



People's desire for change made July Movement successful: PM

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday said the July-August Movement became successful because the people wanted change, asserting that its success belonged to the country's people rather than any individual or political party. "The movement that took place in Bangladesh during July and August was entirely a people's movement. The July

Movement succeeded because the people wanted change. The movement succeeded only when the people became fully involved in it," he said. The Prime Minister was addressing a discussion titled "Seventeen Years of Relentless Struggle for Democracy and the Bloodstained July Awakening", organized by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KITB) in the capital this afternoon. Tarique Rahman, also

Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said people from all walks of life made the movement successful through their active participation. He said, "We have made our position absolutely clear that the credit for the success of the July Movement belongs to the people of this country. It is not the achievement of any individual or any single political party." The Prime Minister said people of the country, BNP leaders

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Bangladesh to mark July Mass Uprising Day today

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh will observe July Mass Uprising Day on Wednesday with nationwide programmes to commemorate the student-led mass uprising that culminated in the fall of the Awami League government on Aug 5, 2024. The day will be observed with state ceremonies, political programmes and tributes to those killed and injured during the uprising.

On June 26, 2025, the government declared August 5 as July Mass Uprising Day. The day is a public holiday. According to an official notification, the minister, state minister, secretary, officials and employees of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, along with people from different walks of life, will place wreaths at the July Martyrs' Memorial at Shahbagh in Dhaka at

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Coordinated effort is key to solution for pollution control: Fakhrul

Staff Correspondent

LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Tuesday said coordinated efforts among all the relevant ministries, agencies and local government institutions are essential to ensuring a sustainable solution to pollution control, effective waste management and environmental protection. He made the remarks while chairing a ministerial-level meeting on waste management, water pollution and environmental pollution control issues at the Local

Government Division of his ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat here. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintu and State Minister Sheikh Faridul Islam also attended the meeting. The Local Government Minister said environmental pollution has become one of the country's major challenges. He noted that rapid urbanization, unplanned waste management, indiscriminate dumping of waste into rivers and water bodies and the widespread use of single-use

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BATZA full committee formed: President Safwan, General Secretary Emon Chowdhury

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Staff Correspondent

A full executive committee of Bangladesh Aviation and Tourism Journalists Association (BATZA), an organization of journalists working in the country's aviation and tourism sectors, has been formed for the year 2026-2027 with 11 members. The committee was unanimously announced at a meeting of the convening committee at the organization's temporary office in Nayapaltn in the capital on Monday (August 3). Desh Television reporter Alimuzzaman Safwan was elected president and Ekushey Television reporter Emon Chowdhury was elected general secretary in the meeting. The other members of the newly formed executive committee are— Senior Vice President Md. Shahadat Hossain (Desh Samachar), Vice President Kazi Faisal (Channel 24), Joint General Secretary Jahangir Kabir (Daily Ittefaq), Organizing Secretary Mehedi Hasan Murad (Daily Inqilab), Office Secretary Daud Hasan (Maashranga Television), Finance Secretary Tanjila Khan Meem (Ekhon Television) and Sports and Cultural Secretary SM Arefin (Somay Television). In addition, Ariful Islam (News Twenty-Four Television) and Rashed Anis (Ekattor Television) have been appointed as executive members. It was informed in the meeting that this newly formed executive committee will



and tourism sectors, facilitate access to information, train, research, protect professional rights, and strengthen coordination with relevant government and private organizations. Newly elected president Alimuzzaman Safwan said, "Bangladesh's aviation and tourism sector is one of the most promising sectors of the country's economy. BATZA will work to highlight the positive progress, prospects, challenges and public interest related issues of this sector to the people of the country through objective and responsible journalism. At the same time, the organization will play the highest role in enhancing the professional capacity, developing skills and protecting the rights of journalists working in the aviation

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Five pvt hospitals, diagnostic centres shut in Faridpur over irregularities

Staff Correspondent

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on Tuesday ordered the closure of five private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Faridpur over mismanagement and for operating without valid licences. The action came during a drive conducted, led by Civil Surgeon Dr Mahmudul Hasan. Executive Magistrates Md Atikur Rahman and Nazmunnahar Nayeem were present. During the drive, authorities ordered the closure of Al-Zara Specialized Hospital, Medico Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, Lily Private Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, Holy City Private Hospital and Ma-Moni Digital Diagnostic Centre in front of Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Patients admitted to these facilities were instructed to be shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital or other suitable hospitals. Earlier on July 16, a 17-year-old college student, Ayesha

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PM calls for preserving national unity, building democratic Bangladesh

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday called for maintaining national unity forged during the July-August Mass Uprising and pledged to build a just, democratic and humane Bangladesh by ensuring the political and economic empowerment of the people. The Head of Government said the student-led mass uprising of August 5, 2024, forced the then government to flee the country, ending what he described as authoritarian rule and renewing the nation's hopes for democracy. In a message marking the "July Mass Uprising Day" to be observed tomorrow (August 5), the premier said the day symbolises "joy, victory and the restoration of democratic political rights" following the end of more than one and a half decades of fascist rule. Recalling the anti-fascist movement, Tarique Rahman said the BNP, other anti-fascist political parties and people from different walks of life had endured enforced disappearances, killings, abductions, torture, false

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Saudi keen to invest in Bangladesh, recruit more skilled workers: Shama

Staff Correspondent

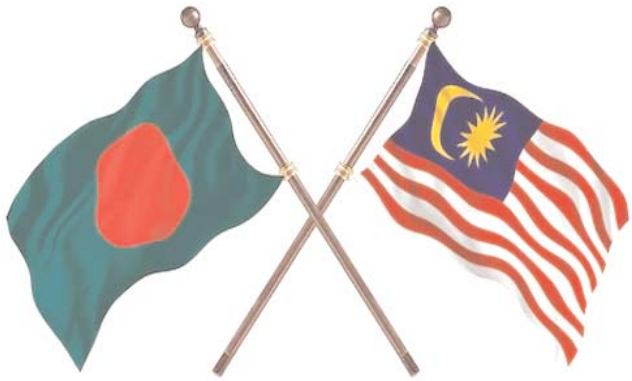
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Tuesday said Saudi Arabia has expressed strong interest in investing in Bangladesh in a wide range of sectors and recruiting more skilled Bangladeshi workers. "Saudi Arabia is interested in investing in Bangladesh in sectors where it has significant expertise. These issues featured prominently in our discussions," she said. The state minister made the remark after a meeting between visiting Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Eng. Waleed Abdul Karim Al-Khereiji and Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman held at the state guest Padma in the capital. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir and state minister Shama present during the meeting. During the

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Bangladesh, Malaysia stress strengthening cooperation in agriculture, livestock sectors

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and Malaysia have underscored the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the agriculture, fisheries, and livestock sectors, with a particular focus on expanding trade, technology transfer, and the development of the halal meat industry. The issue was discussed during a courtesy meeting between Fisheries, Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammed Amin Ur Rashid and Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mohd Shuhada Othman at the Secretariat on Tuesday. During the meeting, both sides held fruitful discussions on further consolidating the existing friendly relations between the two countries while expanding cooperation in fisheries, livestock, and agriculture. Key areas of discussion included the export potential of halal meat, technology and knowledge exchange, research collaboration, skilled manpower development, increased investment, and expansion of agri-livestock trade. A major focus of the talks was the export potential of Bangladesh's world-renowned Black Bengal goat to Malaysia. The discussions also covered the export prospects of fish, meat, milk, and other animal products. Speaking at the meeting,



Minister Mohammed Amin Ur Rashid said Bangladesh and Malaysia could utilize their excellent bilateral relations to explore vast opportunities for joint ventures, technology transfer, investment, and trade expansion in these sectors. He sought Malaysia's expertise and technical assistance to enhance Bangladesh's capacity in the international halal meat market. Expressing Malaysia's interest in further cooperation, High Commissioner Othman praised Bangladesh's significant progress in agriculture and livestock. He reiterated Malaysia's willingness to collaborate on expanding trade in promising animal and agricultural products, including the Black Bengal goat. He also emphasized strengthening ties and cooperation between the public and private sectors of

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Build lasting state institutions guided by July Mass Uprising spirit: Swapon

Staff Correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon on Tuesday called for building enduring state and social institutions inspired by the spirit of the July Mass Uprising. "Bangladesh must break free from its recurring cycle of political unrest and violent movements," he said. Addressing a memorial discussion marking the Great July Mass Uprising 2024 at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the minister said the sacrifices of the uprising's martyrs should lead to a broad national consensus that ensures no future generation falls below minimum democratic and institutional standards. He said Bangladesh's history -- from the anti-British movement and the Liberation War to successive anti-autocracy struggles -- has been marked by repeated political transitions, yet the country has not

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Paralegals' role a vital public service responsibility

Staff Correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Tuesday said paralegals' role goes beyond profession as it's an important public service responsibility. "Paralegals are playing a vital role in ensuring access to justice by taking legal rights awareness and legal services to people's doorsteps," he said while addressing as the chief guest the inauguration ceremony of the Friendship Community Paralegal Training Manual at a city hotel this afternoon. The manual was jointly developed by the Directorate of Bangladesh Legal Aid (DBLA) and Friendship, a social purpose organisation. The law minister said he had worked as a paralegal to raise legal awareness among marginalised communities even before becoming a lawyer. As a result, he has

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Bangladesh, South Korea ink CEPA, 97pc exports get tariff preference

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and South Korea have signed a bilateral trade agreement that will grant preferential tariff treatment to 97 percent of Bangladeshi goods entering the Korean market. Under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Bangladesh will also extend preferential market access to 87 percent of South Korean products, including selected agricultural goods, plastics and Completely Knocked Down (CKD) items. Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir today disclosed the details while making a joint announcement after the sign-

ing ceremony at the Secretariat in the city. Describing the agreement as a landmark achievement, Muktedir said it would create new opportunities for employment generation and accelerate the country's economic growth. He said the agreement would enable Bangladeshi export products, including readymade garments, leather goods and jute products, to gain easier access to the South Korean market. He added that the deal would support export diversification and enhance Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market. "The preferential market access secured for Bangladesh

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Chhatra Dal-Chhatrashibir clash in Dhaka College

University Correspondent

A clash took place between Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir at Dhaka College. The incident took place at the Science Lab intersection in the capital on Tuesday (August 4). Bricks and stones were thrown between the two sides. There was also a chase and counter-chase. Several people were reported injured in the clash. It was seen on the spot that Chhatra Shibir leaders and activists brought sticks. Chhatra Dal also took positions with sticks. Until the last news, Chhatra Shibir leaders and activists took positions at various intersections in a counter-chase. New Market Police Station Duty Officer SI Ashraf said, several people were injured in the clash at Dhaka College. I cannot say the number now. The chase and counter-chase are still going on. Everyone from our police station is on duty at the scene. Meanwhile, the leaders and activists of Dhaka Alia Madrasa branch of Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Dal have been involved in clashes. It

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Creating an inclusive nation

The findings of the recent election observation report, which highlighted the significant barriers faced by millions of voters with disabilities, are deeply concerning.

