. Under the initiative of the Upazila Administration, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Rokonzuzaman handed over the jute-made school bags, school dresses, and shoes to the students at 1:00 PM on Thursday. Acting Head Teacher of Doharmouvog Government Primary School Sajal Bishwas along with other teachers and students, were present at the time.

On that day, a total of 58 students from Class 1 and Class 2, of the school were given free jute-made school bags, school dresses, and shoes.

Coordination meeting on integrated risk communication and public engagement (RCCE) for dengue prevention held in Pirojpur

Pirojpur Correspondent

A coordination meeting on risk communication and public engagement (RCCE) for dengue prevention was held in Pirojpur to increase awareness and public engagement in dengue prevention. Yesterday, Sunday, at the Shaheed Abdur Razzak-Saif Mizan Memorial Conference Room of the District Administration, organized by the District Information Office in collaboration with UNICEF Barisal, Pirojpur's Honorable Deputy Commissioner and learned District Magistrate Abu Sayeed was present as the chief guest.

The event was presided over by Deputy Director of the District Information Office Parikshit Chowdhury and special guests included Pirojpur District Council Administrator Principal Alamgir Hossain, District Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman, Deputy Director of the Local Government Department Mahmudur Rajman Mamun. Information Officer Saifuddin Al Madani delivered the welcome speech.

The meeting discussed in detail the issues of increasing public awareness in dengue prevention, strengthening risk communication activities, ensuring active participation of local people, and the integrated role of educational institutions, government and private departments, voluntary organizations, media, and local public representatives.

In his speech as the chief guest, the Deputy Commissioner said that there is no alternative to awareness in dengue prevention. The spread of dengue can be effectively controlled by destroy-



ing mosquito breeding grounds, keeping homes, educational institutions, offices, courts, and the surrounding environment clean, removing stagnant water, and involving the public. He called on social organizations, voluntary organizations, students, and the general public to participate in dengue prevention activities together with government initiatives.

Representatives of the Health Department, District Information Office, Local Government Department, officials of various government departments, development partner organizations, representatives of voluntary organizations, media workers, and other relevant stakeholders were present in the meeting. It is to be noted that various awareness activities, cleanliness drives and coordinated initiatives are continuing under the overall supervision of the district administration to increase public awareness and ensure active participation of the people in dengue prevention.

Four hospitals fined Tk 150,000 in Tangail



Tangail Correspondent

The National Directorate of Consumer Rights Protection has fined three hospitals and one clinic a total of Taka 150,000 for

various irregularities during a drive in Tangail municipality.

During the operation on Sunday afternoon, the pathology department of Pilot Hospital was sealed. The drive was led by Asaduzzaman Rumel, Assistant Director of the Tangail office of the National Directorate of Consumer Rights Protection. Speaking after the operation, Rumel said Pilot Hospital was fined Taka 50,000 after inspectors found evidence of several violations, including conducting pathological tests without the presence of a qualified pathologist, storing expired medicines, failing to maintain the required temperature in medicine storage refrigerators and preserving spoiled blood. Apollo Hospital was fined Taka 25,000, Sena Combined Hospital Taka 25,000, and Janata Clinic Taka 50,000 for various irregularities. Rumel said such enforcement drives would continue in the future to ensure compliance with consumer rights and healthcare standards.