



PM calls for developing economic zones as green industrial hubs

Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has emphasized the importance of transforming Bangladesh's economic zones into green, modern, and investment-friendly industrial hubs by ensuring a balance between industrialization and environmental protection.

He made the call while presiding over a meeting of Governing Board of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) at Prime Minister's Office in

the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat on Monday. The governing board of BEZA made several important decisions aimed at expanding the country's economic zones, increasing investment, creating employment opportunities, and protecting the environment, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Md. Suzauddhowla Sujon Mahmud.

According to him, as part of the government's nationwide 25 crore tree plantation programme, trees will be planted in every Export Processing Zone (EPZ) across the country. Under this initiative, a total of 125,000 trees will be planted in various EPZs.

Mahmud said the initiative aims to maintain environmental balance alongside industrialization, increase green coverage, and make the economic zones more environmentally friendly. He said the meeting reviewed the progress

◆ see page 2



Political crises must be resolved through Parliament with opposition: Fakhrul

Staff Correspondent
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday said the government wants to work together with the opposition to address any political crisis, including the implementation of the July Charter.

"The opposition must play a strong role in making democracy function effectively. But unfortunately, the opposition has started speaking the language of the Awami League," he said. Mirza Fakhrul, also BNP Secretary

General, made the remarks while addressing, as the chief guest, a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the National Press Club on the occasion of the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising. Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon, MP attended the programme as the special guest. Mirza Fakhrul said many people had joined movements under the leadership of late former Prime

◆ see page 2

US Pacific Fleet commander due today

Staff Correspondent
Admiral Steve Koehler, Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, will arrive in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit aimed at further strengthening the longstanding defence partnership between Bangladesh and the United States.

According to a statement issued by the US Embassy in Dhaka today, Admiral Koehler will be in Bangladesh from August 4 to 6. During the visit, the US Pacific Fleet commander is scheduled to hold meetings with senior Bangladeshi officials to discuss bilateral defence cooperation and explore opportunities to deepen collaboration in maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and professional military education.

The embassy said the visit reflects the continued engagement between Bangladesh and the United States in promoting regional security and expanding cooperation in areas of shared strategic interest.

Admiral Koehler commands the

◆ see page 2



Extreme suffering on the road from Shahbazzpur First Gate to Budda Titas River bank

M Badal Khandaker (Brahmanbaria District Correspondent)

Due to the approximately 4 kilometer road from Shahbazzpur Union's First Gate in Sarail Upazila to Shahbazzpur Budda Titas River bank remaining in a dilapidated condition for a long time, local people are suffering immensely. Even with slight rain, large potholes and mud are forming on the road. On-site observation shows that the road is filled with potholes in various places. Auto-rickshaws and CNGs are facing extreme difficulties in operating. As a result, passengers have to pay double fares.

Locals said that people from 6 villages of Shahbazzpur Union travel through this road to the Upazila headquarters, schools and colleges. In addition, this area on the bank of Budda Titas River is a place for agricultural products. From here, ordinary farmers bring paddy cut from the fields and take it to different areas, and they depend on this road. But as the road has become unfit for movement, public life has been disrupted.

Regarding this, Paibez, a resident of Shahbazzpur village, said, A 5-minute road now takes 20 minutes. We have repeatedly informed the Union Parishad but got no remedy.

A resident of Banderhati said that as there are several brick kilns here, bricks are being transported

◆ see page 2

DSCC rolls out Tk 327cr mega programme for a cleaner, greener city

Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has launched one of its largest-ever sanitation and waste management programmes with a record allocation of Tk 327 crore in the 2026-27 fiscal year, aiming to transform the capital's southern part into a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city. The allocation for the sanitation sector is nearly three-and-a-half times higher than the original Tk 90.23 crore earmarked in the previous fiscal year. The revised allocation for FY2025-26 stood at Tk 80.38 crore.

"The corporation has redesigned its entire sanitation management system, giving top priority to implementing the government's 'Clean City, Green City' initiative," DSCC Administrator and valiant freedom fighter Abdus Salam told BSS in an interview.

He said shift-based cleaning operations have been introduced in all wards, with designated sanitation workers assigned to specific roads, while

◆ see page 2

PM invites S Korean President, seeks stronger trade ties

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday invited President of South Korea to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time as the two countries explore ways to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

He made the invitation during his meeting with South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo at the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat here this afternoon, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

At the outset of the meeting, the South Korean trade minister briefed the Prime Minister on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Bangladesh and South Korea.

He said the agreement, once signed and implemented, would further expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries while significantly increasing South Korean investment in Bangladesh. The trade minister said many South Korean companies are already operating successfully in

◆ see page 2

'Prime Minister Gold Cup' tournament to be arranged as historic event: Mahdi Amin

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister's Office Spokesperson and Adviser Mahdi Amin on Monday said Prime Minister Gold Cup tournament will be a historic event in the country's education and sports arena.

"To this end, extensive nationwide publicity, effective coordination and optimum monitoring will be ensured from the beginning to the end of the tournament," he said.

Mahdi Amin made the remarks while speaking at a meeting of the Prime Minister Gold Cup Tournament National Standing Committee at the conference room of the Ministry of Education here on Monday. He said earlier, about 22 lakh students from all over the country participated in the primary level tournament, while over 11 lakh students in the

◆ see page 2

PM's governance style brings 'fresh look' to Bangladesh: Chinese envoy

Staff Correspondent

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Monday praised Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's people-centred, pragmatic and efficient style of governance, saying it has brought "a fresh look" to national governance while helping steer the country through complex development challenges.

"China will always remain Bangladesh's trustworthy good friend, good neighbour and good partner," he said while speaking at the inaugural session of the four-day "Comparative Governance Forum 2026" at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). The envoy said Bangladesh needs to maintain political unity and social stability, diversify its economy beyond a single-industry structure and foster a more favourable external environment to sustain its development momentum.

Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir attended the programme as the chief guest, while Fudan University Vice-President Professor Chen Zhimin joined as the special guest. BISS Director General Major General Ridwanur Rahman also addressed the event.

The Chinese ambassador said the new Bangladesh government has pursued a devel-

opment-oriented approach focused on improving people's livelihoods since assuming office.

Referring to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's official visit to China in June, Yao said the leaders of the two countries agreed to

elevate their Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly build a Bangladesh-China Community with a Shared Future for the New Era.

"The visit was a complete success and marked a milestone in bilateral relations," he said.

Quoting Chinese President Xi Jinping, the ambassador said China would remain firmly committed to the overall direction of Bangladesh-China friendship regardless of changes in the international landscape. Yao said the understanding reached by the leaders has laid a solid foundation for the "Golden Fifty Years" of Bangladesh-China relations.

He said both countries have agreed to advance high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and better align their development strategies.

"Important consensus has been reached on the comprehensive management of the Teesta River, the modernisation and expansion of Mongla Port

◆ see page 2



Presidential polls schedule after receiving voter list: EC Secretary

Staff Correspondent

Senior Secretary of the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat Akhtar Ahmed on Monday said the schedule for the presidential election has not yet been finalized as the commission is still awaiting the voter list from the Parliament Secretariat.

"We have requested the Parliament Secretariat to provide the voter list, but we have not received it yet. The date or schedule for the presidential election will be announced after the voter list is received," he told journalists at Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon today.

Explaining the election timeline, Akhtar Ahmed said there is normally a 45-day interval between the announcement of an election schedule and polling day. The timeline is determined through a backward calculation, considering voter list updates and other necessary preparations.

"Our required equipment and polling centres are ready. The deadline for updating the voter list can be extended if necessary. We are maintaining all preparations so that work can begin immediately after the schedule is announced," he added.

On National Identity (NID) corrections, the EC Secretary said no specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has yet been finalized. Referring to age

◆ see page 2



Journalists demand immediate formation of 10th wage board

Staff Correspondent

Journalist leaders today demanded of the government to form the 10th wage board immediately to increase the salaries and other facilities for the newsmen and employees working in the newspaper, news agencies and other organizations of the media as the tenure of ninth wage board award had been matured two years back.

They also urged the government to ensure job security for the journalists and employees of the industry.

The demand was made at a discussion marking the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising, organised by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club (JPC) here.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressed the programme as the

◆ see page 2

India can clear its position on Hasina's planned online programme: Shama

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Monday said Bangladesh is pursuing a forward-looking approach in its engagement with New Delhi and that the Indian government will have to clear whether it supports the planned online meeting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We are moving forward with India with a forward-looking approach. We don't want it to be damaged, and I firmly believe that India doesn't want it either. So, India has to clear whether it is supporting it or not," she told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when a reporter wanted to know about Hasina's planned virtual programme in New Delhi, scheduled for August 5. The State Minister referred to the recent meeting with Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi and said they want the Bangladesh-India relationship to improve. "You saw that we had a very cordial

◆ see page 2



Zero Tolerance Against Drugs: Drug Dealers and Addicts Belong Behind Bars - Chattogram SP Masud Alam, BPM

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

Chattogram, Bangladesh: Chattogram District Police Superintendent Masud Alam, BPM, has reaffirmed the district police's zero-tolerance policy against drugs, terrorism, and all forms of crime, declaring that "Drug dealers and drug addicts belong behind bars. No criminal, terrorist, or drug trafficker is above the law."

He made these remarks while addressing a community meeting with local residents at Bhaterkhal area of Muradpur Union under Sitakunda Police Station on Saturday, August

2, 2026, following the annual inspection of Sitakunda Model Police Station.

Earlier in the day, the Police Superintendent conducted a comprehensive inspection of the overall activities of Sitakunda Model Police Station. During the visit, he reviewed the law and order situation, crime prevention measures, administrative management, and the quality of public services. He also exchanged views with police officers and personnel, directing them to ensure prompt, sincere, and harassment-free policing for the public.

SP Masud Alam emphasized the importance of professionalism,

◆ see page 2

Democratic decisions help to hold off authoritarianism

The standing committee of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party has invested the prime minister, Tarique Rahman, the chairperson of the party, with the responsibility of selecting the party’s candidate for the presidency of the republic. It has raised some concern. The standing committee, which is the highest policy-making body of the party, at a meeting that it held at the BNP chairperson’s office at Gulshan on August 1, with the party chief

The standing committee, which is the highest policy-making body of the party, at a meeting that it held at the BNP chairperson’s office at Gulshan on August 1, with the party chief presiding over it, authorised the party chief to name the party’s candidate for the 23rd presidency of the republic.

presiding over it, authorised the party chief to name the party’s candidate for the 23rd presidency of the republic. The presidency fell vacant after M o h a m m a d Shahabuddin resigned on health grounds on July 24. The speaker of the parliament, Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, is now the acting president. The constitution lays down that the parliament would hold the election for the presidency within 90 days of a vacancy in the

office of the president. A standing committee member has said that the committee has formally invested the party chief with the responsibility of naming the candidate, noting that it is now up to the party chief to decide and he may consult anyone, within the party forum or outside, if he feels it necessary, but this is not mandatory.

Investing the party chief with such authority by the highest policy-making body to make decisions that could be discussed in the forum is an old practice prevalent among major political parties. The fallen Awami League almost institutionalised the practice within the party. Such a practice could give rise to authoritarianism within the party, which could have a reflection on the governance of the state as it became evident during the Awami League’s tenure in government. Whether a party chief could become authoritarian may not, therefore, be entirely up to the chiefs of parties, political or otherwise, or institutions that warrant democratic governance. The highest policy-making bodies of parties or such institutions may well also play a role in such a proposition. There would have been no harm in the party chief placing the proposal for the selection of the candidate for the presidency of the republic before the standing committee although the result could have been the same. It could have been democratic. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, its standing committee in particular, should have, rather, opted for a democratic practice in the selection of the candidate for the presidency of the republic, especially after the pro-democracy July uprising, which toppled the authoritarian Awami League government under Sheikh Hasina in August 2024 after it had been in office consecutively for about a decade and a half. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party should, therefore, give further thought to such a practice when it comes to deciding matters in the party’s highest policy-making body.