While Bangladesh has made progress in strengthening its electoral institutions, these shortcomings demonstrate that inclusivity remains an unfinished task.

The right to vote is not a privilege reserved for those without physical or sensory limitations; it is a fundamental constitutional right that must be guaranteed to every citizen.

When polling centres are inaccessible, election materials are unavailable in appropriate formats, or adequate assistance is lacking, citizens with disabilities are effectively excluded from participating in decisions that shape the nation's future. Such barriers undermine not only individual rights but also the legitimacy of the democratic process itself.

Addressing these issues does not require extraordinary measures; it requires sustained commitment. Ensuring polling stations are physically accessible, election officials receive proper disability-awareness training, and voting materials are available in formats suitable for people with visual, hearing, or other impairments should be the bare minimum.

For that, collaboration with disability rights organizations can help identify practical solutions rather than treating accessibility as an afterthought.

An inclusive electoral system also sends a broader message about society's values. When citizens see that every individual, regardless of ability, is respected and empowered to participate, the public's collective confidence in democratic institutions grows.

Conversely, leaving millions to navigate preventable obstacles signals that some voices matter less than others.

A democracy can only be considered truly representative when every eligible citizen is able to exercise the right to vote with dignity, independence, and equal access, and Bangladesh has repeatedly expressed its commitment to this very cause.

These commitments must, therefore, be reflected where they matter most: In protecting citizens' fundamental rights.

It is our democratic imperative to ensure that every citizen can cast a ballot -- as well as exercise their other fundamental rights -- safely, independently, and without discrimination.

For better public service delivery

The High Court's order for the disposal of all pending applications for new passports and passport renewals filed by Bangladeshi expatriates within 60 days is certainly a welcome intervention but also exposes a much larger, persistent problem. Whether it is passports, land records, utility services, welfare benefits, or any other basic documentation, our public service delivery, despite lofty exclamations of digitization and reform, remains slow, fragmented, and deeply frustrating for ordinary citizens.

The expat passport backlog is only one symptom of a system that struggles to keep pace with the country's growing population, rising mobility, and expanding digital expectations. When expatriates, who contribute billions in remittances, face delays of weeks or months for something as fundamental as a passport, we must call it what it is: A structural failure. The same inefficiencies affect millions at home: Long queues, opaque procedures, inconsistent timelines, and a lack of accountability. The High Court's directive is therefore less a procedural order and more a reminder that public service delivery must be fast, predictable, and citizen-centred.

We are a nation that aspires to reach middle-income efficiency but that is impossible with our present outdated administrative practices. The solution requires systemic reform, and it begins with those in charge actually caring about doing their jobs properly. Better coordination rather than operating in silos and digital systems that are fully integrated, not partially adopted, should be the minimum expectation.

Ownership, arrogance, and the spirit of July

Md. Neyamul Hossain

120, the police must exercise independent judgment. If police shoved and detained Col Zakir because the administrator said so, that is illegal detention under Section 342 of Penal Code and violation of Article 33 of the Constitution.

What should have happened?

If there was a dispute, the administrator could call the



concerned executive magistrate or the OC of Uttarkhan police station to intervene.

Police should have separated both parties, taken them to the police station, recorded a GD, and allowed both to file complaints. Detention beyond 24 hours without producing before a magistrate under Article 33(2) and CrPC 61 is illegal. May we humbly request the administrator and the honorable MP to consider whether such behavior is congenial to the rule of law?

This is the sort of behaviour that July 2024 was against. This is "might is right" replacing "rule of law," When an unelected administrator behaves like a colonial magistrate, and police act like his private force, it contradicts Article 27 which states that all citizens are equal before law.

If a retired officer of the Bangladesh Army, who

served the state, can be shoved aside on a political shout, what protection does a common garment worker have? This is the culture we need to come out of. If government officials and employees had taken true ownership of their duties with efficiency, honesty, and patriotism, politicians would never dare to behave like this.

The truth is bitter: A large section of our political class lacks patriotism, honesty, proper education, and a sense of justice and equity.

This vacuum is exploited by a section of dishonest bureaucrats who collude with these politicians for unethical gains. And at the end of the day, the same politicians humiliate the very civil servants they corrupted.

We created this opportunity for them. The historic chance for nation-building was wasted. The profound sacrifice of July 2024 created the chance to reset the state which we are squandering.

The pledge of July -- to establish the rule of law - is being grossly ignored. The sacrifice of thousands of martyrs and the maimed is being betrayed.

A nation rises on patriotism, visionary leadership, and wisdom. But due to political disunity, short-sightedness, lack of patriotism, and dishonesty, for 55 years, we have been destroying our own country. We do not learn from history. Just two years ago, we saw how students and the masses did not even give Sheikh Hasina time to finish her cooked lunch. She had to eat it in Delhi. Power is temporary. Arrogance is fatal.

Therefore, to implement the aspirations of July, all political parties must unite and exercise restraint. Government employees must take ownership of the country, and dishonest politicians cannot turn it again into a haven of corruption and plunder. Otherwise, the fire smoldering under the ashes may flare up again. The common people will return to demand what they have wanted for 55 years: The rule of law. Let this video be a wake-up call. If a retired colonel who gave his youth to the country is not safe from public humiliation, no ordinary citizen is safe anywhere.

People's desire for change

and activists and many other political parties that believe in democracy had remained on the streets over the past 17 years in the movement against fascism. "We never left the field. We never abandoned the people by walking away from the field," he said. Calling upon all political parties to focus on rebuilding the country, Tarique Rahman said enough discussions, movements, struggles and debates had taken place.

"Now is the time to rebuild the country. Now is the time to move the nation forward. Now is the time to remain patient and vigilant against those who seek to hatch conspiracies," he said. The Prime Minister continued, "We must alert the people and gradually implement the commitments we have made to them for rebuilding the country. We must fulfill the people's aspirations." Turning to the government's reform initiatives, the Prime Minister said the BNP's 31-point state reform programme had evolved into a national agenda after receiving the people's mandate in the last general election.

PM calls for preserving

cases and repression in their struggle to restore democracy and voting rights. He also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, saying the uncompromising leader of the nation had been imprisoned for years on what he described as false charges while leading the democratic movement.

Secret detention centres, known as "Aynaghar", had been established across the country to silence dissent, while many political leaders and activists remained missing, alleged the prime minister.

He said the country's Constitutional and statutory institutions, including the judiciary and the Election Commission, had been rendered ineffective, elections had been reduced to a mere formality, and widespread corruption and money laundering had severely weakened the economy and banking sector.

Bangladesh, Malaysia

both countries. First Secretary of the Malaysian High Commission Hazwan Hasnol was also present at the meeting.

Bangladesh to mark July

6:01am. Later, at 12:00pm, a reception will be accorded to the families of the July martyrs and the July fighters at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital. Acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad will attend the function as the chief guest, where the significance of the day will also be highlighted through a discussion.

Besides, Dhaka University will commemorate the 2nd anniversary of July Mass Uprising with a series of programmes, including foundation-laying a July Memorial and a dedicated July Corner in the Central Library of the university. A discussion on July uprising will be held at the TSC where five families of the July martyrs will be honoured and a prayer session will be held after Asr prayers at the Central Mosque, seeking eternal peace for the martyrs. Meanwhile, acting President Hafiz Uddin Ahmad and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman issued separate messages on the occasion of July Mass Uprising Day.

Coordinated effort is key

plastics and polythene bags are increasing pressure on the environment.

He stressed that these challenges cannot be addressed through isolated initiatives alone, but it requires coordinated and well-planned measures.

The minister further said that government initiatives alone are not sufficient to protect the environment. Raising public awareness and promoting environment friendly practices are

equally important in this regard, he added.

He emphasized the need for taking effective measures to reduce the use of harmful polythene bags and encourage the adoption of environment friendly alternatives.

Speaking as the guest of honour, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintu highlighted various initiatives undertaken by his ministry and ongoing programmes aimed at environmental conservation.

He said strengthening coordination among the government institutions, alongside increasing public awareness, is crucial for protecting the environment.

The meeting held detailed discussions on water pollution, solid waste management, environmental pollution control, conservation of rivers and measures to curb the use of environmentally harmful polythene.

Among others, Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan, Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Md. Abdus Salam, Local Government Division Secretary Md. Shahidul Hasan, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Secretary Mohammad Shawkat Rashid Chowdhury and senior officials from concerned ministries and the two city corporations and other relevant departments and agencies were present at the meeting.

The participants underscored the importance of strengthening inter-ministerial coordination to improve waste management, curbing of water and environmental pollution and ensure a sustainable environment.

Saudi keen to invest

meeting, Shama said that the Saudi delegation reaffirmed its confidence in Bangladesh's democratic government and its commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties.

"The visit was aimed at taking Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia relations to a new height. We had a very successful and fruitful discussion," she said.

Shama said Saudi Arabia expressed interest in investing in Bangladesh by utilizing its expertise in fisheries, food processing, energy, renewable energy, solar power, information technology and artificial intelligence.

The state minister said both sides also discussed enhancing labour cooperation, with Saudi Arabia showing interest in recruiting a larger number of skilled Bangladeshi workers.

"They have expressed interest in taking more skilled workers from Bangladesh, and this issue was discussed in detail during the meeting," she added.

Shama said Bangladesh expects to hold a joint investment meeting in Saudi Arabia in the near future, where senior officials, including the Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), are expected to participate.

She also said a Bangladesh-Saudi Political Consultation Meeting and a Joint Working Group meeting are expected to be held later this year to advance bilateral cooperation.

"This communication will continue. The visit has been highly productive, and they expressed their hope that Bangladesh-Saudi relations would reach an even stronger level under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman," she said.

Referring to high-level exchanges, the state minister said the Saudi Crown Prince has already invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit the Kingdom, while Bangladesh has extended an invitation to the Saudi Crown Prince to visit Dhaka.

Asked about passport-related issues involving Rohingyas residing in Saudi Arabia, she said such issues exist in several countries and were not a major focus of the discussions.

"Our missions in Jeddah and Riyadh are already working with the Saudi authorities to resolve those issues," she said.

Shama said the Saudi delegation repeatedly stressed that it wanted to broaden cooperation with Bangladesh beyond a single sector.

"They repeatedly said they do not want to remain confined to just one sector; they want Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to work together across many sectors. That was the main focus of the discussions," she added.

Build lasting state

succeeded in establishing stable institutions capable of fully nurturing merit, justice and democratic governance.

Swapon noted that despite holding 13 parliamentary elections, including what he described as the most credible one recently, the country still needs stronger parliamentary and judicial institutions backed by accountability and public trust.

He also stressed the need to reform structural weaknesses that have prevented the country from fully utilising its talented citizens and urged efforts to build a discrimination-free and humane Bangladesh for future generations.

Highlighting the role of educators, the minister said teachers must serve not only as academic instructors but also as mentors who promote ethical values and democratic ideals among young people.

The event, organised by the BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA) at the university's Council Building, was chaired by its President Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman Talukder. BUET Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shariful Islam attended as special guest.

Former Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Hasib Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Jalil and other faculty members also spoke.

Speakers paid tribute to the martyrs of the July Mass Uprising and reaffirmed their commitment to building an equitable and inclusive Bangladesh.

Paralegals' role a vital

first-hand experience of the role and importance of paralegals. "Paralegals play a crucial role in raising awareness about people's rights and delivering essential legal information and services to those in needs.

The initiatives being implemented by Friendship to raise rights awareness among marginalised communities are among the country's finest. Such initiatives are making a significant contribution to ensuring people's access to justice," he added.

The function was chaired by Friendship founder and executive Director Runa Khan. Additional Secretary of the Law and Justice Division Khadem Ul Kayes, Director General of the DBLA Md Monjurul Hossain, and Friendship Senior Director and Head of the Inclusive Citizenship Department Ayesha Tasin Khan also spoke at the event.

The programme was told that the Friendship Community Paralegal Training Manual has been developed to enhance the skills of grassroots-level paralegals, expand legal awareness, and ensure people's access to justice.

The manual will serve as a practical training guide for paralegals working at the field level.

BATZA full committee

and tourism beat. We are committed to continuing constructive journalism for the sustainable development of the country's aviation and tourism industry in coordination with all relevant stakeholders.

Five pvt hospitals

Afrin, died during surgery at Al-Zara Specialized Hospital.

A four-member committee was formed to investigate the incident. The investigation found serious mismanagement at the hospital. During an inspection, officials found several irregu-

larities, including poor management of the operation theatre (OT), the absence of patient monitors in the surgical ward and a shortage of doctors and nurses required for a 30-bed hospital. Following the findings, Civil Surgeon Dr Mahmudul Hasan ordered the suspension of all services at the hospital. He also said action will be taken against the doctor concerned, Atiqul Ahsan. The DGHS also inspected four other hospitals and diagnostic centres in the area and ordered their closure for operating without licences.

Speaking to the media after the drive, Dr Mahmudul Hasan said healthcare facilities operating in violation of government rules will be shut down.

"It is our responsibility to ensure quality healthcare for everyone. Such drives will continue regularly," he said.

Responding to a question about action against the doctor involved in Ayesha's surgery, the civil surgeon said the surgeon was an experienced assistant professor but should not have performed the operation at the hospital.

"We will take action against him and a show-cause notice will also be served," he added.

Bangladesh, South Korea

exports in South Korea is a major milestone for the country," he said, adding that the agreement would play an important role in expanding bilateral trade.

Referring to the agreement as a milestone for Bangladesh's export sector, Muktadir said the CEPA would play a vital role in supporting the country's post-LDC trade transition while attracting greater foreign direct investment (FDI).

He said Bangladesh aims to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2034, requiring an annual nominal GDP growth rate of around eight percent. "As domestic resources alone will not be sufficient to achieve this target, attracting quality foreign investment is essential," he said, describing South Korea as a model economy with strong technological capabilities and a GDP of around \$2 trillion. The minister said the agreement would encourage Korean investment in high-value sectors such as semiconductors, information technology, shipbuilding, ship recycling and light engineering.

Speaking on the occasion, South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo congratulated Bangladesh on its economic progress and praised the country's leadership for concluding the agreement in a short period.

He said bilateral economic relations had traditionally centred on the textile sector but were now expanding into broader industrial cooperation and investment.

Highlighting Bangladesh's demographic advantage, he said the country's large young workforce makes it an attractive production base for Korean companies.

He noted that Korean firms could establish manufacturing facilities in Bangladesh to serve both the Korean market and global export destinations. Responding to questions regarding the pace of negotiations, Muktadir said the process had been efficient rather than rushed.

He said while similar trade agreements often take between 10 and 20 years to conclude, the government completed the negotiations within six months through continuous efforts.

The minister also assured that the interests of local industries had been carefully safeguarded during the negotiations.

Chhatra Dal-Chhatrashibir

is said that the conflict began over the occupation of seats in the hall. In addition, there was a chase and counter-chase and clash between the leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir at Jagannath University (JUB). The incident took place at a function in the presence of the UGC chairman at the university's central auditorium.



PM directs completion of comprehensive database for 'Farmer Card' by Dec

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive and transparent database of farmers by December this year to ensure that government support through 'Farmers Card' reaches genuine beneficiaries. He also instructed the authorities to complete the database through a proper verification process to safeguard farmers' rights. The directives came at a meeting on the Farmer Card programme held at the

Prime Minister's Office at the Secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. He said the Prime Minister also instructed the authorities to ensure that the Farmer Card, featuring the holder's photograph and a QR code, contains information on the farmer's identity, agricultural production, government assistance and agricultural market-related services. He asked the authorities concerned to consider these features while designing and issuing the cards. The meeting was informed that the

process of opening bank accounts for farmers has already begun and that the cards will be distributed in phases after completing the necessary preparations. The 'Farmer Card' has been introduced to ensure that government subsidies, concessional agricultural loans, incentives and other support are delivered quickly and efficiently to genuine farmers. A total of 43 lakh farmers are expected to receive the cards during the current fiscal year, while the government plans to bring nearly 2 crore farmers across

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Over 2.56 lakh religious personnel to get monthly honorariums: Zabihullah

Staff Correspondent

Public Administration Adviser to the Prime Minister (with the rank of minister) Md Ismail Zabihullah on Tuesday said the BNP government will provide monthly honorarium allowances to a total of 2,56,074 imams, muezzins, khadems and personnel of other religious institutions across the country during the current fiscal year. He made the remarks while chairing the seventh meeting of the cell formed by the Prime Minister's Office to implement the government's election manifesto by introducing a monthly honorarium and training-based welfare programme for imams, muezzins, khadems and personnel serving at other places of worship. The meeting was held at the conference room of the Ministry of Religious Affairs at the Bangladesh Secretariat. The adviser said Tk 1100 crore has been allocated in the 2026-27 fiscal year's budget to provide monthly honorariums for imams, muezzins, khadems and personnel serving at different

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8.4 km Road from Manikjhuri to Kochupatra on Amtali-Taltoli Highway Has Turned into a "Death Trap"

Bipkob kumar Das, Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

The 8.4 km stretch from Manikjhuri to Kochupatra on the Amtali-Taltoli road has become impassable. Vehicle movement is disrupted. Accidents occur frequently. At least 200,000 people of Amtali and Taltoli Upazilas are suffering immensely. The affected locals are demanding urgent road repairs. It is learned that the 40 km coastal regional highway runs from Amtali-Taltoli to Fakirhat. In October 2021 under the Annual GOB Maintenance Project, Barguna LGED invited tenders in 3 packages for the construction of the 8.4 km road from Manikjhuri to Kochupatra Bridge at a cost of Tk 8 crore 43 lakh Barguna contractor Md. Sagir Hossain got the work. He did not do the work and left it pending for two years. In mid-2024, the contractor, influential Awami League leader Md. Sagir Hossain started the work. Locals allege that from the beginning, Sagir used substandard construction materials and did not follow the work order, instead doing the work as per his own wish. Locals also allege that although a complaint about irregularities in the work was lodged with the then Amtali Upazila Engineer Md. Abdullah Al Mamun

of LGED, he took no action. After doing shoddy work, contractor Sagir withdrew all the money. The work was completed in late 2024. Within six months of construction, the road became full of potholes. Big craters formed every 10 meters. People suffer while vehicles ply on that road. This is the only road connecting Amtali and Taltoli Upazilas. For the last two years, at least 200,000 people and hundreds of vehicles have been using it, risking their lives. On Monday, a visit to the site showed the road is nothing but potholes. There are huge craters every 10 meters. Because of the potholes, vehicle movement is hampered. When vehicles get stuck in the craters, traffic on that road comes to a halt. Motorcycle drivers Md. Shah Alam Talukder and Rubel Mia said, "The road got filled with potholes within a short time of construction. For the last two years we have been risking our lives to use this road." They added, "This is not a road, it's like mini ponds."

Md. Helal Uddin Senior Teacher at Tarikata Secondary School, said, "I don't know if there is any other road like this in Bangladesh."

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'Agriculture Hub' helps to build \$1 trillion economy by 2034: Titumir

Staff Correspondent

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Finance and Planning Adviser to the Prime Minister, said that the main goal of the current government is to ensure equitable regional development. For the first time in the history of Bangladesh, a special refinancing fund of Taka 3,000 crore has been allocated for the development of agriculture and agro-products in North Bengal, especially with the aim of creating an 'Agriculture Hub' in this region. The agricultural revolution in the northern region will play an important role in the target set to transform Bangladesh into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034. He said these things while speaking as the chief guest at the Rajshahi Regional Conference on Agro Processing held today at the conference hall of Rajshahi Primary Teachers Training Institute (PTI).



The Finance and Planning Adviser said the government itself does not do business. The government is creating an investment-friendly environment and paving the way for entrepreneurs, he added. In line with the manifesto, work is underway to achieve economic prosperity from the grassroots level based on the philosophy of 'One Village One Product'. The chief guest said, to encourage investment, the

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None will be allowed to use political influence for personal gain: Anee

Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne today said the government would not allow anyone to use political identity or influence for personal gain, warning of strict action against any irregularities. "The law and order situation must improve alongside development activities. No one will be allowed to exploit political identity or influence for personal gain. If any irregularity is found in any department, it will be investigated and strict action will be taken," he said while addressing a district law and

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Bobby Hajjaj urges Japanese investors to invest in Bangladesh

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj on Tuesday urged the Japanese investors to invest in Bangladesh as its strategic geographical location at the crossroads of South Asia and ASEAN has created a unique opportunity for them. "By investing in Bangladesh, Japan can gain access to a large regional market of over 300 crore consumers," he said while addressing the Bangladesh Investment Promotion Seminar. The seminar was jointly organised by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Bangladesh Embassy in Japan and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Osaka, Japan, according to a message received here. Bobby Hajjaj said Bangladesh is not only a potential investment destination, but also a strategic economic bridge between South Asia and the ASEAN. He said the progress of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between

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Supportive environment, social awareness essential for child development: Zahid

Staff Correspondent

Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Prof. Dr. A Z M Zahid Hossain today said a supportive environment and greater social awareness are essential to unlock children's latent potential, stressing that the government alone cannot achieve this goal. He made the remarks while addressing a roundtable titled "Act for Early Years: Safeguarding Childhood and the Planet" at Channel i's Mustafa Monwar Studio in the capital, organised by the Bangladesh ECD Network.