PM calls for developing

in implementing the decisions taken in the previous meeting of the board. Discussions were also held on establishing new economic zones, reviewing the evaluation of private economic zones, and ensuring the optimal use of unused state-owned industrial assets, he said.

The deputy press secretary said the meeting examined the possibility of utilizing the land and existing infrastructure of Karim Jute Mills and Latif Bawany Jute Mills Limited in Narayanganj for economic activities.

The meeting stressed attracting both domestic and foreign investment, creating employment opportunities, and stimulating the local economy by establishing modern industries there, according to Mahmud.

Discussions were also held on ensuring compliance with the prescribed guidelines for applications and licensing of private economic zones, as well as formulating new policies in this regard, he added.

PM invites S Korean

Bangladesh and many more are interested in investing in the country in the coming years.

Welcoming greater South Korean investment, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman invited the South Korean entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh’s toy, electronics, telecommunications, automobile, semiconductor and shipbuilding sectors.

The Prime Minister said South Korea has advanced expertise in the shipbuilding industry, while Bangladesh possesses a promising workforce for that sector.

He said South Korea could establish training centres in Bangladesh to provide technical and language training to Bangladeshi workers for employment in the Korean shipbuilding sector. He also assured that the Bangladesh government would extend necessary support if South Korean companies invest in the country’s shipbuilding industry.

During the meeting, the Bangladesh side also informed the visiting minister about the plan to organise a seminar in Bangladesh engaging South Korean companies to explore new investment opportunities.

PM's governance style

facilities, and advancing the China-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor," he said.

The ambassador said practical cooperation between Bangladesh and China is steadily expanding in scope and quality, while exchanges on governance have become an integral part of building a community with a shared future.

He described the exchange of governance experiences as an important bridge connecting the peoples of the two countries and expressed hope that participants would gain practical knowledge in areas such as national governance, poverty reduction and digital governance.

The forum, jointly organised by BISS and Fudan University, covers topics including China’s experience in modernising national governance and governance capacity, the Four Global Initiatives and the Global South.

Humaiau for deeper

of China’s Fudan University, at the BISS auditorium in the capital as the chief guest. “We welcome greater collaboration with China and other international partners in advancing sustainable infrastructure, aviation, tourism and innovation for the benefit of our peoples,” said the adviser.

He said future prosperity would depend not only on economic growth but also on the quality of institutions, social resilience and international cooperation.

“The countries of the Global South are becoming increasingly influential in shaping global governance and sustainable development,” he said, adding that Bangladesh believes the international system must be more inclusive, rules-based and responsive to the aspirations of all nations.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen, Professor Chen Zhimin, Vice-President of Fudan University and BISS

Gas crisis needs structural reform

Md. Neyamul Hossain

NATURAL gas has been the quiet backbone of the economy for decades, powering industries, generating electricity, fuelling fertiliser plants, keeping transport moving and providing millions of households with affordable cooking fuel. Cheap domestic gas was an invisible engine behind the export-driven industrialisation. That advantage is rapidly eroding, and what was once an energy-sector concern has become a macroeconomic risk, threatening output, export competitiveness, employment, inflation and investor confidence.

The severity of the crisis has become increasingly visible. Thousands of households in Dhaka and other urban centres have recently faced gas pressure so low that even routine cooking became difficult, long queues returned to compressed natural gas stations, and many industrial units operated well below installed capacity. According to Petrobangla, a technical fault at an liquefied natural gas terminal recently reduced re-gasification capacity, forcing the country to meet only 55–60 per cent of daily demand for several days. The disruption affected households, transport and industry simultaneously, exposing the fragility of the energy infrastructure.

The immediate problem reflects a deeper structural imbalance. According to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, daily gas demand has reached around 3.8 billion cubic feet while supply fluctuates between 2.7 and 2.9 billion cubic feet, leaving a persistent shortfall of almost one billion cubic feet. The International Energy Agency attributes this widening gap to declining output from ageing gasfields alongside rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and growing electricity demand. Petrobangla data show that around 41 per cent of available gas is consumed by power generation, 36 per cent by industry and captive power, and about 11 per cent by households, with the remainder allocated to fertiliser production, compressed natural gas transport and other uses. The World Bank notes that such dependence on a single fuel leaves the economy highly vulnerable, allowing disruptions in one sector to ripple quickly across the rest.

Industry has borne much of the burden. Export-oriented sectors including garments, textiles, ceramics, steel, glass, pharmaceuticals and food processing rely heavily on uninterrupted gas supply. The Asian Development Bank notes that shortages reduce productivity by disrupting boiler operations, limiting captive power and forcing factories to switch to costlier fuels such as diesel. Many manufacturers have cut production, delayed export shipments or absorbed higher operating costs, weakening competitiveness. The Bangladesh Textile Mills’ Association says persistent shortages have reduced production capacity and discouraged new investment. UNCTAD identifies unreliable energy supply as a major deterrent to industrial investment in developing economies, and in Bangladesh uncertain gas connections have delayed numerous projects, affecting exports and employment. Small and medium enterprises are particularly vulnerable, with the ILO noting that they often lack the resources to invest in alternative energy sources.

The power sector faces similar pressures. The Bangladesh Power Development Board notes that much of the country’s installed generation capacity still depends on gas. Reduced supply therefore forces greater reliance on expensive liquid fuels such as furnace oil and diesel, increasing generation costs and the fiscal burden of subsidies. Energy shortages also feed inflation. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics observes that rising production and transport costs are eventually passed on to consumers, while

the IMF notes that energy-driven inflation is especially difficult to contain in import-dependent economies because it simultaneously disrupts supply chains and erodes household purchasing power.

Growing reliance on imported liquefied natural gas has further exposed Bangladesh to external shocks. Since liquefied natural gas imports began in 2018 to compensate for declining domestic production, imported gas has become indispensable but considerably more expensive, with payments made largely in foreign currency. The IEA notes that geopolitical tensions and supply-chain disruptions have made global liquefied natural gas markets increasingly volatile, while Petrobangla says disruptions from suppliers such as Qatar have pushed Bangladesh towards costlier spot-market purchases. According to Bangladesh Bank, energy imports account for a significant share of total import expenditure, meaning weaker export earnings or remittance inflows directly constrain the country’s ability to finance liquefied natural gas imports. Energy security has therefore become inseparable from foreign exchange stability.

The roots of the crisis extend beyond short-term supply disruptions. Major gasfields such as Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad and Rashidpur have been producing for decades and are steadily maturing, while no major discoveries have offset their decline. Compared with neighbouring India and Myanmar, Bangladesh has undertaken relatively limited exploration in recent years, with the Energy and Mineral Resources Division citing procurement delays, financing constraints and technological limitations. Offshore exploration remains another missed opportunity. Although Bangladesh secured sovereign rights over a vast area of the Bay of Bengal after resolving maritime boundary disputes, exploration has progressed slowly and is unlikely to contribute meaningfully before the next decade.

Governance weaknesses have compounded these structural challenges. Low regulated gas prices supported industrialisation when domestic supplies were abundant but also discouraged efficient consumption and reduced incentives for exploration and infrastructure investment. The World Bank has long argued that pricing disconnected from actual production and import costs weakens the financial sustainability of state energy institutions. At the same time, fragmented responsibilities among Petrobangla, Bapex, GTCL, distribution companies, Energy Regulatory Commission and the energy ministry have often slowed decision-making and weakened the sector’s ability to respond effectively. Energy efficiency also remains an underused solution. The IEA notes that improving efficiency is often the quickest and least expensive way to ease supply shortages, yet Bangladesh continues to lose substantial volumes of gas through inefficient industrial equipment, ageing captive power plants, leaky distribution networks and outdated appliances.

International experience offers useful lessons. Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam have combined domestic resource development with imported fuels, renewable energy expansion and stronger efficiency policies, while India has expanded liquefied natural gas infrastructure, accelerated exploration and introduced market-oriented reforms to attract investment. These examples demonstrate that energy security cannot depend on a single fuel; resilience requires diversification, institutional capacity and long-term planning.

Bangladesh now faces the same choice. Continued over-reliance on gas, whether domestic or imported, will leave the economy vulnerable to recurring supply crises and mounting fiscal pres-

sure. Rather than treating the current shortages as temporary disruptions, policymakers should use them as an opportunity to rethink the country’s long-term energy strategy.

In the short term, improving efficiency within the existing system should be the immediate priority. Reducing transmission and distribution losses through better monitoring, digital metering and timely maintenance would help recover significant volumes of gas without new discoveries. Gas allocation also requires review so that high-value sectors, particularly export-oriented industries, fertiliser production and power generation, receive priority during shortages under transparent criteria that reduce uncertainty for businesses. Liquefied natural gas procurement capacity should likewise be strengthened through diversified import sources, long-term supply agreements and improved storage facilities, reducing dependence on volatile spot-market purchases.

Over the medium term, increasing domestic production must remain a priority through greater investment, advanced technology and a more attractive policy environment for exploration companies, alongside stronger institutional support for Bapex and transparent, predictable regulation. Even so, successful exploration alone is unlikely to restore the era of abundant, inexpensive domestic gas. Bangladesh therefore needs to diversify its energy mix more decisively, placing renewable energy at the centre rather than the margins of policy. Utility-scale and rooftop solar, floating solar, waste-to-energy projects and energy storage technologies cannot replace gas in the near future, but they can gradually reduce pressure on gas-fired electricity generation. Regional cooperation offers further opportunities, with Bangladesh already importing electricity from India while exploring hydropower partnerships with Nepal and Bhutan.

Institutional reform is equally important. Stronger coordination among Petrobangla, Bapex, GTCL, BERC, the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority and the energy ministry is essential for realistic demand forecasting, integrated planning and timely risk assessment. Pricing policy also deserves careful reconsideration. Gradually aligning gas prices with actual supply costs would strengthen the financial sustainability of the sector, provided vulnerable households are protected through targeted support rather than blanket subsidies. The implications extend far beyond the energy sector. Bangladesh’s ambition to achieve upper-middle-income status depends on sustained industrialisation, export diversification and private investment, none of which is possible without reliable and affordable energy. Energy security must therefore be recognised as a core pillar of economic policy rather than a narrow technical issue. Climate considerations further reinforce the need for change. Although natural gas emits less carbon than coal or oil, Bangladesh’s long-term development must remain consistent with global decarbonisation goals by balancing energy security, affordability and sustainability.

Ultimately, the question is no longer whether Bangladesh can secure enough gas to meet today’s demand, but whether it can build an energy system capable of sustaining tomorrow’s economy. The present crisis should be seen not as a passing disruption but as a strategic warning, exposing the limits of dependence on a single fuel and highlighting the urgency of long-term planning. The decisions taken today will shape Bangladesh’s economic resilience and development trajectory for decades to come.

-Dr Matiur Rahman is a researcher and development professional.

vert organic waste into useful resources.

Extreme suffering

by tractors to various places on a regular basis. Due to the movement of these tractors and the lack of drainage facilities, the road is in this dilapidated condition. Local UP members said that the road falls under LGED. It has not been possible to repair it for a long time due to lack of allocation. They requested the concerned authorities and the local Member of Parliament to intervene quickly for the reconstruction of the road. In this regard, the Sarail Upazila LGED official said, The matter has been informed to the higher authorities. Efforts are underway to include the road in the list for renovation in the next allocation. The locals have demanded immediate repair of the road.

Zero Tolerance Against

integrity, discipline, accountability, and humanitarian values in police service. He urged all officers to work with utmost dedication to strengthen public confidence in law enforcement. During the community meeting, local residents raised concerns regarding the activities of identified drug dealers and their associates, including allegations of terrorism, intimidation, drug trafficking, and threats to public safety.

Listening carefully to the complaints, the Police Superintendent assured the residents that every allegation would be investigated in accordance with the law and that swift and effective legal action would be taken. He stated, “Whoever the offender may be, Chattogram District Police is committed to taking strict, impartial, and effective action under the prevailing laws.”