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মেডিসিন, ডায়াবেটিস, বাত-ব্যথা
চর্ম ও শিশু রোগ অভিজ্ঞ

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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বিজিসি ট্রান্স মেরিটেল কলেজ
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সীতাকুণ্ড বাজার, চট্টগ্রাম।

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

Yasser calls for coordinated efforts for greater Mymensingh's dev

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yasser Khan Choudhury has called for regional coordination and cooperation of journalists to overcome the long-standing neglect and backwardness of Greater Mymensingh region. He made the call during a view-exchange meeting with journalists of Greater Mymensingh working in Dhaka at Bangladesh Secretariat here. The state minister said coordinated efforts are crucial for infrastructural development of greater Mymensingh, improvement of medical services and solving other civic problems. He said an application (DO letter) signed by 34 members of parliament of Mymensingh division has been submitted to the concerned ministry to extend the expressway or flyover from Dhaka airport to Bhaluka, which is currently awaiting policy decision and approval from ECNEC. In addition, Yasser said, initial talks are underway on establishing a high-speed train connection with Mymensingh and modernising the Mymensingh Railway Station. He urged journalists to play an vital role in ensuring patient

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Two Years Since the Feni Mahipal Massacre: Outrage Over Delayed Justice, Mothers Plead for Action



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Time has passed, and the stains of blood on the streets or the acrid smell of gunpowder may have faded, but the deep wounds in the hearts of the bereaved families remain untouched. Today, a bitter wait for justice echoes through the air. Today marks August 4, completing two years

calls for a just nation. Protesters even offered their afternoon prayers under the flyover. However, as the afternoon progressed, the atmosphere turned grim. According to eyewitnesses and case details, activists belonging to the then-ruling party launched an indiscriminate attack with firearms and crude bombs. In an instant,

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Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman on Tuesday said the Malaysian labour market will reopen for Bangladeshi workers in the last week of August following a bilateral understanding between the two countries.

Dr Zahed said the government is committed to ensuring that workers are sent to Malaysia through a transparent and accountable process by addressing the irregularities, excessive costs and harassment that occurred in the past. He noted that Prime Minister's Adviser and PMO Spokesperson

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Inauguration of Nure Madina Hafijia Madrasa and Orphanage in Mahalchhari, Khagrachhari

Staff Reporter

A new horizon in religious education and humanitarian assistance has opened up in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as the "Nure Madina Hafijia Madrasa and Orphanage" was officially inaugurated in Mahalchhari, Khagrachhari, overcoming a long period of inactivity. To mark the occasion, the Mahalchhari Zone of the Bangladesh Army organized a free medical camp, distributed medicines, and provided special relief assistance to local orphan students and

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Sonachhari High School Felicitates President Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed on Reappointment

Md. Omar Faruk : special correspondent

Sitakunda, Chattogram: Sonachhari High School, located in Bar Aulia under Sitakunda Upazila, accorded a warm felicitation to Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed following his reappointment as the President of the school's Ad-hoc Managing Committee for a second consecutive term.

The reception was held on Tuesday afternoon at the school auditorium, where teachers, students, guardians, and distinguished guests gathered to congratulate the newly reappointed president. Representatives of various social, political, and professional organizations, including the Bar Aulia Business Association, also welcomed him with floral tributes. Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed is also serving as the President of the Bar Aulia Business Association.

The program was presided over by the Headmaster of the school, Mosharaf Hossain. Former Female Vice Chairman of Sitakunda Upazila Parishad, Nazmun Nahar Chowdhury Neli, attended the event as the Chief Guest, while former Chairman of Sonachhari Union, Alhaj Nur Uddin Md. Jahangir Chowdhury, was present as the Special Guest.

Speaking at the ceremony, the felicitated President, Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, expressed his gratitude to the school authorities and well-wishers for their confidence and support. He reaffirmed his commitment to improving the quality of education, strengthening the institution's overall development, and ensuring a modern learning environment through the collective efforts of teachers, students, guardians, and the local community.

Among others, Hasan Al Mamun, Haji Md. Idris, Korban Ali Sahed, Md. Jahangir Alam, Md. Nezam Uddin, Manjurul Islam, Haji Md. Shafi, Md. Jasim Uddin, Nurul Alam Jihadi, and Khorshed Alam also addressed the gathering. Teachers, guardians, and students of the school were present at the ceremony. The speakers expressed optimism that under the leadership of Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, Sonachhari High School would continue to make significant progress in academic excellence, infrastructure development, and co-curricular activities.

PM directs completion of

the country under the programme over the next three years. Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam, Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin, PM's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, PM's Special Assistant Md Shakirul Islam Khan, Special Secretary of the BNP National Executive Committee Belayet Hossain Mridha, Chairman of Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Limited (Milk Vita) S M Amir Hamza Shatil and secretaries of the relevant ministries and divisions, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Over 2.56 lakh religious

religious institutions. Under the programme, one-fourth of the country's total beneficiaries, amounting to 256,074 people, will receive the allowance in the first year, while all religious institutions will be brought under the scheme over the next four years. Of the total beneficiaries in the current fiscal year, 247,968 people from 82,656 mosques, 6,000 people from 3,000 temples, 1,504 people from 752 Buddhist monasteries and 602 people from 301 churches will receive the financial assistance.

Zabihullah said that in the 2025-26 fiscal year, honorariums were provided to 13,949 imams, muezzins, khadems and other personnel serving at 6,017 selected religious institutions across the country.

The Public Administration Adviser said imams, priests, heads of Buddhist monasteries and pastors will receive Tk 5,000 per month, while muezzins, sebayets , deputy heads of Buddhist monasteries and assistant pastors will receive Tk 3,000 per month. Khadems of mosques will receive Tk 2,000 per month. In addition, each beneficiary will receive an annual festival allowance of Tk 2,000.

The money will be disbursed through mobile banking services or directly to bank accounts according to the beneficiaries' preference.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam, MP, Whip and Shariatpur-3 lawmaker Miah Nuruddin Ahmad Apu, Gaibandha-4 lawmaker Mohammad Shamim Kaiser, secretaries of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Director General of the Islamic Foundation, Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau and representatives from the Finance Division and the Local Government Division were present at the meeting.

8.4 km Road from

Several hundred students come to school risking their lives on such a pothole-ridden road. Only Allah knows what might happen. I demand this road be built quickly." Students Sumaiya, Kolpona Akter, Abu Saleh and Shah Newaz of Arpangashia Secondary and Tarikata Secondary School said, "This is not a road, it's a death trap. We have to travel on this road risking our lives." They also demanded quick construction of the road.

Mosharaf Hossain and Shahidul Islam of Tarikata village said, "Because the contractor is an influential Awami League leader, he used substandard materials and did not follow the work order. As a result, the road was full of potholes within six months of construction. We have had to travel on this pothole-ridden road for the last two years." They demanded legal action against contractor Md. Sagir Hossain and officials of the local engineering department involved in the irregularities.

Contractor Md. Sagir Hossain denied any irregularities in the work. Over the phone he said, "The road collapsed because vehicles heavier than its capacity were plying on it. What can I do about that ?"

Amtali Upazila Engineer Md. Idris Ali said, "It's true the road is full of potholes, but the DPP for the road construction has been approved. The tender will be invited very soon." Barguna Executive Engineer Md. Mehedi Hasan Khan said, "I was not in charge in Barguna when that road was built. So I don't know about the irregularities in its construction. However, the road construction work will start in this fiscal year."

'Agriculture Hub' helps

interest rate has been kept between 5 and 9 percent, which in the context of current inflation can be considered a form of negative interest rate.

He mentioned the provision of loans at a 5 percent interest rate for women entrepreneurs and special allocations for micro and medium industries.

In total, various financial assistance and refinancing schemes worth about Taka 60,000 crore are in operation through the coordination of the government and Bangladesh Bank (BB).

Highlighting the steps taken by the government to remove barriers to investment, he further said that the entire process from obtaining a license to setting up a factory is being digitized, so that entrepreneurs can track every step. Effective steps have been taken to ensure services through a 'Single Window' by reducing 'red tape'.

Regarding infrastructural development, he said that the work of converting the railway line to dual gauge to ensure uninterrupted connectivity from Panchagarh to Chattogram or Mongla port will be completed within the next 2 to 3 years.

In addition, instructions have been given to utilize the huge potential of solar power in the northern region, especially in Rajshahi, to save energy. Encouraging the entrepreneurs at the conference, he said there is immense potential to build new industries through making starch or API from potatoes and through diversified use of mangoes.

He expressed hope that a major change in the investment climate will be visible by next December through policy continuity of the government, equity in the tax structure, and removal of bureaucratic complexities. The event was presided over by Divisional Commissioner Dr. ANM Bazlur Rashid.

Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, spoke as a special guest. Among others, Rajshahi City Corporation Administrator Mahfuzur Rahman Riton, RMP Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, senior officials of various government and private departments, local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and journalists were present. Earlier, Asif Ibrahim, Adviser of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, Shams Zaman, Country Head of PwC Bangladesh, Parvez Mohammad Ashik, Head of Program of Swisscontact Bangladesh, Syed Zahurul Alam Ruman, Chief Executive Officer of Akij Venture Group, Shafiul Sami Alamgir, Managing Director of Stampaco Foils Ltd., Khandaker Md. Adnan Masud, Chairman of UCC Investment Ltd., Md. Nazim Uddin, Director of Bangladesh Bank, and Md. Khairul Kabir Mia, Commissioner of Rajshahi Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, participated in a panel discussion on investment potential in the agro-processing sector. After the event, the chief guest answered various questions from journalists.

None will be allowed to

order meeting in Lakshmipur.

The minister said the BNP and the country's people had endured neglect, deprivation and humiliation over the past 17 years. "The past 17 years are not a short period. During this time, the BNP and the country's people remained neglected and suffered deprivation and humiliation," he said.

Anne said the BNP-led government had been implementing development plans since assuming office and was continuing those initiatives on a priority basis. He also prayed for the eternal peace of those martyred and the speedy recovery of those injured in the July Uprising.

Highlighting development plans for Lakshmipur, the minister said a railway line would be established in the district, describing it as a long-standing demand of its residents. He said work was underway to turn the project into reality. Lakshmipur Deputy Commissioner S.M. Mehedi Hasan chaired the meeting.