He further stressed that public awareness and active community participation are essential in combating crime. He called upon citizens to immediately report drug trafficking, terrorism, extortion, or any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or through emergency police services, so that law enforcement agencies can take timely action.

The Police Superintendent also reaffirmed that Chattogram District Police remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of the people, suppressing terrorism, drugs, and all forms of crime, and building a peaceful, secure, and people-friendly society through professionalism, honesty, and dedication. Among the special guests at the meeting were Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Sirajul Islam, Officer-in-Charge of Sitakunda Model Police Station Mohinul Islam, Investigation Officer Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, along with other local dignitaries. The speakers highlighted that stronger community policing, regular public engagement, and prompt legal services would further enhance mutual trust between the police and the public.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants pledged to work together with the administration to build a drug-free, terrorism-free, and crime-free Sitakunda. They emphasized that the rule of law, social unity, and collective efforts—not fear—are the keys to creating a safe and humane society.

India can clear its

meeting with the new High Commissioner who came here. We had a lot of good discussions.”

Indian media reported that Hasina is set to make her first public appearance in India exactly two years after she fled the country following a massive student-led protest.

According to multiple media reports, Hasina will attend a virtual event hosted by the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of South Asia (FCC South Asia) in New Delhi.

“We want relations with India to improve. I believe India also wants that,” said the State Minister. Responding to a separate question, she said Bangladesh could communicate with the Indian government if it considers it necessary over the reported event in India on August 5 involving Hasina, while stressing that Dhaka does not want the issue to undermine bilateral relations. The State Minister, however, said the reported programme is not being organised by the Indian government and Dhaka would decide on any diplomatic communication if circumstances required.

Government is working relentlessly to upgrade the country's tourism sector to a sustainable, modern and world-class level: Afroza

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Staff Correspondent.

Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism at the oath-taking ceremony of the executive committee of the Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh at the Gulshan Club.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam said that the government is working relentlessly to upgrade the country's tourism sector to a sustainable, modern and world-class level.

She said this while speaking as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of the Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) at the Gulshan Club on Sunday (August 2).

She said that the government is implementing various long-term plans with the aim of making the tourism industry one of the main driving forces of the country's economy.

The minister congratulated the newly elected executive committee members and said that the new leadership will play an important role in the development of the country's tourism industry. He said that the government is working



on a comprehensive tourism master plan that includes 1,498 tourist attractions in the country. This master plan will serve as a long-term framework for the country's tourism development. Afroza Khanam said that turning Cox's Bazar, the world's longest natural

seashore, into a regional tourism hub is one of the government's priorities. She also expressed hope that the newly built Cox's Bazar International Airport will play an important role in attracting foreign tourists and expanding the tourism sector. The minister

◆ see page 7

PM to visit three flood-hit upazilas in Ctg on August 9

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will visit three flood-hit upazilas in Chattogram—Hathazari, Fatikchhari and Banskhali—on August 9 to distribute relief among affected people and hand over newly built houses to families displaced by the floods.

The visit, confirmed by Prime Minister's Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly, will be Tarique Rahman's first official tour to Chattogram since assuming office.

BSS correspondents in Chattogram reported that the local administration has nearly completed the construction of houses for flood-displaced families in the three upazilas ahead of the Prime Minister's visit. A designated helipad is also being prepared for the Prime Minister's arrival and from there he is expected to travel to West Banskhali to address a brief public gathering, distribute relief among flood victims

◆ see page 7



Measles treatment costs push 89pc families into debt

Staff Correspondent

Families across Bangladesh are being pushed into debt as they struggle to cover the hidden costs of measles treatment, according to a joint assessment by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Nearly nine in 10 measles affected families (89 per cent) reported borrowing money to pay for treatment, while six in 10 (61 per cent) exhausted their savings, said a media statement on Monday.

Every family surveyed reported needing financial support. 35 per cent identified medicines as their highest priority, followed by water, sanitation and hygiene support (33 per cent) and food assistance

(22 per cent). It also showed, around 4 per cent of families sold their assets and 3 per cent used donation.

The assessment, conducted among 2,746 measles-affected families receiving treatment at 12 government medical colleges and district hospitals across Bangladesh, found that the financial burden of the surge extended far beyond medical care.

Seventy-five per cent of the families' patients age level were within 4 years; 5-17 years were 19 per cent and over 18 years; was 6 per cent.

The assessment was undertaken to identify 2,400 of the most vulnerable families for emergency cash assistance (BDT 10,000 for each family) and assess the socio-economic impact of the

◆ see page 7

Anne seeks continued ADB support for sustainable water management

Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne on Monday expressed hope that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would continue its support for sustainable water resources management and the protection of the country's riverbanks.

"The government is keen to work with the ADB to strengthen quality economic cooperation," he said during a meeting with newly appointed ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Qingfeng Zhang at the Secretariat here. State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad was also present.

Welcoming the new ADB country director, the minister said the

◆ see page 7



DC Launches 'Clean Feni' Campaign Across District to Build a Liveable City

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The district administration has launched a mass cleanliness drive titled "Clean Feni" to transform the area into a clean, healthy, and liveable district. As part of the Deputy Commissioner's priority action plan, the campaign was officially inaugurated on Monday morning (August 3) by Feni Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Ms. Monira Haq. Immediately following the inauguration, widespread enthusiasm spread throughout the district. A massive drive commenced across government

◆ see page 7

Work on Rapid Implementation of Teesta Master Plan Underway: Farhad Hossain Azad



Mohinul Islam Sujon, Dimla (Nilphamari)

State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad said, Work on the implementation of the Teesta Master Plan is progressing. By the end of this year, we may see visible progress at least as a pilot project. Our technical committee has already submitted its report. Work is underway on how to implement this master plan quickly. I believe that by the end of this year, we will at least see the light of the Teesta Master Plan, even if it is in

the form of a pilot project. He made these remarks on Saturday (August 1) afternoon during an inspection of the Buri-Teesta Irrigation Project in Dimla Upazila, Nilphamari, and the river erosion areas of Jhunagachh Chapani Union in the upazila.

Regarding the re-excavation of the Buri-Teesta, the State Minister said, The previous government wanted to start work in five groups under a Tk 130 crore project, but it could not be implemented due to various complications. A meeting will be held in the middle of this month to take initiatives to resolve the issues.

He also instructed officials to quickly place geo-bags and tube-bags to prevent river erosion in the Jhunagachh Chapani area. At that time, he further said, Our government's commitment is clear. We do not want even a single house, a single home, or even an inch of land belonging to any person to be washed away by the river.



Special Drive Conducted for Conservation of Fisheries Resources

Special correspondent

Under the direction of Honorable Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman a special drive was conducted in RajarKul Union of Ramu Upazila for the conservation of fisheries resources. The drive was led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Mr. Swarup Mohuri, with overall support from Upazila Fisheries Officer Md. Sultan Mahmud. During the operation, chorghera jal (encircling nets) and illegal current nets were seized and publicly burned and destroyed.

Such drives will continue regularly to prevent illegal fishing and to protect and conserve the breeding of native fish species.



Nature-based solutions key to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities: Tuku

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku on Monday said nature-based solutions are among the most effective and sustainable ways to protect the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities, ensure food security, and strengthen climate resilience.

"Forests, wetlands, coastal vegetation, and integrated agro-forestry systems not only help conserve the environment but also increase the availability of livestock feed, improve animal health, and reinforce the integrated 'One Health' concept, which links human, animal, and environmental health," he said. He made the remarks while addressing the national technical workshop titled Prioritizing Nature-Based Interventions for Resilient Coastal Bangladesh, organised by Friendship and Conservation International at a hotel in the capital.

Tuku said that although Bangladesh has earned global recognition for addressing the impacts of climate change, the country's coastal region remains one

◆ see page 7



Primary school teachers welcomed newly appointed Primary Education Officer Rozina Rahman with flowers upon her joining in Mirsarai Upazila.

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai correspondent, Chattogram

With the aim of increasing agricultural production, improving irrigation systems, and preventing waterlogging, a significant canal was cleaned and renovated through voluntary labor under the initiative of Mirsarai Upazila Krishak Dal, following the directives of Nurul Amin, MP of Chattogram-1 (Mirsarai).

On Saturday the program was held in a major agricultural area of 2 No. Hinguli Union in the upazila. Ashraf Uddin, President of Mirsarai Upazila Krishak Dal, and General Secretary Saiful Islam Faruk, directly participated and led the canal cleaning activities.

They were joined by Shahadat Hossain Mishu Bhuiyan, Organizing Secretary of 2 No. Hinguli Union Krishak Dal, along with a large number of leaders and activists of Krishak Dal from both

◆ see page 7

Human Chain in Front of BIRDEM Hospital Demanding Job Reinstatement

Special Correspondent

A group of dismissed employees staged a human chain in front of BIRDEM Hospital in the capital, demanding the reinstatement of their jobs. Participants in the human chain alleged that they were terminated from their jobs for various reasons. They claimed that they were dismissed without following proper procedures, which has left them and their families in financial and social crisis. The protesters also alleged irregularities and nepotism in the hospital's recruitment process. They called for a neutral investigation into these allegations, the reinstatement of the dismissed employees, and the establishment of a transparent and accountable recruitment system in the future. Speakers at the human chain said that after serving for a long time, many have now fallen into livelihood insecurity after losing their jobs. They drew the attention of the concerned authorities and demanded a prompt investigation and a fair resolution of the matter.

However, no immediate statement was available from the BIRDEM Hospital authorities regarding the allegations raised at the human chain. The authorities' statement will be added to the report once it is received.



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



Three illegally tied nets were seized and burned in a joint operation on Sunday in Baleshwar River in Jiyannagar, Pirojpur.

Three illegal fishing nets seized in joint operation in Baleshwar River, Jiyannagar

Pirojpur Correspondent

The Upazila Fisheries Department and Parerhat Naval Police Outpost have conducted a joint operation against illegal fishing nets in the Baleshwar River in Zianagar, Pirojpur. Three illegal nets were seized in the operation. The operation was conducted on Sunday (August 2) at 12 noon in the Baleshwar River in the Lahri area of the upazila. The Upazila Fisheries Officer and the accompanying police members led by ASI Arif of the Paderhat Naval Police Outpost participated in the operation.

After the operation, the three illegally set nets seized were brought to the premises of the Zianagar Upazila Parishad and burned to death. The officials concerned said that the illegally set nets seriously harm the natural flow of the river and the reproduction of fish. The biodiversity of the river is threatened due to the indiscriminate killing of small fish and fry due to these nets.

Upazila Fisheries Officer Fahad Rahman said such operations will be conducted regularly to conserve fisheries resources and implement the law. He also warned that strict legal action will be taken against those who use illegal nets or fish in prohibited ways. Local activists welcomed such campaigns and demanded that the administration continue its consistent efforts to protect rivers and fisheries.



BGB Seizes 63.5 kg of Indian Cannabis in Feni Border Drive

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized 63.5 kilograms of Indian cannabis from the Chhagalnaiya border area in Feni. The information was confirmed through a press release issued by the Feni Battalion (4 BGB) on Monday afternoon (August 3). According to BGB sources, a special patrol team conducted a drive in the border area of Chhagalnaiya upazila based on secret information. During the drive, the BGB team recovered the large consignment of drugs abandoned by smugglers who were attempting to bring it across the border. However, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the smugglers managed to flee the scene. Process is underway to hand over the seized Indian cannabis to the local police station for further legal action.

Regarding the operation, Commanding Officer of Feni Battalion (4 BGB), Lieutenant Colonel MM Zillur Rahman, stated that the BGB has adopted a zero-tolerance policy to prevent drug smuggling along the borders. He said, "BGB's maximum vigilance and intelligence activities are ongoing to prevent illegal border crossing, ensure security, bring border killings down to zero, and stop all forms of smuggling. Such anti-narcotics drives will be intensified further in the future."