Among those present were Lakshmipur-2 lawmaker Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, Lakshmipur-1 lawmaker Shahadat Hossain Selim, Superintendent of Police Md. Abu Tarek, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Municipal Administrator Samrat Khisa, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADM) Mejba Ul Alam Bhuiya, Bangladesh Football Federation Vice-President Wahid Uddin Chowdhury Happy, officials of the district and upazila administrations, and leaders of different political parties. Later, the minister attended a July rally at Lakshmipur Girls' School ground and the July Mass Uprising Day programme at the Town Hall auditorium.

Bobby Hajjaj urges

Bangladesh and Japan and the establishment of a special economic zone for Japan will take the economic relations of the two countries to a new height.

These initiatives will play a marked role in expanding bilateral trade and investment and ensure a more favourable environment for Japanese investors, he said.

The state minister said Japan's Meiji Restoration is an exemplary instance of the transformation of a nation through education, technology, industrialisation and visionary leadership.

Bangladesh also wants to learn from this development experience of Japan and build the economy of the future through knowledge, technology, innovation, productivity and skilled human resource development, he said.

He said the size of the Bangladesh economy is currently more than US\$ 500 billion while the country's economic growth has been over 6 percent for a long time.

Despite global economic challenges, the growth is above 4.5 percent and the government's goal is to develop Bangladesh into a US\$ one trillion economy by 2034, Bobby Hajjaj said. He said Bangladesh's more than seven crore young working population is the country's biggest competitive force.

With per capita income exceeding US\$3,000, the country's domestic market is expanding rapidly and purchasing power is going up, which has created new opportunities for foreign investors, he said.

The state minister said currently, the bilateral trade volume between Bangladesh and Japan is about US\$3.5 billion but the joint goal of the two countries is to increase this trade to US\$10 billion in the next few years.

He mentioned machinery and light engineering, industrial components, automobile and electric vehicle components, electronics, pharmaceuticals, API and medical devices, multipurpose jute products, agricultural processing, food security, cold-chain logistics, renewable energy, port and logistics infrastructure, industrial estate development, robotics, educational technology and skilled human resource development as potential sectors for Japanese investment.

He also highlighted the possibility of partnerships with organisations like Artec in educational technology and skill development. Bobby Hajjaj said there is immense potential for cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan in the sectors of education, skill development, healthcare and medical tourism.

Bangladesh's young, educated and skilled manpower can play an important role in meeting the growing labour short-

age of Japan, he said.

In this regard, he said, there is an opportunity to build a long-term partnership between the two countries in skill development, technical training and employment.

Bobby Hajjaj said Japan has been working as one of the most trusted development partners in Bangladesh's infrastructure, education, human resource development and economic progress for decades through various bilateral initiatives. He said Bangladesh and Japan are now entering a new era based on investment, trade, technology, innovation and shared prosperity. He called upon Japanese businessmen and investors to become long-term partners in Bangladesh's growth journey. Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Md Daud Ali, senior officials of JETRO and Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and businessmen and entrepreneurs from over 100 leading Japanese organisations were present at the seminar.

Supportive environment,

(BEN) and Prokriti O Jibon Foundation.

The discussion focused on child health and nutrition, responsive care, protection, early learning, mental health, climate change and disability.

The minister said children constitute nearly 34 percent of the country's population, while women account for 51 percent, adding that sustainable development is impossible without ensuring their welfare and development.

He said the government has strengthened the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP), prioritising the health, nutrition and wellbeing of mothers and children.

Various initiatives are also being implemented to enhance protection, social security and climate resilience for women and children vulnerable to climate change.

Highlighting the government's commitment to social welfare, he said the highest budget allocation has been made for education, the second highest for health, while Tk 1.43 lakh crore has been earmarked for the social safety net sector.

The minister urged all to work together to build a developed and humane Bangladesh for future generations.

Yasser calls for

services in hospitals and preventing irregularities.

He mentioned that irregularities and corruption are not limited to the financial sector, but issues of service deprivation should also be highlighted through writing of journalists.

The state minister said the government is considering a proposal to build a standard press club with modern facilities at district level across Bangladesh.

Journalists Erfanul Haque Nahid, Masudul Haque, Rafiq Muhammad, Anisur Rahman Khan, Ubaidullah Badal, Hamidul Haque Manik, Shafiul Alam Dolan, Masud Karim, Md Golam Kibria, Mahmudul Hasan and Baharam Khan spoke at the meeting, among others.

Malaysian labour

Mahdi Amin had already announced the reopening of the Malaysian labour market in the last week of August.

"We want to inform everyone once again that an opportunity has been created for Bangladeshi workers to work in Malaysia based on the consensus reached between the two countries. This is very important news for us," he said.

Referring to overseas employment, Dr Zahed said many aspiring migrant workers had previously suffered due to irregularities, high migration costs and the involvement of a limited number of recruiting agencies.

"The government wants to eliminate those problems so that workers can migrate safely and no longer face the hardships experienced in the past," he added.

Describing overseas employment as a key contributor to the national economy, the adviser said the government is working to explore new labour markets alongside ensuring safe, orderly and transparent migration.

On food security, Dr Zahed said the government has undertaken a number of programmes to ensure an uninterrupted food supply and support low-income families.

Under the Food Friendly Programme, rice distribution began on August 1, through which 55 lakh beneficiary families in 495 upazilas will receive 30 kilograms of rice per month at a subsidised price of Tk 15 per kilogram.

The programme will continue for six months-August, September, October, November, March and April-to support rural people during the seasonal lean period when employment opportunities decline.

He said fortified rice enriched with essential vitamins and minerals is also being distributed under the programme, with more than 25 lakh beneficiaries receiving the nutrient-rich variety to help improve nutrition among low-income families.

Dr Zahed said the government is also continuing its Open Market Sale (OMS) programme through 1,108 centres across the country, where rice and flour are being sold at subsidised prices through designated outlets and mobile trucks.

He added that the country's public food stock remains at a satisfactory level, with more than 23.49 lakh tonnes of food grains stored in government warehouses.

Dr Zahed said the government is fully aware of the ongoing gas crisis and will soon provide a detailed explanation of its causes and the expected duration.

He urged the media to help inform the public about the actual reasons behind the supply disruption.

Responding to allegations of excessive gas bills, the adviser said consumers who believe they have been overcharged should submit written complaints to the appropriate authorities. "Action has been taken in the past based on such complaints," he added.

Referring to his discussion with the Energy Adviser before the briefing, Dr Zahed said the authorities are treating the allegations with utmost importance and will take necessary action if any irregularities are found.

"Complaints should be supported by specific facts and submitted to the relevant authority. The Energy Ministry is closely monitoring the matter, and we hope appropriate action will be taken after proper investigation," he said.

On strengthening energy security, Dr Zahed said the Jamuna Bridge Authority is implementing a solar power project in the Jamuna Bridge area as part of the government's broader plan to expand renewable energy use and reduce future dependence on conventional energy sources.

Highlighting developments in the railway sector, he said the government is implementing long-term plans to expand the country's transport infrastructure. As part of those initiatives, work has begun on a proposed railway line connecting Dhaka and Sylhet via Jaflong.

Once implemented, the project is expected to improve connectivity in the country's northeastern region and boost tourism, trade and regional economic activities, he added. Speaking about the recent spike in green chilli prices, Dr Zahed attributed the increase to disruptions in production caused by heavy rainfall during the monsoon. He said prices of vegetables have also risen, prompting the government to approve the import of green chilli and tomatoes to stabilise the market.

He expressed hope that vegetable supplies, including green chilli, would improve shortly, leading to a gradual decline in prices. Referring to initiatives of the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, the adviser said the government has undertaken

various measures to promote the use of environmentally friendly jute products.

He said initiatives have been taken to increase the production and use of jute bags as an alternative to plastic.

The government has also decided to revive closed textile mills under the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) through public-private partnership (PPP) arrangements.

"If these factories are operated under skilled management, production will increase, the mills will become profitable and new employment opportunities will be created," he said. On local government, Dr Zahed said Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) secured the top position among all city corporations and municipalities in a performance assessment conducted under a city governance project supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

He said such evaluations would encourage local government institutions to become more people-oriented and service-focused. Regarding labour welfare, the adviser said draft recommendations for revising wages of workers employed in private industrial establishments have been sent for gazette publication.

He said there had previously been no specific framework for determining wages for this category of workers, and the government's initiative aims to ensure fair remuneration.

On mineral resources, Dr Zahed said the Ministry of Science and Technology is conducting research and collecting information to identify potential reserves of heavy metals and other valuable minerals across the country.

Highlighting youth development initiatives, he said the government is implementing various programmes to encourage young people to participate in sports.

"There is no alternative to sports in keeping children and young people away from drugs, violence and crime," he said. On environmental protection, the adviser said the government has intensified enforcement against violations of environmental laws.

He said authorities have filed 81 cases and imposed fines exceeding Tk 4.92 lakh for breaches of environmental regulations.

The government is also continuing efforts to protect forests, rescue wildlife and prevent activities harmful to the environment, he added. Speaking about law and order, Dr Zahed said law enforcement agencies, including the Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Coast Guard, are carrying out their regular duties.

Two Years Since the Feni

the peaceful gathering at Mahipal transformed into a blood-soaked battlefield. In the brutal violence that ensued, Ishtiaq Ahmed Shrabon, Sarwar Jahan Masud, Wakil Ahmed Shihab, Saidul Islam Shahi, Zakir Hossain Shakib, and Mohammad Sabuz lost their lives on the spot. College student Mahbubul Huq Masum, who sustained a gunshot wound to the head, succumbed to his injuries in the hospital three days later. Additionally, at least 150 people—including journalists—were shot and injured, many of whom could not even seek hospital treatment out of fear. Beyond Mahipal, several other youths from Feni were martyred in gunshots at CRB in Chittagong and in Dhaka during the July Movement. Families' Grief and a Sluggish Judicial Process Even after two years, the martyr families express deep frustration over the agonizingly slow pace of the investigation and trial process.

"Our demand is very simple. Even after two years, the prime accused are still walking free. We want the charge sheets finalized quickly and the judicial process brought to a close," said Nesar Ahmed, father of the martyred Ishtiaq Ahmed Shrabon.

Bibi Kulsum, the grieving mother of Sarwar Jahan Masud, shared her distress:

"I will never get my child back, but my only plea to the government is for exemplary punishment for the killers."

Similarly, Mahfuza Akhtar, mother of Wakil Ahmed Shihab, and Rehana Begum, mother of Saidul Islam Shahi, questioned why visible justice remains elusive when armed attackers were clearly identified in video footage.