Three Killed in Separate Road Accidents in Faridpur

Staff Reporter Biplob Kumar Das

Three people, including a woman, were killed in three separate road accidents in Faridpur Sadar and Madhukhali Upazilas.

On Monday, on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway in Kanaipur, three passengers on a motorcycle fell onto the road after being hit by an easy-bike. At that time, one of them was hit by a speeding bus and died. The other two passengers were injured. The injured were rescued and sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital. The deceased has been identified as Suad, son of Md. Mizanur Rahman from Hat Gobindapur in the same upazila.

Earlier, in front of the main gate of Faridpur Medical Institute, an elderly man named Anwar Hossain (60) was critically injured after being hit by a battery-powered auto rickshaw. He was admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and died around noon. He was the son of the late Jobbar Mia from Chanra village, Kamarggram Post Office, Alfadanga Upazila Faridpur District.

Meanwhile, in Madhukhali Upazila of Faridpur an elderly woman named Mocha. Amena Begum (70) was killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway. She was the wife of the late Elahi Sheikh from Mashkandi village in the upazila. The accident occurred on Monday afternoon in the Majhkandi area of the upazila. While crossing the road, Amena Begum was hit by a motorcycle and thrown onto the road, dying on the spot.

Md.Zahir Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Karimpur Highway Police Station said that upon receiving news of the accident, police went to the scene, prepared a surat-hal report of the body, and handed it over to the family.

Government is working

also announced plans to introduce special discounts for expatriate Bangladeshis in hotels and motels of the Bangladesh Tourism Corporation in recognition of their contribution. He said that the target has been set to ensure a 6 to 7 percent contribution from the tourism sector to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). To implement this target, initiatives have been taken to implement the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) nationwide to eliminate the information gap in the tourism sector. He sought the active cooperation of all stakeholders, including TOAB, in this work.

The event was attended by Secretary and Executive Chairman of the National Skill Development Authority Dr. Nazneen Kausar Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Tourism Corporation Md. Shamimuzzaman, Ambassador of the Philippines to Bangladesh Nina P. Kinglet, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Dharmapala Werakkodi, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam Haji Haris bin Haji Osman, representatives of the Nepal and Pakistan embassies, TOAB leaders, media personnel and prominent figures from the tourism sector.

PM to visit three flood-hit

and hand over 100 government-supported newly reconstructed houses to affected families.

Chattogram South BNP Convener Idris Mia told BSS that the party had already begun preparations to welcome the Prime Minister, although the final programme was yet to be announced.

"We have not yet received the final programme for the visit. We have been asked to attend a meeting at PM's Gulshan office today. However, we have already completed our organisational preparations to welcome the Prime Minister," he said. Chattogram Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md. Shorif Uddin said the district administration was also making necessary preparations for the Prime Minister's visit.

"We are preparing for the visit. Once the official itinerary is finalised, we will complete the remaining arrangements accordingly," he added.

Measles treatment costs

measles surge. A total of 2,746 affected households were assessed against agreed vulnerability criteria, from which 2,400 households were selected to receive assistance. Findings show that affected families spent on average 16,000 on treatment and related expenses. Many caregivers also reported losing income or even their jobs, after staying in hospitals for extended periods to care for sick children or family members.

Hazera Khatun travelled to Dhaka from Rangpur with her 11-month-old daughter, who is receiving treatment at Shahid Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. The family has already spent more than BDT 70,000.

"Treatment at the government hospital is free, but many other costs are not covered," she said. "We spent nearly BDT 20,000 just to reach Dhaka by ambulance. Every day we buy food, pay for medical tests, and cover other daily expenses. I have already borrowed money from my relatives. My husband work is working in Saudi Arabia, but he has not received his salary this month, making it even harder for us."

Among families that reported their occupation, 78 per cent relied on informal employment, earning between BDT 6,000 and BDT 20,000 per month, leaving them particularly vulner-

able to income loss during prolonged illness.

Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam ndc, Secretary General of the BDRCS said, "The assessment shows that many families are facing not only a health emergency but also a severe financial strain. Through our emergency response, we are supporting the most vulnerable families with cash assistance while continuing community awareness activities."

Alberto Bocanegra, Head of Delegation of IFRC in Bangladesh, said the effects of this measles health emergency do not end at the hospital door, as families often face difficult financial limitations while caring for sick children and or other family members, and these findings demonstrate why humanitarian assistance and strong social protection systems are both essential during public health emergencies. SouthAsians & Diaspora

"It is essential for us to base our actions on data evidence," Alberto Bocanegra said.

With support from the IFRC and partners, BDRCS supported the Government of Bangladesh's nationwide measles vaccination campaign.

The organisation also mobilised over 1,000 Red Crescent volunteers to conduct community awareness activities, support vaccination centres, risk communication and social activities to encourage vaccination and early healthcare seeking.

Anne seeks continued

development partner could play a more effective role in fostering sustainable economic growth, enhancing disaster resilience, expanding regional cooperation and improving people's quality of life.

He also called upon the ADB to enhance its support in formulating and implementing transformative programmes in the areas of water management, agriculture, environment, natural resources and rural development.

State Minister Farhad Hossain Azad described the ADB as one of Bangladesh's trusted development partners. He sought greater cooperation from the lender in sharing expertise on water management, providing educational and technical assistance, strengthening professional capacity through training and supporting research initiatives.

ADB Country Director Zhang said Bangladesh hosts one of the institution's largest country portfolios. He noted that the bank is working to further strengthen its partnership with Bangladesh and formulate a new Country Partnership Strategy.

He also expressed the ADB's interest in supporting sustainable water resources management, riverbank protection and river erosion prevention in Bangladesh.

Water Resources Secretary Dr AKM Shahabuddin, Additional Secretary Khondkar Azim Uddin and Additional Secretary Md. Enamul Haque, among others, attended the meeting.

DC Launches 'Clean

and non-government offices, educational institutions, railway stations, hospitals, and various public gathering places. As part of the initiative, efforts are currently underway to clear accumulated waste, trim overgrown bushes, and remove weeds to ensure a spotlessly clean environment in every locality. The innovative and laudable initiative saw remarkable public participation. Officials and employees from various government departments, local administration, voluntary organizations, students, and local residents spontaneously joined the drive, equipped with brooms and spades.

Speaking on the initiative, Deputy Commissioner Ms. Monira



Australia commits AUD 25.25m for Rohingyas, host communities

Staff Correspondent

Australia has committed AUD 25.25 million in multi-year humanitarian assistance to support Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh, providing a critical funding boost as global humanitarian resources come under increasing strain.

The funding announced today by the Australia government and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), will support life-saving assistance and protection for Rohingyas in Bangladesh under Australia's 2026-2028 humanitarian programme, said a UNHCR press release here.

The announcement was made in the presence of Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman and Australia's Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs and Assistant Minister for International Education Julian Hill in Dhaka today.

According to a joint statement, the flexible multi-year funding will enable UNHCR and its partners to continue essential services across the Rohingya camps, including protection activities, skills development programmes and disaster risk reduction initiatives for Rohingyas living in fragile and disaster-prone areas.

"Australia continues to respond to the most significant humanitarian crises in our region, making our region safer, more stable and resilient," Assistant Minister Hill said. He reaffirmed Australia's commitment to supporting the humanitarian needs of Rohingyas in both Myanmar and Bangladesh, stressing that conditions inside Myanmar must allow for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced Rohingyas by addressing the root causes of the crisis.

UNHCR Representative ad interim in Bangladesh Juliette Murekeyisoni warned that nearly nine years after the mass displace-

ment of Rohingyas, the crisis risks fading from international attention as new global emergencies emerge.

"Australia's continued support sends a strong message that the Rohingya people have not been forgotten," she said, adding that Rohingyas continue to express their desire to return home with their rights, dignity and citizenship restored.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle said the latest contribution would help provide critical services to the most vulnerable Rohingyas, particularly women, girls and persons with disabilities. According to the statement, around 1.2 million Rohingyas remain in Bangladesh, most of them living in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar after fleeing violence in Myanmar in 2017. It noted that persistent funding shortages have increased humanitarian vulnerabilities and contributed to dangerous coping strategies, including irregular sea journeys. Nearly 900 Rohingyas reportedly died or went missing in 2025 while attempting perilous crossings in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The statement said funding shortfalls have disproportionately affected women, girls, older persons and people with disabilities, while an estimated 150,000 new arrivals have entered the camps since 2024, many of whom still lack adequate shelter and access to essential services.

It stressed that, alongside meeting immediate humanitarian needs, expanding access to education and skills development remains vital to strengthening Rohingyas resilience until durable solutions become possible. The statement reiterated that sustained international solidarity would remain essential to ensure Rohingyas continue to receive protection, humanitarian assistance and opportunities while awaiting a lasting solution to the crisis.

If Hasina had not fallen in July uprising, many would have been hanged: Rizvi

Staff Correspondent

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Monday said that if Sheikh Hasina had not fallen in the July Uprising, countless students would have face severe consequences. Many of us could have been hanged".

"Throughout the movement, BNP Chairman and current Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave me directives every day. I virtually shared those directives with journalists," he said.

The veteran BNP leader made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion and documentary screening titled 'Nurses' Contribution in the Bloody July' at the Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) premises this afternoon.

The Nurses Association of Bangladesh (NAB) organized the event with NAB's President, BMU branch Sharmin Akhter in the chair. Rizvi said that many are now making various statements about the credit for the July uprising. "Yet, on July 22, Sheikh Hasina herself said in a press conference that the ongoing movement was being instigated by BNP. Similarly, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Qader also said that the movement was being planned from London," he said.

He further said, "Today, while credit is being claimed for the movement, language is being used against BNP that is not in line with political culture." In this context, he said, "If we had not participated in the anti-discrimination movement, how our 650 leaders and activists could have sacrificed their lives?" Describing the July movement as an outburst against 17 years of oppression and persecution, Rizvi said, "This was not a one-day movement. This movement for establishing civil liberties shares similarities with the spirit of the French Revolution." He also commented that the vulgar and indecent language culture introduced in politics by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now being repeated by leaders of a new party.

Haq stated that this is not merely a one-day ceremony. She emphasized that the activity will continue on a regular basis to build a healthy and beautiful Feni. She also urged citizens from all walks of life to play a responsible role in keeping the city clean.

Mirsarai Upazila Krishak

upazila and union levels.

For a long time, the canal had been filled with silt, weeds, and garbage, which disrupted water flow. As a result, irrigation in the surrounding farmland was being hindered, and there was a risk of waterlogging during the monsoon season. To alleviate the suffering of farmers and keep agricultural production active, the decision was made to clean and renovate the canal through voluntary labor.

Leaders present at the program said, Agriculture is one of the main foundations of Bangladesh's economy. To reduce farmers' production costs, make irrigation easier, and increase crop yields, it is essential to keep canals, drains, and reservoirs functional. With that goal in mind, Krishak Dal has implemented this public welfare initiative.

They further said, Alongside political programs, such social and development activities for the welfare of the common people will continue in the future. We urge everyone to work together to protect farmers' interests, maintain environmental balance, and build a sustainable agricultural system.

Upon hearing about the canal cleaning program, leaders of Hinguli Union BNP rushed to the site to encourage the activists. They praised the initiative, saying, Such activities for agriculture and public welfare will serve as a positive example for society.

Local farmers and residents also welcomed the initiative. They said that with the long-neglected canal now cleaned, water flow will return to normal, irrigation facilities for farmland will increase, and the risk of waterlogging during the monsoon will be greatly reduced.

The canal cleaning and renovation work was successfully completed through the spontaneous participation and collective efforts of Krishak Dal leaders and activists.

Nature-based solutions

of the most vulnerable areas in the world. Cyclones, storm surges, rising sea levels, increasing salinity, and coastal erosion continue to threaten the environment, the economy, food systems, and the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, he added.

He said the fisheries and livestock sectors make significant contributions to the national economy while serving as the primary source of livelihood for millions of people in rural areas. However, both sectors are among the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, he added.