Muhaimin Tazim, a coordinator of the July Movement in Feni at the time, stated:

"It is deeply tragic that families still have to shed tears over the trial of an open, public massacre. We demand swift justice based strictly on the law, free from any political considerations."

Case Status and Police Response

A total of 22 cases have been filed with the Feni Model Police Station in connection with the Mahipal killings and violence:

7 Murder Cases

15 Attempted Murder and Assault Cases

Police have already submitted charge sheets for 14 of these cases to the court.

Addressing the progress of the investigations, Feni Superintendent of Police Pratyush Kumar Majumder noted: "The primary gunmen went into hiding immediately after the incident. However, police are leveraging technology to identify and arrest the culprits. Highest priority is being given to concluding the investigation of all cases in the shortest possible time."

While financial assistance has been provided by the state, the message from the families of the martyrs remains firm—true honor for the blood shed by their loved ones can only be achieved through the establishment of the rule of law and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

Inauguration of Nure

underprivileged residents. The inauguration took place on Tuesday (August 4), with Lieutenant Colonel Al Jabir Asif, PSC, Commander of the Mahalchhari Zone, attending as the chief guest to formally open the institution. After remaining closed for a long time, the facility was brought back to life following completion of its construction under the personal initiative and close supervision of the Mahalchhari Zone Commander. Alongside the grand opening, cash donations were handed over to the madrasa management as part of the zone's ongoing humanitarian assistance. During the accompanying medical camp, specialist doctors provided free healthcare services and medicines to local patients, while relief items were distributed among helpless families.

In his address as the chief guest, Lieutenant Colonel Al Jabir Asif stated: "The Bangladesh Army has always stood by the general public in promoting religious education, moral values, and social welfare. Such development initiatives focused on education, healthcare, and humanitarian assistance in the hill tracts will continue in the future." The event was attended by special guests including Md. Anwar Hossain, President of Mahalchhari Upazila BNP, and Mohammad Ali, President of the Mahalchhari Central Jame Mosque. Teachers, students, parents, local public representatives, religious leaders, and members of civil society were also present.

Speakers highlighted that the army's initiative serves as a bright example of dedication to religious education and the welfare of orphans and underprivileged children. They expressed hope that through collective effort, these benevolent activities would have a far-reaching impact. Following the ceremony, guests inspected the newly constructed madrasa premises and exchanged greetings with local residents.



How India’s Gen Z ‘Cockroach’ movement dented Modi’s political image

International Desk

For weeks, young protesters in India mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government with placards and slogans, rallying under an unusual name — the Cockroach Janta Party. The movement achieved something few protests have managed during Modi's more than 12 years in power: it helped force the resignation of a cabinet minister. Modi has been one of India's most powerful prime ministers in recent decades, winning elections while building a reputation as a strong and decisive leader. His government has rarely been seen backing down in the face of public pressure. But the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan last month was a major exception, political experts said. The move came after pressure from the “Cockroach” movement and highlighted the growing political influence of India's under-25 population, which accounts for nearly half of the country's population. It also showed how young Indians are increasingly using digital platforms to organise protests. “This particular round has ended in a very important defeat for Mr. Modi,” said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a political analyst and author of a biography of Modi. He said the minister's resignation could make people less afraid of protesting against a government that critics have long accused of restricting dissent. “The threshold of fear has been broken. People are no longer scared to go and step out and protest,” he said. Movement wants to be a watchdog, not a political party The protests started in May as a satirical campaign with one main demand — Pradhan's resignation over alleged leaks of examination papers that could affect the future of millions of young people. As the protests grew, young urban Indians mobilised through social media and street demonstrations. The movement soon expanded into a wider campaign for accountability, reflecting concerns over youth unemployment, government transparency and the management of public institutions. Mukhopadhyay said it was the first time in recent years that a student-led movement had maintained enough momentum to force the government to meet its main demand without the support of established political parties. “Each one had their own little grievance about life not taking them anywhere,” he said. It remains unclear whether the movement's energy can eventually translate into votes against Modi's ruling

Bharatiya Janata Party. Saurav Das, a spokesperson for the Cockroach Janta Party, said the movement had demonstrated the power of public pressure in a democracy. “An arrogant government which did not blink for 12 years was forced to blink when the youth united,” he said. He stressed that the group does not want to become a political party. “We want to remain a pressure group,” he said. Movement pushes Modi toward Gen Z outreach The protests also appear to have prompted changes within Modi's party. In recent weeks, Modi has increasingly appeared in short, vertical videos aimed at young audiences on Instagram and other popular social media platforms. The BJP has also stepped up its efforts to reach Gen Z through online campaigns. Some party lawmakers have started using youth slang in public appearances, including speeches in Parliament. Many members of Modi's cabinet are aged 60 or older. The shift comes after the government initially dismissed the protests as insignificant. But as demonstrations attracted larger crowds, authorities were forced to recognise the movement and respond to its growing influence. Since Pradhan's resignation, Modi has also spoken about forgiving people who mocked him, in what appeared to be an effort to rebuild ties with younger audiences. Mukhopadhyay said the movement's biggest impact was that it challenged the perception of Modi as a leader largely immune to public pressure. “That image of Mr. Modi is heavily tarnished,” he said. Some Modi supporters, however, have responded more aggressively. Online activists aligned with the ruling party have sought to identify protesters and publish their personal information, apparently to intimidate them. Other officials could face pressure Solidarity protests were held in several other Indian cities. Supporters also sent food and other supplies to protesters who were camping in New Delhi and taking part in hunger strikes. Opposition leaders, rights activists and some Bollywood celebrities publicly supported the movement, helping spread its message beyond the protest sites. For Neha Bora, who joined a hunger strike in New Delhi, the movement showed that ordinary citizens could still hold powerful officials accountable. “If they (ministers) do not serve the people of this country, no matter what cabinet minister they are, they will be brought down from their seats,” she said.

Serviceman kills 4 in shooting in Russian-held Crimea

International Desk

A serviceman in Russian-occupied Crimea opened fire on fellow soldiers and civilians, killing four people and injuring four others, according to the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol. Gov. Mikhail Razvozhayev said Tuesday that the shooting took place in the village of Khmelnytske, part of Sevastopol, but did not specify when the incident occurred. According to the governor, the serviceman first shot at fellow soldiers, killing one and injuring another. He then allegedly opened fire on civilians, leaving three dead and three more wounded. The suspect, whose identity was not disclosed, has been detained, Razvozhayev said. Authorities have launched an investigation into the shooting, though no information has been provided about a possible motive. Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 in a move widely condemned by the international community as illegal. The Black Sea peninsula has since become a key strategic base for Moscow's military operations in Ukraine. During the early stages of Russia's full-scale invasion, troops stationed in Crimea advanced into southern Ukraine and established a land corridor linking the peninsula to Russian-controlled territory. In recent months, Ukrainian forces have stepped up strikes on Russian supply routes to Crimea, contributing to significant fuel shortages in the region, which typically attracts large numbers of tourists during the warmer season.



Cargo ship reports being hit in Strait of Hormuz as US, Iran differ over talks

International Desk

A cargo ship reported being hit by a projectile in the Strait of Hormuz off Oman, while the United States and Iran gave conflicting accounts of whether they were holding talks to end the war. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center (UKMTO) said the ship reported being “hit by an unknown projectile” at around 2am local time while sailing about 37 kilometres northeast of Al Khasab in Oman. The agency did not provide details about the vessel, including its flag or the cargo it was carrying. Al Khasab is located at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, which extends into the Strait of Hormuz. The strategic waterway connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and is a key route for global oil and gas shipments. Before the war, about one-fifth of the world's oil and natural gas passed through the strait. The waterway has effectively been closed to commercial shipping since Iran began attacks on vessels after the war started in February. The United States has also imposed a blockade on Iranian ports in the area. US and Iran give different accounts of talks US President Donald Trump said Monday that Washington and Tehran had resumed talks aimed at ending the conflict. However, Iran rejected the claim. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said no negotiations were taking place with the United States. He said Tehran was only holding discussions with Oman, mainly about creating a safe route for navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. Trump had said a day earlier that he called off major strikes he had threatened against Iran after being urged to do so by Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. “Whether Iran wants to admit it or not, we are, in fact, talking,” Trump said. He also expressed frustration with Iran, claiming that Tehran had sought talks despite publicly denying that negotiations were taking place. “Iranian Leadership is unbelievably duplicitous!” Trump wrote on Truth Social. He said Iran had requested a meeting and that talks had begun, with more meetings expected soon, while Tehran was publicly saying that it was not negotiating with Washington and was dealing only with Oman.



Japan says combat drones key to adapting to new warfare

International Desk

Japan needs to adapt to new forms of warfare, including the growing use of drones and artificial intelligence in conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, while strengthening its defense industry, the government said Tuesday. Japan has expanded its military capabilities and defense spending in recent years and has begun deploying long-range cruise missiles as a deterrent to China's growing military activity. A 598-page defense white paper adopted by the Cabinet on Tuesday again identified China as Japan's biggest strategic challenge. Tokyo is increasingly concerned about the growing presence and frequency of Chinese warships operating in the Pacific. The annual report reviews Japan's defense activities and priorities and assesses military trends in various countries. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government is seeking public support for increased defense spending and military expansion, with this year's report using a more accessible format, including a cartoon cover and links to video clips in Japanese, English and Chinese. Combat drones for new warfare Drawing lessons from Ukraine's extensive use of drones, Japan says adapting to what it calls "new ways of warfare" has become essential. As countries race to develop combat drones, Japan is prioritizing their development for coastal defense, alongside the use of long-range missiles. "Speed is key," Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said in early July. The Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency recently selected four drone makers from 38 applicants under a rapid development program. The prototypes are expected to undergo testing by Japan's navy in early August before a final selection is made. Several other Japanese companies are also working on similar systems. Toshiba said Friday that it plans to jointly develop combat drones with startup Pro Drone. Uncrewed weapons could help Japan address a declining number of military personnel amid the country's shrinking population. However, experts say developing fully domestic drones will be difficult because China's products dominate Japan's commercial drone market. Concerns over China, Russia and North Korea Japan has strengthened its military presence on southwestern islands in recent years and begun deploying long-range cruise missiles amid concerns over a possible conflict involving Taiwan, which China claims as its territory. The defense paper highlighted the growing presence and frequency of Chinese warships in the Pacific as a major concern. The Defense Ministry has also created a