He said the government is committed to strengthening climate resilience through sustainable natural resource management, ecosystem restoration, and evidence-based development planning. The national initiative to plant 25 crore trees over the next five years will play an important role in restoring ecosystems and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities, he added.

Friendship Founder Runa Khan delivered the welcome address at the event.

Former Secretary Dr Md Faridul Islam, Director General of the Department of Livestock Services Md Shahjahan Khan, and Conservation International South Asia Managing Director Saurabh Malhotra attended the programme as special guests.



BD seeks expanded legal migration pathways with IOM support

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Monday (3 August) called for stronger cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to expand regular migration pathways, strengthen migrant protection and align Bangladesh's workforce with evolving global labour market demands. She made the call when IOM Deputy Director General for Operations Ugochi Daniels paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry here, according to a foreign ministry press release.

Daniels was accompanied by IOM Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Iori Kato and Special Adviser Priya Marwah, while senior foreign ministry officials also attended the meeting. The state minister appreciated IOM's longstanding partnership with Bangladesh in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration as well as supporting the country's development and humanitarian priorities.

Reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment as a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Champion Country, she expressed hope that the GCM National Action Plan would provide a coordinated and action-oriented framework for implementing the Compact's objectives.

Shama stressed the need for enhanced cooperation to expand legal migration opportunities, prevent irregular migration, promote ethical recruitment and improve the skills of prospective migrant workers in line with changing international labour market requirements. She also sought IOM's support in matching Bangladesh's skilled workforce with global demand by promoting talent mobility and facilitating talent partnerships with destination countries, particularly in the healthcare, caregiving and agriculture sectors. Highlighting the importance of safeguarding migrant workers' rights and welfare, especially those of women, the state minister called for greater awareness initiatives and strengthened support services.

She thanked IOM for assisting in the evacuation and repatriation of stranded Bangladeshi nationals from crisis-affected countries and sought continued cooperation on safe return, sustainable reintegration, climate-related mobility and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The state minister also appreciated IOM's humanitarian assistance for the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and urged the international community to create conditions conducive to their safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar.

Daniels praised Bangladesh's initiatives to establish sustainable migration governance and commended the country's leadership in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration at the global level.



Israel expresses serious concerns over Hamas disarmament deal

International Desk

Israel has shared “serious security concerns” with the White House regarding the proposed disarmament deal with Hamas, an Israeli official said as Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday evening killed at least 17 people, including children, in Gaza.

The remarks by Doron Spielman, spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office, were some of the first public comments since U.S. President Donald Trump announced the agreement.

Spielman told The Associated Press that Israel’s intelligence assessment is that Hamas remains committed to rebuilding its military rather than genuinely demilitarizing. He said the Israeli military would not withdraw from Gaza — where it controls more than 60% of the territory — before Hamas disarms.

“Our assessment is that if we redeploy before Hamas is truly disarmed, it will quickly expand its presence throughout Gaza, rebuild its terrorist infrastructure, once again threaten Israeli communities, and seek to carry out another Oct. 7-style attack,” he said, referring to the Hamas militant attack on Israel in 2023 that triggered the war in the Gaza Strip.

“Disarming means physically giving up the weapons. Nothing less,” Spielman said.

His comments come days after Hamas said that it would begin disarming as part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire signed nine months ago to end the nearly three-year-long conflict. It marks a potential breakthrough in ending the conflict, but many hurdles, conditions and long timelines remain.

Hamas says it’s agreed to disarm but the process has obstacles Trump’s 20-point ceasefire plan calls on the militant group to surrender its weapons and destroy its vast network of tunnels. It also envisions Israeli forces withdrawing from Gaza, the arrival of a new technocratic Palestinian government, deployment of an international security force and the rebuilding of the battered Palestinian enclave.

Hamas disarming has been a sticking point and has deadlocked negotiations for months. In announcing the deal on social media on Thursday, Trump said it would be carried out in “carefully structured phases.”

A copy of the agreement obtained and verified by the AP said that all weapons held by the Hamas-run police will be transferred to the U.S.-backed Palestinian technocratic committee, known as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, upon its arrival in the enclave. It’s not clear when that would happen since it is contingent on other steps.

A process to decommission and store heavy weapons and to dismantle military production sites and tunnels will begin after the arrival of the Palestinian committee and the deployment of international forces. The process will be linked to a phased Israeli withdrawal, according to the agreement.

The areas Israel controls in Gaza have been mostly destroyed and depopulated. Most of the territory’s 2 million Palestinians are in the other part, where hundreds of thousands live in

squalid tent camps and destroyed neighborhoods.

Israel appears unlikely to pull back significant forces or make other concessions ahead of its October elections. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces a tough reelection battle, with his far-right coalition partners urging him to keep up the pressure on Hamas and leave forces in Gaza, and opponents accusing him of failing to prevent the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Hamas-led militants attacked Israeli communities then, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 others hostage. Israel responded with a punishing military offensive that has killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The ministry, which was part of the recently dissolved Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and international organizations. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all fatalities.

Israel warns that Hamas is rearming

While Spielman said Israel greatly appreciates Trump’s commitment to its security and to finding a durable resolution, the government’s position on disarmament is based on detailed intelligence saying that Hamas continues to rearm, recruit fighters, and rebuild its military capabilities.

The White House did not provide additional comments on Sunday, when asked specifically about Israel’s assessment that Hamas remains committed to rebuilding its military.

U.S. officials, who briefed reporters on the disarmament agreement last week, said that Israel had been consulted at every step of the negotiations and was not being asked to do anything more than what it had committed to as part of the ceasefire and hostage release agreement signed last October.

It’s unclear what exactly Israel conveyed to the White House. Two people with knowledge of the deal told the AP that Israel had communicated its issues with it to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who’s part of the Trump-led Board of Peace. One of them said that among the points Israel wanted was freedom to conduct military operations in Gaza. They spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

According to another person familiar with the deal, the Israelis raised two other issues: that Qatar and Turkey not be involved in verifying the stages of the agreement, and that Hamas’ weapons be destroyed after confiscation. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Israel continues to strike Gaza

Since the ceasefire was signed last October, Israel has continued striking Gaza, saying it’s targeting Hamas and its infrastructure.

Local Gaza hospitals said at least 17 were killed in the latest Israeli strikes, including children. A strike on a residential apartment in southern Gaza killed three family members, including their 4-year-old child, according to Nasser hospital, where the bodies arrived.

The Israeli military said the strikes had targeted militant operatives.

Ukraine says drone attacks hit Russian warehouse as cross-border strikes kill several

International Desk

Ukrainian drone attacks killed at least five people in different parts of Russia and set fire to another warehouse belonging to Russia’s largest online retailer, Wildberries, Russian officials said on Sunday, as both countries continued exchanging long-range drone strikes.

Russian authorities said a Ukrainian drone hit a Wildberries warehouse in the Samara region, about 800 kilometres from the Ukrainian border, causing a fire. Regional Governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said there were no casualties.

Wildberries, often compared to Amazon in Russia, has come under repeated Ukrainian attacks in recent weeks. Since mid-July, Ukrainian drones have struck more than a dozen of the company’s warehouses as Kyiv seeks to disrupt Russia’s economy and logistics during the ongoing war.

Russia’s Defence Ministry said its air defence systems shot down 635 Ukrainian drones overnight, including some over Russian-occupied Crimea and the Black and Azov seas. The ministry did not say how many drones Ukraine had launched or how many reached their targets.

Ukraine’s air force, meanwhile, said Russia launched 133 drones overnight, with 24 reaching their intended targets.

In Russia’s Saratov region, Governor Roman Busargin said two people were killed after a Ukrainian drone hit a residential building. The attack also damaged civilian infrastructure in the cities of Engels and Saratov. Engels is home to a major Russian military airbase, while Saratov has one of the country’s large oil refineries. Both cities have been frequent targets of Ukrainian drone attacks.



5 dead, dozens missing in Indonesia ferry fire

International Desk

An Indonesian ferry carrying 271 people caught fire in waters off the main island of Java on Sunday, leaving at least five people dead and dozens missing as rescuers and passing vessels evacuated hundreds from the burning ship, officials said.

The Mutiara Sentosa 2 ferry was traveling from Indonesia’s second-largest city of Surabaya in East Java to the city of Makassar in South Sulawesi, with 232 passengers, 39 crew members and 181 vehicles, mostly trucks, and an excavator, when the fire broke out between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. in waters off Sumenep regency, according to Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency, or Basarnas.

The ferry operator, PT Atosim Lampung Pelayaran, reported the incident to the Surabaya search and rescue office about an hour later, Basarnas said in a statement. It said the company received information from the ferry’s captain that the vessel was on fire near the northern tip of Madura island, but contact was later lost.

By 9:45 a.m., authorities determined the ferry was about 19 nautical miles north of Buruan Sapudi island after communicating with the nearby cargo vessel Meratus Project 3, which was unable to approach the burning vessel closely because it was carrying a flammable load.

Footage released by the National Search and Rescue Agency showed thick black smoke billowing from one side of the ferry and spreading across much of the ship while videos circulating on social media and messaging groups showed terrified passengers, mostly wearing life jackets, could be seen clustered on the deck and upper sections of the vessel awaiting rescue, some jumping into the sea as orange flames and black smoke billowed from the burning vessel.

The ferry was reported to be nearly engulfed by flames, with passengers gathered on the bridge and bow. A tugboat and another passing vessel moved in and began evacuating passengers shortly before 10 a.m., the statement said.

Congo pregnant women die as Ebola fears keep them away from hospitals

International Desk

Esther Lutula stopped going for prenatal checkups shortly after the current Ebola outbreak was declared in eastern Congo. Midway into her pregnancy, the 26-year-old feared being put into isolation simply for having a fever, a common misconception.

“That’s why I’m waiting until the disease is no longer widespread,” she told The Associated Press from her home in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province and epicenter of the outbreak declared on May 15.

But that could be a deadly mistake.

Maternal mortality across Ituri soon doubled as news of the outbreak spread, with an average of about six women dying per week due to childbirth complication, according to Noemi Dalmonte, deputy country representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Congo.

While there was an average of 3.1 maternal deaths weekly this year before the outbreak, that jumped to 5.8 deaths from May 25 to July 19. Among those, the deaths outside health centers have also jumped from 9.1% to 17.4% within the same period, UNFPA data shows.

As Congo battles the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record, with more than 1,600 confirmed deaths, health and aid workers are warning of a shadow crisis as pregnant women avoid hospitals and the country’s already high maternal mortality rate climbs even more.

While it’s common for Africans to avoid health centers during public health emergencies because of safety concerns, “with Ebola, it is stronger because Ebola has a lot of rumors,” Dalmonte said in an interview.

With some wary residents questioning whether Ebola even exists, and health workers in one of Congo’s most remote and volatile regions struggling to respond to the outbreak with few supplies, pregnant women have less care than ever.

Congo is one of the world’s most dangerous places to give birth

Congo’s has among the world’s highest rates of both childbirths per woman and deaths around childbirth.

Women in the vast central African nation have almost six children on average. At least 19,000 women died from pregnancy complications in Congo in 2023, according to the latest U.N. data, tied with India and second only to Nigeria globally.

Now health workers in Ituri say they are seeing a decline in hospital visits as people worry about the risk of infection. This type of Ebola has no approved treatment or vaccine.

Women in need of care also fear being caught up in violence. Ebola treatment centers have been attacked by residents fueled by misinformation or anger over strict outbreak measures.

At the Bénédictine Clinic in Bunia, the number of women registered for prenatal care has dropped from 60 each month to around 10, said Dr. Sonny Mwembo, the medical director.

Even now, weeks into efforts to battle misinformation, some residents hold mistaken views of the outbreak.

“Right now, if you feel sick and go to the hospital, they say



health workers have walked off their jobs, protesting the lack of payment. At least 12 attacks have been recorded against health facilities and teams since the outbreak was declared in mid-May.

“We are doing everything we can to make the public understand how dangerous this disease is. We are working day and night without being paid,” said Dr. Ghislain Maneba, an epidemiologist and community investigator in Ituri’s Rwampara health zone.

All women are at higher risk in this outbreak

Ebola is rare but highly contagious and severe, often fatal. It spreads in the human population through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with contaminated surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing.

Women are usually the primary caregivers when a loved one becomes ill. Many are among frontline health workers in this outbreak as well.

Associated Press journalists covering the outbreak have seen pregnant health workers among the responders.

“It is very important that they know how to protect themselves, that they have the right information,” Dalmonte said.

Pregnant women with Ebola are at an increased risk of problems including miscarriage, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said in its clinical guidance.

Meanwhile, pregnant women who delay care and avoid health facilities “could die not from Ebola itself but because the care that would have saved them was no longer accessible, trusted or safe,” Dalmonte said.



Suicide blast at anti-militant rally in Pakistan kills 14

International Desk

A suicide bomber targeted protesters at an antimilitant rally in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, killing at least 14 people, mostly civilians and police officers, and wounding more than two dozen others, officials said.

The attack happened in Kabal, a town in Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where demonstrators had gathered near a police station, chanting anti-militant slogans and demanding peace, district police chief Omar Khan said.

According to witnesses, shortly before the attack, speakers at the rally said ensuring security and eliminating militancy were the state’s responsibility. They also accused authorities of failing to act decisively against militants, saying residents wanted to live without fear after years of violence that devastated the region.

Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial emergency service, said the attacker struck dozens of people who were chanting antimilitant slogans and demanding peace. Police official Omar Khan said at least nine civilians and five officers were among the dead.

Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the bombing, expressing deep sorrow over the loss of life. In separate statements they offered condolences to the families of those killed, prayed for the recovery of the wounded and directed authorities to ensure the wounded receive the best possible medical treatment. Zardari and Sharif also said Pakistan’s fight against terrorism would continue until it is eradicated.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the attack. In a statement, he extending condolences to the families of those killed and prayers for the speedy recovery of the wounded.

The Swat Valley was once a stronghold of Islamic militants who imposed a strict interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law, before the Pakistani military launched a major operation in 2007 that drove them out and restored government control.

However, militants have resurfaced in Pakistan’s Swat Valley in recent months, fueling fears that the Pakistani Taliban are seeking to regain a foothold in the region. In response, residents have repeatedly staged anti-Taliban rallies to protest the militants’ presence across the valley.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but suspicion is likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. The TTP is separate from, but allied with, Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers. Many of its leaders and fighters have found sanctuary in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power there in 2021. Pakistan has long accused Afghanistan’s Taliban government of harboring TTP militants, an allegation Kabul denies. Pakistan has experienced a surge in militant attacks in recent years, particularly targeting police and security forces.

On Friday, Pakistan’s military spokesman Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said that Pakistan has recorded 3,145 “terrorism incidents” since January. He said Pakistan had killed 2,084 militants since January, while 819 Pakistanis, including soldiers, police officers and civilians, had been killed.

Chaudhry also said Afghanistan-based militants had carried out 28 suicide attacks in Pakistan since January and alleged that most were carried out by Afghan nationals or people associated with Afghanistan’s security forces. He said the TTP and other militant groups were carrying out attacks inside Pakistan with the support of Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers and Pakistan would continue to target the TTP and its support infrastructure.



Family-based music competition ‘Best Pair in the Family’

Entertainment Desk

From left: Sujit Mustafa, Lutfur Hasan and Sajia Sultana Putul.

A new music reality show titled ‘Poribarer Shera Juti (Best Pair in the Family)’ is starting.

This reality show is a bit different from other shows. Here, you have to participate as a pair, and you have to be members of the same family.

Musicians Sujit Mustafa, Lutfur Hasan and Sajia Sultana Putul will be the judges of this unique competition. It is organised by musician Shan Sayek’s organisation Music Art Communications.

The registration process for the ‘Best Pair in the Family’ competition has already started. Registration can be done for Tk200, which will continue until September 15.

For the audition, two people will have to submit a video of performing a song together for a maximum of 2 minutes. 30 pairs will be selected through the evaluation of the judges. The 30 pairs selected in the studio round will perform in a professional studio.

The 10 pairs selected from that round will be selected for the final round. They will undergo a two-day workshop. There, they will be taught vocals, stage performance, and duet

presentation under the supervision of renowned artists of the country. The grand finale will be held in the presence of a live audience and judges.

The winning pair will receive Tk 2 lakh as a prize, while the first and second runners-up will receive Tk 1 lakh and 50 thousand respectively. In addition, a separate music video will be made with the first three pairs.

Lutfur Hasan, who is in charge of the judge, said, “In the best family couple competition, the father or mother with the daughter or son or brother with the sister, the husband with the wife, the uncle with the niece, the gist, any couple from the family will share the stage. I am being a judge in this innovative event. I hope it will be a good event.”

Sajia Sultana Putul said, “Any two members of the family will sing a song in pairs on this stage.

Sujit sir is my music teacher. It is an honor to be with him in this event. I have been walking with Lutfur Bhai for a long time.

It is a pleasure to have him with me. Overall, I am happy with this event. I am looking forward to hearing the tunes of family bonding.”

The organisers have announced that they will soon announce through a press conference when and on which TV channel this reality show will be broadcast.



Suri Noel drops father Tom Cruise’s name

Entertainment Desk

The 20-year-old star child Suri, the only daughter of Hollywood megastar Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, has officially dropped the last part of her world-famous father’s surname ‘Cruise’ from her name.

She has now legally changed her name from ‘Suri Cruise’ to ‘Suri Noel’. Suri changed her name while attending Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

She added her mother Katie Holmes’ middle name, ‘Noel,’ to her new name. However, the decision was not made suddenly; she was first seen using the name ‘Suri Noel’ at her high school graduation in June 2024.

Bangladesh has always given me immense love: Madhumita Sarcar



Entertainment Desk

Popular West Bengal actress Madhumita Sarcar is all set to make her Dhallywood debut with filmmaker MD Iqbal’s upcoming film “Gulshaner Chameli”. The actress expressed her excitement while attending the film’s mahurat ceremony, held at a five-star hotel in Dhaka on Saturday night.

Speaking at the event, Madhumita said she was deeply touched by the warm welcome she received in Bangladesh.

“I am overwhelmed by the love from everyone here. Standing in front of so many cameras, with so many talented people, I

am making my debut in Dhaka cinema. There could not have been a better debut than this. We have started this journey with great energy, and I hope the film turns out to be something special. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this project,” she said.

Sharing why she accepted the role, the actress revealed that the title initially sparked her curiosity.

“When I first heard the name Gulshaner Chameli, I wondered what kind of character I would be playing and whether it would be within my comfort zone. But after reading the script, I realised I had never portrayed such a role before. The story convinced me that this film would be the right way to begin my journey in Bangladesh.”

Asked whether she had done any research before visiting Bangladesh, Madhumita said her connection with the country goes back years.

“There was nothing to research. My relationship with Bangladesh is not new. The Instagram page dedicated to me was created by a fan from Bangladesh. I have always received immense love from people here. In many ways, I feel people in Bangladesh know me very well.”

The actress also shared her excitement about exploring Bangladeshi cuisine during her stay. She said she is eager to try kachchi biryani, hilsa pulao, chicken ghee roast, and, before returning home, the popular street snack fuchka.

Gulshaner Chameli officially began its journey through the mahurat ceremony. The film, based on the struggles of a sex worker, will feature Madhumita in the lead role. Director MD Iqbal said the project will bring together a number of well-known actors from both Bangladesh and India. The cast includes Omar Sunny, Amin Khan, Ashish Khandaker, Rozina, and Azmeri Haque Badhon in a pivotal role.

Madhumita arrived in Dhaka on Saturday morning accompanied by her husband, Debmalya Chakravarty, ahead of the launch ceremony.

Amin Khan returning to big screen

Entertainment Desk

Amin Khan is returning to big screen after more than six years. The star-studded film ‘Gulshaner Chameli’ is being directed by Mohammad Iqbal.

The names of the cast were announced at a mahurat ceremony held at a five-star hotel in the capital on Saturday. Madhumita Sarcar, Rozina, Azmeri Haque Badhon, Omar Sani, Misha Sawdagor, Ashish Khandaker, Mukit Zakaria and others will also be acting in the film.

Amin Khan has a three-decade career in movies. He made his debut in 1993 with Mohammad Hossain’s ‘Abujh Dati Mon’. After that, he acted in many popular films.

He became irregular since 2010. After 2018, he returned to the big screen last year with Sadek Siddiqui’s ‘Direct Action’. However, he shot this film in 2018-19.

Finally, he joined the new film again with ‘Gulshaner Chameli’. Regarding returning to cinema after a long time, Amin Khan said, “It feels great, I am working in a film after a long time.

I will say it was an opportunity. I took a lot of time off in between. I don’t know why, the batting and the ball didn’t match.

When director Iqbal proposed, I felt that the film could be done. Apart from that, many talented artists are working in this film. Everyone will try their best to give a beautiful film.”

‘Gulshaner Chameli’ is being made focusing on politics, abuse of power and the reality of the dark life of elite society. The story revolves around a sex worker, who is repeatedly subjected to the cruel game of power despite not committing any crime. Tollywood actress Madhumita Sarcar will play this role. Madhumita is making her debut in Dhallywood with this movie.



Earlier, she acted in a TV drama with Mosharraf Karim in 2016, but this is the first time she will act in a Dhaka film. Madhumita arrived in Dhaka from Kolkata on Saturday to participate in the Mahurat



Rashmika seriously injured during shooting

Entertainment Desk

India’s ‘National Crush’ actress Rashmika Mandanna has been seriously injured while shooting. On the advice of doctors, she has to take complete rest for six weeks.

According to NDTV, Rashmika is currently busy with two films, ‘Ranavali’ and ‘Maisa’. The actress sustained an injury while shooting for one of them. It is learnt that Rashmika has completely torn a muscle between her hip and waist due to the injury. Doctors are also a little surprised about this.

They claim that such injuries are usually faced by athletes because they regularly undergo rigorous physical training. Rashmika was also doing dance and action scenes for the story of the movie. In that, she had to face problems while performing difficult physical exercises.



Tom Holland confirms Marvel has plan to replace him in Spider-Man films

Entertainment Desk

Tom Holland may have only just returned to the big screen as Peter Parker in ‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’, which was released in theatres on July 31, but the actor is already thinking about the future of the iconic superhero and what his legacy will be once he eventually steps away from the role.

While fans are celebrating his return as Spider-Man, Holland has revealed that discussions are already underway about how his journey in the Marvel Cinematic Universe will eventually come to an end. He also acknowledged that, when the time comes, the mantle of Spider-Man will be passed on to another actor.



This actress enters adult platform at age of 85

Entertainment Desk

Donna Mills, the actress of the popular American television series ‘Knots Landing’ of the 80s, has come into the spotlight with a new decision. At the age of 85, she has opened an account on the adult platform ‘OnlyFans’.

However, the actress claims that this is not for any controversial content; rather, it is an initiative to maintain closer contact with long-time fans.

In a statement to Variety, Donna said, “I am grateful for the love and support I have received from fans over the years. Social media has helped me stay connected with them. But OnlyFans is a place where there is a more personal and direct connection.”

Kona busy with music tour in US, her new song released in country

Entertainment Desk

Singer Dilshad Nahar Kona is having a busy time in the United States on her musical tour. Her tour began on July 26 from Michigan, USA.

She will perform in 19 concerts in different cities in the USA during this tour that will last more than two months.

While Kona is busy with her concerts in the USA, her new song titled ‘Bhijjiye Diyo Na’ was released in the country. It is a song from the album ‘Badla Smriti’.

The song ‘Badla Smriti’ album is composed of six songs from rainy days. The songs are sung by Kona, Zhilik, Shan Sayek and Pintu Ghosh. All the songs are written and the music video is directed by Ahsan Imam.

The tune and music are arranged by Shan Sayek. Last Friday, the music video of the first song of the album, ‘Bhijjiye Diyo Na’, was released on the Music Art Station YouTube channel.