dedicated unit to study Japan's Pacific strategy and strengthen defenses against China. The paper said China has steadily increased military spending with limited transparency and has rapidly expanded its nuclear and missile capabilities. It also referred to an incident last December when Chinese military aircraft locked their radar systems onto Japanese aircraft during Chinese carrier exercises near southwestern Japan, which Tokyo viewed as a possible step toward missile targeting. In June, two Chinese aircraft carriers were spotted near Japan's southern island of Iwo Jima for the first time. The development raised concerns in Tokyo over China's expanding military activities far beyond its immediate waters and in disputed areas of the East China Sea. Tensions between Japan and China have increased since Takaichi said in November that Chinese military action against Taiwan could justify Japan using force. The paper also described China's growing joint military activities with Russia around Japan, including bomber flights and naval operations, as a "grave national security concern." North Korea's rapid development of missiles, including hypersonic weapons, was described as an "increasingly serious and pressing threat." Its expanding military cooperation with Russia and support for Moscow's war in Ukraine were also cited as major concerns. Strengthening defense

industry and arms exports Japan's defense paper said strengthening domestic arms production and military technology is essential to maintaining the country's defense capabilities. The government has increased funding for startups and scientific research as part of efforts to develop its defense industry. Although many established Japanese companies have traditionally avoided involvement in lethal weapons because of the country's post-World War II pacifist stance, a growing number of startups are exploring ways to adapt dual-use technologies for military purposes, officials said. Japan's recent decision to ease restrictions on exports of lethal weapons could also help develop its relatively small defense industry. Koizumi said transferring weapons technology and jointly developing and producing military equipment could strengthen both Japan's defense industrial base and its security ties with partner countries. His recent overseas trips have included discussions on arms sales. Japan has already reached major defense agreements, including a deal with Australia to jointly develop and transfer 11 upgraded Mogami-class frigates. Tokyo is also discussing a similar arrangement with New Zealand and has agreed to sell retired destroyers to the Philippines.

Trump calls new Iran talks ‘last chance’ to avoid escalation

International Desk

President Donald Trump said Monday that new talks between Washington and Tehran are Iran's "last chance" to reach a deal and avoid an escalation of US strikes. Speaking at the Oval Office, Trump said the talks are expected to focus on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and creating a path for Iran to address US concerns over its nuclear programme. He said the status of the negotiations could become clearer "today or tomorrow." “The first phase is the opening of the straits. The second phase will be the denuclearization,” Trump said, adding that the second phase would take some time. Trump said he decided to delay plans for major new strikes on Iran after being urged to do so by Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He said US forces had been prepared to carry out “the biggest attack since World War II” on Sunday, but he abandoned the plan to give diplomacy more time after speaking with key Gulf leaders, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and receiving requests from unnamed Iranian officials. However, Trump again warned that his patience with Iran is running out. “This is the last chance for them to sign a good document,” he said. Earlier Monday, Trump criticised Iran on social media, calling it “unbelievably duplicitous” after Tehran said its talks with Oman were focused only on establishing a temporary safe navigation route through the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global oil trade. Trump said that, whether Iran acknowledges it or not, discussions are taking place on preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons. Since the start of US and Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb 28, Trump has repeatedly threatened to intensify attacks before stepping back from those threats. Asked why he has repeatedly issued strong warnings against Tehran and then backed away, Trump said he was showing patience because he wanted to avoid further loss of Iranian lives. “I want to give them every last chance before decapitation,” Trump said. “Hopefully, they’ll come to their senses.” Critics question Trump's repeated shifts Trump could still decide that a major escalation is necessary, but critics say his repeated hesitation may reflect an understanding within his administration that military force alone may not be enough to force Iran to back down and end the months-long war.



“I think what we're seeing here is a president who has an approach that's just rather erratic,” Sen. Mark Kelly, an Arizona Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on CBS News’ “Face the Nation.” News Kelly said Trump appeared to be trying to return to the situation before the conflict began. Trump has made similar threats and then backed away several times during the conflict. In early April, the US and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire less than two hours before a deadline Trump had set for Tehran to capitulate or face attacks on bridges and power plants. On May 18, after days of threats, Trump announced that he was postponing a major planned strike because “serious negotiations” were underway, while crediting Gulf allies for encouraging restraint. In June, Trump threatened to hit Iran “VERY HARD” and seize its energy base on Kharg Island, but later called off the planned strikes after saying peace talks with senior Iranian officials had made progress. Saudi crown prince influenced Trump's decision Trump indicated that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman played an important role in his decision to hold back from further escalation. The US president spoke by phone with the Saudi leader on Saturday, shortly before announcing that he was halting the planned strikes. According to a person briefed on the call, the crown prince warned that further escalation could have a serious impact on the global economy if Iran responded by attacking US allies in the Gulf. The person, who was not authorised to speak publicly and requested anonymity, said Saudi officials had told the Trump administration that Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE were capable of defending themselves against potential Iranian attacks. However, Kuwait could be more vulnerable to attacks by Iran-backed militias in Iraq, the person said. Republicans concerned over public opinion Trump has denied that November's midterm elections are influencing his approach to the Iran conflict, which has already caused concern across the global economy. However, the issue is drawing attention among Republicans. About two-thirds of US adults say the war with Iran has not been worthwhile, according to an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll published last week. The view is shared by most Democrats and independents, as well as about 37% of Republicans. Sen. John Kennedy, one of Trump's strongest allies in Congress, said Sunday that the administration should moderate its approach to Iran.



DiCaprio, Bezos launch \$200m project to save 100 threatened species

Entertainment Desk

Foundations backed by actor Leonardo DiCaprio and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos have launched a \$200 million initiative to help save 100 of the world's most threatened species. DiCaprio's Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund announced the Phoenix Species Project on Tuesday, describing it as the largest single fund ever created specifically to help recover critically endangered species. The project will support efforts to protect animals including lemurs, salamanders, pangolins, pigs, tortoises and echidnas whose survival is threatened by habitat loss, climate change and other pressures. DiCaprio has for years advocated for a major international effort to protect species at risk of extinction. In 2021, he and Re:wild co-founder and CEO Wes Sechrest met Bezos and his wife, Lauren Sánchez Bezos, who are chair and vice chair of the Bezos Earth Fund. The meeting was followed by discussions with governments, environmental organisations and Indigenous communities about ways to protect some of the world's most vulnerable species. Those discussions eventually led to the Phoenix Species Project. Among the species the initiative will support are the gold-

en-crowned sifaka, a lemur found in Madagascar; the Hickory Nut Gorge green salamander, which lives only in a small canyon in North Carolina; and the Visayan warty pig, found only on islands in the Philippines. Other species include Mexico's Cozumel harvest mouse, the pink land iguana of the Galápagos Islands, the Malayan pangolin of Southeast Asia and Tanzania's pancake tortoise. The project will also help protect the starry night harlequin toad, found only in Colombia's mountains, and Attenborough's long-beaked echidna, an egg-laying mammal native to New Guinea and named after renowned naturalist David Attenborough. The initiative aims to provide long-term funding and support to conservation projects that have achieved progress but often struggle to secure enough resources to continue their work. "We've protected the golden-crowned sifaka for years on a budget that would never match what this species deserves, but letting it go extinct was never an option," said Tiana Andriamanana, executive director of Association Fanamby, one of the organisations receiving funding. She said the new funding, along with global cooperation and technical support, would create new opportunities to protect the species.



Ilias Kanchan returning home after 15 months

Entertainment Desk

Renowned actor Ilias Kanchan, who has been undergoing treatment in London for more than a year, is finally returning home. The actor left London's Heathrow Airport Bangladesh time. History He is accompanied by his son-in-law Ariful Islam Collins. However, this return will not be for long. He will have to return to London before August 14 because he will be tested again there on August 15. Kanchan is suffering from a brain tumour. It is known that he has already been given 60 chemotherapy treatments. The actor's appearance has also changed somewhat due to the long-term treatment. In a picture taken from the airport, Kanchan is seen sitting on a chair with white hair and beard. His entourage is standing behind

Salman reveals unknown story of prison life

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood's Bhaijaan Salman Khan, whose impeccable presence on the silver screen captivated millions of fans, had to go to the dark cell of four walls at different times in his career. What was his prison life like? Even after years have passed, the superstar recently came on stage of a reality show and told a thrilling and unknown story about how horrific his experience inside the jail was. Salman's younger brother Sohail Khan has participated as a contestant in the reality competition 'Alliance'. Salman said, "When I went to jail many years ago, we had iron gates in front of us." In his words, "About 50 to 70 people lived crammed into such a small space. There was only one Indian-style toilet in the whole house. Lizards would occasionally wander around, and the condition of the toilet was so bad that it was filled to the top with dirt."

Mrunal Thakur warns of legal action over AI-generated deepfakes

Entertainment Desk

Indian actor Mrunal Thakur has warned people against creating or sharing AI-generated deepfake content using her image, saying any further misuse of her identity will lead to legal action. The actor issued the warning on Instagram on Tuesday, although she did not say what specific incident prompted the notice. "Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable," she wrote, calling on people to stop such activities immediately. She also warned that any further misuse of her identity would result in legal action. A growing number of Indian actors have recently turned to the courts to protect their image, identity and personality rights from unauthorised use of artificial intelligence. Actors including Akshay Kumar, Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Preity Zinta, Kartik Aaryan and Suniel Shetty have taken legal steps over the misuse of their identities. Rashmika raises concern over AI misuse Actor Rashmika Mandanna also previously spoke out against the misuse of AI to create vulgar and harmful images targeting women. In a post on X last December, she warned that the ability to manipulate images and information through AI could make it increasingly difficult to distinguish truth from fabrication. She said AI could be a powerful tool for progress, but its misuse to target women and create offensive content reflected a serious moral problem. Rashmika urged people to use AI responsibly and called for strict action against those who misuse the technology.



Earlier, a person was arrested for allegedly spreading deepfake content involving Rashmika. Mrunal's upcoming film Mrunal Thakur is currently associated with the much-anticipated action drama Raaka, directed by Atlee Kumar. The film features a star-studded cast, including Allu Arjun, Deepika Padukone and Rashmika Mandanna. The makers are reportedly targeting a December 2027 release, although the date has not yet been officially confirmed.

This achievement is not mine alone, it belongs to everyone: Bubly



Entertainment Desk

Popular Dhallywood actress Shobnom Bubly has won a big award at the 'New York Bangla Film Festival' held in New York, USA. She won the Best Actress award at the festival for her impeccable performance in the movie 'Deyaler Desh'. The star expressed her gratitude and gratitude to everyone through an emotional message on social media after receiving such an award. Bubly shared her joy by posting on social media. Expressing her feelings about receiving the award, the heroine said, "I am truly honoured and grateful to receive the Best Actress award for the movie 'Deyaler Desh' at the New York Bengali Film Festival. This recognition is not only for me, but for everyone who has been a part of this journey." Remembering the entire team behind the award, Bubly further said, "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the director of the movie 'Deyaler Desh', Mishuk Moni, the producer, the writer, the co-artists, the cinematographer, the makeup and costume teams, and all the behind-the-scenes crew. This achievement has been possible because of your unwavering hard work, dedication, and faith." She also expressed special gratitude to the festival organisers, family, friends, and everyone who has been by her side since the beginning of her career. Finally, expressing her love for the audience, Bubly added, "I would like to express my special thanks to my audience. Your love and constant support inspire me to learn more, grow anew, and give my best in every performance. This award is as much a blessing as it is a big responsibility for me." The heroine also expressed her hope to present more beautiful stories and unforgettable characters to the audience in the coming days.