Lyricist and producer Ahsan Imam said, “The monsoon and nature of our country are like a painter’s canvas. That beauty has been tried to be highlighted in the ‘Badla Smriti’ album. I have tried to highlight the wonderful monsoon, Bangladesh, people’s emotions, pride, memories and nature through words, music and imagery.”

History Music composer Shan Sayek said, “We made the album with rain songs during this rainy season.

The lyrics of the six songs are very beautiful. We tried to make the melody and musical arrangement good. I hope everyone will like it.”

It is learnt that Kona performed in Los Angeles on August 2. After that, she is scheduled to perform in Oklahoma City (August 8), Dallas (August 14), Houston (August 21), Chicago (August 28), Boston (August 29), Orlando



(September 5), Los Angeles (September 6), Washington DC (September 12), Miami (September 19), Atlanta (September 20), Michigan (September 26) and New York (October 3).



World Cup star Vozinha finally lands in Chile to join Colo Colo

Sports Desk

Vozinha, the 40-year-old goalkeeper who made history with Cape Verde at the recently concluded World Cup, arrived in Chile on Sunday to join Colo Colo after a series of twists and turns that put his move in doubt. "I'm very happy to be here. And I want to thank the fans for the patience they've shown while waiting for me," the Cape Verde star told reporters in Chile. "See you at the Monumental Stadium." That is Colo Colo's home ground in Santiago. Colo Colo, Chile's most successful soccer club, announced the signing of Josimar Évora Dias, better known as Vozinha, on July 24. However, a series of setbacks — including documentation issues and personal matters — delayed his arrival on three separate occasions, causing concern both within and outside the club. At last, he arrived at Santiago's airport at 8:35 p.m. local time and was welcomed by a huge crowd of supporters who gathered at the terminal with flags, banners, drums, and chants. Vozinha became the oldest player to

appear in a national team's debut game at the World Cup and was widely celebrated for keeping eventual champion Span scoreless. Colo Colo supporters share one dream: that Vozinha will help the runaway leaders of the Chilean league win the championship and enhance its continental ambitions for next season. "I'm excited. And if Colo Colo wins the title, next year comes the Copa Libertadores, which makes everything even more exciting for all of Chile and South America," Marcos Antonio Barrera, a 32-year-old club supporter, told The Associated Press. The World Cup's breakout goalkeeper is scheduled to undergo medical examinations on Monday before officially signing his contract with Colo Colo. The initial deal will run for six months, with an option to extend it for another 12. Colo Colo said Vozinha is expected to join training on Tuesday. The club also plans to officially present its marquee signing for the remainder of the season that same day. The veteran goalkeeper will be allowed to wear the nickname that

brought him worldwide fame on his jersey after the Chilean Football Federation unanimously decided on Friday to amend its regulations and allow him to be identified as Vozinha — "grandma" in Portuguese. The change was necessary because, under Chilean league rules, players are required to use only their surnames on the back of their jerseys. Vozinha arrives in Chile after ending his spell with Chaves in Portugal's second division. He became one of the standout figures of the World Cup thanks to a string of spectacular saves against powerhouses Spain, Uruguay, and Lionel Messi's Argentina, which ultimately eliminated Cape Verde in the Round of 32. His performances brought him meteoric fame not only on the field. Before the World Cup, he had fewer than 50,000 followers on Instagram; he now has more than 29.5 million. "The Colo Colo family and all of Chile are eagerly waiting," fan Sebastián Paredes said. "Now he has to earn his place at Colo Colo through talent, dedication, hard work, commitment, and by winning over the fans. Hopefully, he'll be a great signing and help put Chile on the map."

Good start, says Taijul as Tigers begin training in Darwin

Sports Desk

Bangladesh began their preparations for the upcoming Test series against Australia, with veteran spinner Taijul Islam expressing satisfaction after the Tigers' first training session at the DXC Arena in Darwin on Monday. Following a team huddle and briefing on the outfield, the players eased into training with stretching exercises and sprint drills before moving into skill-specific work. Batters spent extended periods in the practice nets against the bowlers, while the rest of the squad rotated through fielding drills, running exercises and other fitness activities. Taijul said the team had travelled comfortably after benefiting from a transit break during the journey, allowing the players to arrive well-rested.



"The journey was good because we had a transit and got enough rest there. Alhamdulillah, everything went well," Taijul said in a video message. The experienced left-arm spinner was particularly pleased with the facilities in Darwin, saying they had allowed the team to complete a full range of training activities on the opening day. "Overall, the preparation has been good. The first day's practice was very good... the facilities here are excellent," he said. "From the wicket to the fielding area, and from fielding practice to running drills, we are able to do every kind of activity. Everything has been very good." Bangladesh are touring Australia for their first Test series there since 2003 and face a formidable challenge against a full-strength home side in the two-match

Leeds rally for 4-2 friendly win over Liverpool



Sports Desk

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored two of Leeds' four second-half goals as they rallied for a 4-2 friendly win over Liverpool on Sunday at Soldier Field in Chicago. The stunning comeback saw Liverpool handed their first defeat under new coach Andoni Iraola, who arrived this summer from Bournemouth to replace the sacked Arne Slot. Liverpool had notched a 4-2 win over Sunderland and a 1-0 victory against Wrexham at Yankee Stadium in the

first two matches of their US tour. They looked in control on Sunday with a pair of first-half goals before Leeds stormed back against their English Premier League rivals. US midfielder Brenden Aaronson launched the fightback in the 60th minute and Calvert-Lewin pulled Leeds level in the 71st, firing in at the back post after Joe Rodon flicked on a long Ethan Ampadu throw. Sean Longstaff's scuffling finish in the 73rd gave Leeds a 3-2 lead and Calvert-Lewin made it 4-2 with a near-replica of his first goal in the 85th, when Ampadu's throw was sent on by Sebastian Bornauw and he headed in. The victory was Leeds' second on their US tour, which opened with a 3-2 loss to Wrexham in Tampa, Florida before a 1-0 victory over Sunderland in New Jersey. Liverpool had opened the scoring in the seventh minute when Dominik Szoboszlai's corner was flicked on by Milos Kerkez and slammed home by Luke Chambers from six yards out. Florian Wirtz doubled the tally in the 40th minute, tucking in a cross from Jeremie Frimpong. Germany's Wirtz was one of a trio of World Cup players who returned to action for Liverpool on Sunday, along with Ryan Gravenberch of the Netherlands and Alexander Isak of Sweden.

Greaves steadies West Indies in second Test against Pakistan

Sports Desk

Justin Greaves made an unbeaten 64 to steer West Indies to 239-5 at stumps on a rain-shortened opening day of the second and final Test against Pakistan in Trinidad on Sunday. After a match-winning display with the ball in the first Test last week, Greaves displayed what has now become his trademark ease and composure at the crease in a battling knock at Queen's Park Oval. His only error of judgement came just after reaching the half-century mark when opposing captain Babar Azam put down a straightforward chance at leg-slip off spinner Sajid Khan. Greaves at that time was almost hobbling after a left leg injury sustained while completing a sharp run that necessitated lengthy treatment on the field. His sixth-wicket partnership with Roston Chase (36 not out) was worth 66 runs at the close of play and Greaves will be hoping for a return to his usual athletic mobility when he resumes the innings with his captain on the second morning. He had come to the crease in mid-afternoon at 91 for three as Kavem Hodge became Khan's first wicket. When Amir Jangoo fell to a leg-side catch to give debutant pacer Ubaid Shah his first Test wicket with the first ball of a new spell, Pakistan sensed the chance to break the back of the West Indies resistance. However Greaves and Shai Hope provided a measure of stability in a 53-run stand until seamer Mohammad Ali, the most impressive of the bowlers on the day, bowled Hope off the inside-edge for 29 to leave the innings in the balance at 173 for five. - Pakistan omit Abbas - Earlier, Pakistan's bewildering decision-making - on and off the field of play - highlighted a rain-affected morning session. Mohammad Abbas, the tourists' best bowler by some distance from the 90-run defeat in the first Test, was dropped despite a match haul of eight for 85, including five for 22 in the second innings. A second Pakistani debutant, Awais Zafar, got his chance due to the finger injury sustained by former cap-



tain Shan Masood while compiling a determined century in the first Test. Pakistan's think-tank seemed convinced of the wisdom of playing an additional slow bowler on a surface devoid of grass, drafting in Khan as an off-spinning option alongside left-arm orthodox bowler Ali Usman, who went wicketless on debut in the first Test. Khan's first notable act in the match was to take the catch at long-leg which sent Tagenarine Chanderpaul to the pavilion for 15 as he failed to control a hook shot off Mohammad Ali after a brisk opening stand of 49 with Brandon King. "We needed those partnerships at the end of the day and it was good to see those guys (Greaves, Hope and Chase) making those contributions," said King in summing up the day's effort. "It would be nice if we get more of the same from them tomorrow and Justin and Roston can go on to get hundreds." As easily as the runs flowed, especially off King's bat, in the early exchanges after Chase opted to bat first, both could have been dismissed earlier with more attacking tactics as they each benefited from edges at catchable height through the vacant third slip position. Mohammad Ali was even pleading with Babar for additional support in the slip cordon following the third of those fortunate escapes. King's luck ran out though following the 90-minute rain break as Usman snared him for his first Test wicket, leg-before for 46.

Injured Indian pacer Bumrah ruled out of Sri Lanka

Sports Desk

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka due to a knee injury, the country's cricket board said Monday. Aquib Nabi, the up-and-coming pace bowler from Jammu and Kashmir, replaces Bumrah in the 15-member team, which will play a warm-up game before their opening Test in Galle from August 15. The Board of Control for Cricket in India said Bumrah "has not yet fully recovered from the left knee injury sustained during the ODI series against England" last month. Nabi, who claimed 104 wickets across the last two domestic Ranji Trophy seasons, earns his maiden call-up to the senior national team. The 29-year-old Nabi was also part of the India A squad that toured Sri Lanka recently, in which he claimed six wickets in two first-class matches. The 32-year-old Bumrah has not bowled since the second ODI of the England series in Cardiff on July 16 due to an impact injury he suffered in the match. India, led by Shubman Gill, will play the second Test in Colombo on August 23-27. Updated India squad: Shubman Gill (capt), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sai Sudharsan*, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Aaquib Nabi.



Pegula leads Eala as storms push Washington Open finals to tuesday

Sports Desk

World number three Jessica Pegula and rising star Alexandra Eala must wait until tuesday to decide a Washington Open champion after thunderstorms postponed the completion of Sunday's WTA final. After waiting through a three-hour thunderstorm delay to start, Pegula won the first set 6-4 and Eala led 2-1 in the second set of the championship match when rain returned. More than five hours passed with conditions remaining unplayable before organizers called off the resumption of play until Monday. Also postponed was the entire men's final at the WTA and ATP 500-level hardcourt tournament, with 10th-ranked American Taylor Fritz set to face 19-year-old Spaniard Rafael Jodar. The women's final will resume Monday at noon local time (1600 GMT) with the men's final not before 1 p.m. in Washington. Pegula, who won her first WTA title in 2019 at Washington, seeks her 12th tour trophy and third of the year after Dubai and Charleston. The 32-year-old American top seed defeated Eala in a 2025 Miami semi-final in their only prior meeting. Philippines star Eala, cheered all week by a host of supporters, seeks her first WTA title in her second career final, having lost last year at Eastbourne. The 21-year-old left-hander is set to jump to a career-best 24th in the world rankings. Eala ousted former world number one Naomi Osaka, second seed Elina Svitolina and defending champion Leylah Fernandez to reach the final.



Pegula broke Eala in the fifth game, blasting a forehand service return winner, only for Eala to break back at love to 3-3 on a blistering backhand service return winner. Pegula saved two break points in holding to 4-4, broke again when Eala sent a forehand long in the ninth game and held at love to capture the first set in 40 minutes when Eala hit a backhand beyond the baseline. Players were on serve and in a changeover when the rain returned. In 53 minutes before the stoppage, Pegula hit 14 winners to only four by Eala while both had 20 unforced errors. In the men's final, Fritz seeks an 11th career ATP title and his first since last year at Eastbourne. Jodar, assured of reaching a career-high 15th in next week's rankings, seeks his second ATP crown after winning at Morocco in April.



Two more die with measles symptoms in Sylhet; division's toll reaches 116



Sylhet Correspondent

Two more children have died with measles symptoms in Sylhet Division in the 24 hours until this morning, raising the total confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 116, the Divisional Health Department said on Monday. The two six-month-old children, Rezwan Ahmed and Ibrahim,

died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. One was from Jagannathpur upazila and the other from Sunamganj Sadar upazila in Sunamganj district. Meanwhile, 93 new patients with measles symptoms or suspected measles were admitted to hospitals across the division during the same period. Of them, 45 were admitted to Shaheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital, 37 to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, seven to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, two to Ragib-Rabeya Medical College Hospital and two to North East Medical College Hospital. Currently, 254 patients with suspected measles are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in the division. According to the latest report of the Divisional Health Department, 116 people have died from confirmed or suspected measles so far this year. Of them, six were confirmed measles cases, while 110 died with suspected measles. Since January 1, a total of 706 confirmed measles cases have been recorded in Sylhet Division



Memorial arch marking July uprising anniversary set on fire in Gopalganj

Gopalganj Correspondent

A memorial arch built by BNP's associate wings in Tungipara of Gopalganj to mark the 2nd anniversary of the July uprising was allegedly set on fire on Saturday night, hours after its construction. The "36 July Mass Uprising Arch" was built by Tungipara municipality units of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatiyatabadi Swachchhasab Dal on the southern side of Gate No. 1 of the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mausoleum on Saturday afternoon. The two organisations also announced various programmes on the occasion. Locals said unidentified miscreants set fire to the arch after evening. The lower part of the structure was partially damaged by the fire. Officer-in-Charge of Tungipara Police Station Ayub Ali said police visited the spot after receiving information about the incident. "An investigation is underway to identify those responsible. Further action will be taken following instructions from the higher authorities," he said.

Teenager electrocuted in Narail

Narail Correspondent

A teenage boy died after being electrocuted in Benda village under Kalia upazila of the district this morning. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Tanvir, 15, an eighth-grade student and son of Azgar Ali of Benda village. According to family members and local sources, Tanvir used to help his father at his tea stall during his free time alongside his studies. Around 8.00 am, he was preparing tea using an electric kettle to heat water at the shop when he accidentally came into contact with the appliance and suffered an electric shock. Family members rushed him to the Kalia Upazila Health Complex in critical condition where the attending physician declared him dead. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kalia Police Station Idris Ali confirmed the matter and said the body was handed over to the victim's family after completion of the necessary legal formalities.

Explosion injures three in Barishal

Barishal Correspondent

Three people, including a woman and a child, sustained severe burn injuries in an explosion in Bakerganj upazila of the district early this morning. The incident occurred around 6.00 am in Dudhalmou village under Bhorpasha union. The injured were identified as Hanufa Begum, 50, wife of Shah Alam Hawlader; their daughter, Iiti, 22, and grandson, Fahim, 14. They were initially taken to Bakerganj Upazila Health Complex and later referred to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal. A powerful explosion occurred beside Shah Alam Hawlader's house, triggering panic among residents. The blast reportedly originated from a sand-filled sack kept near the house. Family members said the three victims suffered burn injuries and jumped into the nearby Tulatala River in an attempt to save themselves. Local residents later rescued and rushed them to hospital. Shah Alam's son, Jamal, said the explosion took place inside a sack of sand kept beside the house. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bakerganj Police Station Adil Hossain said an investigation has been launched to determine the source and cause of the explosion. "The incident is being investigated with utmost importance. It will be possible to determine the type of explosive used and identify those responsible after the investigation is completed," the OC said, adding that it is still unclear who left the suspected explosive at the site and for what purpose." Legal action will be taken based on the findings, while law enforcement agencies continue their efforts to identify those involved, he said. Barishal Superintendent of Police AZM Mostafizur Rahman said a Bomb Disposal Unit from Dhaka is on its way to Barishal. The specialist team will examine the scene to determine the type of explosive involved and how the explosion occurred.

No Evidence of Illegal Sand Extraction Found at Sari-3 Sand Mahal in Jaintapur : On-site Inspection by Upazila Administration.



Naem Ahmad, Jaintapur (Sylhet)

No evidence of illegal sand extraction was found at Sari-3 Sand Mahal in Jaintapur Upazila, Sylhet. This information came out during an on-site inspection conducted by the Upazila Administration in the presence of police and BGB members. The administration stated that no proof of sand extraction from Sari-3 Sand Mahal was found. However, sand-laden boats carrying sand extracted from Borgang Sand Mahal are using the Sari river route to reach Sarighat. It was learned that allegations had been raised that the lessee of Borgang Sand Mahal was illegally extracting sand from Sari-3 Sand Mahal. In response, an on-site inspection was conducted on 01/08/26 under the initiative of the Upazila Administration. The inspection found no substantial evidence of sand extraction from Sari-3 Sand Mahal. Instead, it was observed that sand-carrying boats from Borgang River were only using the waterway to travel to Sarighat. The inspection team included the Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Jaintapur Upazila, Assistant Director (AD), members of 19 BGB, police from Jaintapur Model Police Station, the sand mahal lessee, journalists, and local residents. They visited various areas of both Sari-3 and Borgang Sand Mahals. During the on-site inspection, it was seen that no sand was being extracted from Sari-3 River Sand Mahal. On the other hand, the

lessees of Borgang Sand Mahal are conducting sand extraction operations only from their designated leased area. When some of the complainants were asked from which specific location in Sari-3 Sand Mahal sand was being extracted, they said that sand was not being extracted from Sari-3. However, sand-laden boats from Borgang Sand Mahal use this river route to go to Sarighat. The lessees of Borgang Sand Mahal said they have legally leased the sand mahal from the Sylhet District Commissioner's Office and are extracting and transporting sand only from the designated area. They claimed that the Sari-3 river route is the only means of communication to transport sand from Borgang Sand Mahal to Sarighat. They further stated that although there is a High Court injunction on sand extraction from Sari-3 Sand Mahal, there is no ban on the movement of boats through this waterway. According to the lessees, they have submitted written complaints to the District Commissioner and Upazila Administration regarding obstacles faced on the river route, and have requested written instructions regarding boat movement. They claimed that the administration had previously informed them in writing that there was no objection to boat movement on the river route. Additionally, the lessees alleged that a vested interest group is threatening them and demanding money, and providing false information to mislead the administration. They claimed that despite operating their business legally after obtaining a lease, they are being subjected to unwarranted harassment. Md. Monirul Islam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Jaintapur Upazila, said, No evidence of sand extraction from Sari-3 Sand Mahal, either openly or secretly, was found. However, if any such complaint is received in the future, the Upazila Administration will take immediate legal action. He further said, "Raids have been conducted earlier based on complaints. There is no government directive to obstruct boat movement on the waterway." At the same time, he urged journalists to publish truthful and objective news and to assist the administration by providing accurate information about illegal activities.



43pc Aman seedling planting completed in Rangpur region

Rangpur Correspondent

Aman rice seedling planting has already been completed on 43 percent of the target land in the Rangpur agricultural region, where farmers are continuing the process in full swing amid frequent rains. Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) said farmers have already transplanted Aman rice seedlings on 2,67,267 hectares of land, 43 percent of the targeted land area for cultivation of the crop, till date. Talking to BSS, Additional Director of the DAE for Rangpur region Md Shirajul Islam said that farmers are likely to achieve the set farming target of Aman rice this season as transplantation of seedling continues amidst favorable climatic conditions in the region. The DAE has fixed a target of producing 20,05,028 tonnes of clean Aman rice (30,07,542 tonnes in terms of paddy) from 6,21,550 hectares of land for all five districts of Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari in the region this season. The set target includes production of 16,70,070 tonnes of high yielding varieties of Aman rice from 5,24,520 hectares of land, 3,14,221 tonnes of hybrid varieties rice from 86,020 hectares and 20,737 tonnes of local varieties of Aman rice from 11,010 hectares. Earlier in the last season, farmers produced 20,00,614 tonnes of clean Aman rice and 18,88,538 tonnes of clean Aman rice from 6,16,299 hectares of land in the previous season in the region. Meanwhile, farmers have prepared seedbeds on 34,586 hectares of land, which is 13.77 percent more than the 30,401 hectares of land required for Aman rice cultivation on the tar-

get land of 6,21,550 hectares. The present government through the DAE distributed high-quality Aman rice seeds and fertilisers among the small and marginal farmers as incentives to assist them in cultivating the crop across the region. In addition, steps have been taken to prepare the seedbeds for late varieties of Aman rice in highlands and floating seedbeds in low-lying areas so that there was no shortage of seedlings due to floods in August. "We have directed the field-level agricultural officers to provide all necessary support and latest technology to farmers to ensure successful cultivation of Aman rice in the region during the current season," Md Shirajul Islam mentioned. While visiting a vast area in Rangpur, this BSS reporter found farmers were transplanting Aman rice seedlings in full swing and preparing their croplands for the purpose in a festive mood amid favorable climatic conditions. Talking to BSS, farmers of different villages in Sadar, Gangachara, Taraganj, Mithapukur and Pirgachha upazilas of Rangpur said that transplantation of Aman rice seedling has now got momentum following frequent seasonal rainfall in recent weeks. "We are expecting to achieve the fixed farming target of Aman rice this season," said farmer Mofizar Rahman of village Dolapara under Taraganj upazila of Rangpur. Farmers Borhan Uddin, Mahbubar Rahman, Solaiman Ali, Karim Uddin and Golam Hafiz of different villages of Rangpur said that they already completed transplantation of Aman seedlings on their lands. "The tender Aman rice plants are growing superbly in crop fields following frequent rain-falls," said farmer Anwar Hossain of village Mohipur in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur.



Indian cosmetics, medicines worth over Tk 30 lakh seized in Sylhet

Golapganj Correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a joint drive with the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) seized a consignment of Indian cosmetics and medicines along with an abandoned mini covered van worth over Tk 30.32 lakh in Sylhet's Golapganj upazila today. On information, a special patrol team of BGB's Biyanibazar Battalion (52 BGB), led by Naik Md Alamgir Hossain, jointly conducted the operation with a patrol team of RAB-9, Sylhet, led by Sub-Inspector Md Ibrahim, said a press release issued by the paramilitary force tonight. The joint team carried out the drive at around 2:35 pm on the paved road on the northern side of the Sreerampur Bypass in Golapganj upazila. During the operation, the patrol team spotted a suspicious mini covered van and signalled it to stop. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene, the release said. A subsequent search of the vehicle led to the seizure of 1,536 pieces of Indian Ponds Face Wash and 6,250 pieces of Clop-G Cream, which were being transported illegally. The seized items included Indian cosmetics worth Tk 844,800 and medicines worth Tk 937,500. The estimated value of the seized mini covered van is Tk 1,250,000. The total seizure value stands at Tk 3,032,300, the release added.

RCC administrator inspects drain cleaning activities

Rajshahi Correspondent

To prevent waterlogging during the monsoon season and keep the city's drainage system functional, Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) is continuing the removal of mud and garbage from drains. RCC Administrator Mahfuzur Rahman Riton this morning inspected the drain cleaning activities in front of Nagar Bhaban. During the inspection, he instructed officers and employees at all levels of the RCC Conservancy Department to take effective measures to prevent waterlogging



and improve civic services. He also urged residents not to dump waste and garbage indiscriminately into drains. Local residents welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude to the RCC administrator. RCC conservancy workers are engaged in removing mud, waste, and garbage from the city's drains. RCC Conservancy Officer Jubayer Hossain Moon and supervisors were present during the inspection.