Model Akanksha faces indecent proposal for financial help

Entertainment Desk

Model Akanksha Choudhary has opened up about her bitter experience in the Indian entertainment industry. She recently alleged that she faced an indecent proposal from an influential person in the world of beauty pageants when she was about to leave the reality show 'Lock Up: Sach Ya Saja'. Recounting her experience, Akanksha said, "I wanted to join a beauty pageant. I needed 1 to 2 lakh rupees for various expenses including clothing, training. We couldn't afford it. My parents couldn't give me the money either. Then I contacted an influential person. I don't want to mention his name because he is a big name. I knew him for many years. He used to come as a judge in various beauty pageants. I had heard that he had helped many contestants financially. So, I also asked him for help for two months. I said that I would repay the money later by working. I studied engineering and could speak well, so I could work in his company. He immediately agreed and called me to his house." Describing the unpleasant situation he faced after reaching home, he said that he was harassed as soon as he reached there.



Badhon responds to criticism 'No one pays my expenses'

Entertainment Desk

Azmeri Haque Badhon has joined Mohammad Iqbal's new movie 'Gulshaner Chameli'. The actress was also present at the movie's mahurat on Sunday. However, the news is a few days ago. Badhon has also been the victim of various negative comments in these days. After internationally famous movies like 'Rehana Mariam Noor' or 'The Difficult Bride', many people seem to 'not be able to accept' her in such a conventional masala movie. Badhon responded to that criticism. This afternoon, he posted a photo taken at the 'Gulshaner Chameli' festival on Facebook. Along with it, she wrote to the detractors, "I believe one thing, no one pays for my family expenses, no one lives my life. So, please don't waste your valuable time giving me advice. I have people in my life whose advice I trust



and respect." At the beginning of the post, Badhon explained the reason for joining 'Gulshaner Chameli' movie. The actress wrote, "It was a very difficult decision for me to agree to do this movie. But I really liked the story. I was also impressed by the respect and cooperation I received from the entire team from the beginning." The actress also highlighted the various experiences of her acting career, writing, "In my career of so many years, I have worked with many directors and producers. I have gained new experiences from each job. Some jobs were good, some were difficult, but all in all, I have become who I am today." At the end of the post, Badhon expressed her satisfaction with her life. She commented, "I am happy with my life. InshaAllah, with time I will move forward and become happier." It is said that the shooting of the movie will begin by the end of this year.



'Concert for Democracy' at Suhrawardy Udyan on Aug 5

Entertainment Desk

Seven of Bangladesh's leading bands will perform at 'Concert for Democracy', a free open-air concert marking the second anniversary of the July Uprising, at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka on August 5, said a press release. The event is being organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, supervised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), with support from the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA). South Asians & Diaspora The line-up features Miles, Warfaze, Different Touch, Lalon, Highway, Ashes and RERE.

The concert will begin at 3:00pm and continue until 9:00pm, while entry gates will open at 1:00pm. Admission is free. BAMBAPresident Hamin Ahmed said music had played a significant role during the July movement, making it a fitting medium to commemorate the occasion. He said, "Music played an important role during the July movement. We want to observe the day through music. With BAMBAs support, we hope people will join us in large numbers. RERE will perform during the opening segment, followed by Ashes, Different Touch, Lalon, Highway, Miles and Warfaze. The programme will also include an award presentation



Shafique, Babar put Pakistan in control of 2nd Test against West Indies

Sports Desk

Abdullah Shafique scored his sixth Test century and shared an unbeaten 168-run third-wicket partnership with Babar Azam as Pakistan took control on Day 2 of the second Test against the West Indies. The West Indies were bowled out for 344 in their first innings shortly after resuming Monday at 239-5. Pakistan then made a strong start to its reply, reaching 266-2 at stumps. Shafique was unbeaten on 107 and captain Babar was 86 not out as Pakistan enjoyed its best day of the two-Test series. The West Indies won the first Test by 90 runs. Batting was difficult on the opening day as the pitch offered assistance to the slow bowlers. Conditions improved considerably Monday, allowing Pakistan to score freely and move within 78 runs of the West

Indies total. Azan Awaits scored his maiden Test half-century, making 55 with nine boundaries. He put on 34 for the first wicket with Imam-ul-Haq, who scored 14, before adding 64 for the second wicket with Shafique. Awaits was trapped lbw by Jomel Warrican after missing an attempted sweep. The umpire initially rejected the appeal, but West Indies captain Roston Chase reviewed the decision. The television umpire ruled that the ball was turning enough to hit the leg stump. Babar joined Shafique and immediately adopted an aggressive approach as the pair added 100 runs from 139 balls. Shafique reached his half-century first with four fours and two sixes, while Babar soon followed with his 33rd Test half-century, including eight fours.

Shafique then completed his century from 173 balls, his first Test hundred in almost two years. His previous century came against England in October 2024. He missed the first Test against the West Indies and returned to the side after last playing against South Africa in October. Pakistan will be keen to avoid another second-innings collapse later in the match. In the first Test, Pakistan scored 282 in its opening innings before being dismissed for just 120 in the second. Earlier, Justin Greaves top-scored for the West Indies with 73, while Chase made a determined 70 to help the hosts reach a competitive total. Off-spinner Sajid Khan took 4-85, while left-arm spinner Ali Usman, playing only his second Test, Mohammad Ali and Ubaid Shah took two wickets each.

Bangladesh begins preparations in Darwin for Australia Tests

Sports Desk

Experienced spinner Taijul Islam expressed his satisfaction over the side's early progress despite an injury-hit squad as Bangladesh kicked off their preparations for the two-Test series against Australia with their first training session in Darwin today. The session featured fitness drills alongside batting, bowling, fielding and running exercises as the visitors geared up for their first Test on Australian soil in 23 years. Fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who had travelled to Australia ahead of the rest of the squad to consult a specialist over long-standing ankle and shoulder injuries, has joined the team. The video footage sent by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) showed Taskin participating in training after arriving in Perth earlier for medical assessment. "The journey was good because we had a transit on the way and got enough rest there," Taijul said in a video message released by the BCB. The left-arm spinner said they had started their preparations on a positive note. "Overall, the preparation was good. On the first day we were able to complete all kinds of activities, including bowling, batting practice, fielding drills and running," he added.

Kristina Liutova becomes Memphis Classic champion

Sports Desk

Sixteen-year-old Kristina Liutova of Russia claimed a 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Darja Vidmanova of the Czech Republic on Sunday to earn the title at the Memphis Classic in her first-ever WTA main-draw event. Liutova, the world's No. 229-ranked player who had to qualify to get into the main draw, became the first player aged 16-or-younger since Coco Gauff in 2019 to win a WTA event and the first player born in the 2010s to win a WTA event. She started the tournament by advancing when top-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia was forced to retire, then handled sixth-seeded Caty McNally in the quarterfinals on the way to the title. Liutova did not register any aces on the hard-court surface against Vidmanova, but she converted seven of 10 break-point opportunities.

Osaka out to improve Toronto fortunes with eye on US Open



Sports Desk

Naomi Osaka is hoping her success last year in Montreal, where she finished runner-up to Victoria Mboko, will translate as the WTA's 1000 event in Canada shifts to Toronto. The four-time Grand Slam champion from Japan is coming off a semi-final run on the hard courts of Washington, where she fell to eventual champion Alexandra Eala of the Philippines. "I did better than last year in DC, so I'm just hoping to keep the ball rolling," Osaka said. "I haven't historically played super, super well here, so I'm just hoping to change that this year. "I can try to recall Montreal, but I would like to kind of treat the cities separately," added Osaka, whose best run in Toronto -- which alternates hosting duties with Montreal each year -- was a quarter-final appearance back in 2019.= The former world number one is seeded 11th this year and aiming to build momentum as the August 31 start of the US Open approaches. Osaka earned the last of her four major titles at the 2021 Australian Open and has yet to regain the heights she reached before taking an extended maternity leave in 2023. But she made it to the US Open semi-finals last year and

reached the last 16 at the French Open for the first time this year before a career-best quarter-final at Wimbledon. "I would just hope to gain a lot of confidence leading into New York," she said. "I lost my last match, but it's helped me figure out what I want to do exactly, or how I want to take my tennis." Osaka is in the same quarter as second-seeded Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina and in the fourth round she could find herself up against fifth-seeded French Open champion Mirra Andreeva. Andreeva, who suffered a shock second-round exit at Wimbledon, will face a tricky opening match against former world number one Karolina Pliskova, who beat Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova 6-4, 6-4 on Monday. Osaka will open against Hungary's Panna Uvardy, who was up 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 2-0 against Eva Lys when the German retired because of injury in a match in which she led the second set 5-2. It was a jam-packed schedule on the second day of first-round play. Among the winners, Poland's Magdalena Frech defeated France's Leolia Jeanjean 7-5, 6-3 to line up a meeting with third-seeded two-time champion Jessica Pegula. Pegula beat Frech last week on the way to the final in Washington, where the American fell to Eala in the rain-delayed title match on Monday. In other early matches, American Kayla Day beat Diane Parry of France 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to book a clash with fourth-seeded Coco Gauff. World number one Aryna Sabalenka is the top seed in the tournament. After disappointing runs at the French Open and Wimbledon the Belarusian is aiming to reassert her dominance on hard courts, where her lone defeat this year was to Rybakina in the Australian Open final.

Wenger backs FIFA decision to drop Infantino's World Cup investment plan

Sports Desk

FIFA executive Arsène Wenger has backed the decision to abandon a controversial plan to sell stakes in future World Cup profits to private investors, saying dropping the proposal was "absolutely necessary." The former Arsenal manager's comments came after UEFA's lawyers sent a letter to FIFA President Gianni Infantino threatening legal action. The letter named Wenger and 17 other FIFA executives whose communications and data should be preserved as potential evidence. Wenger, FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development, said he had no role in developing the plan and learned about it from media reports. "I was not involved in this strategic plan and first became aware of the project through media reports," Wenger said. The French football great, who was hired by Infantino in 2019, did not mention the FIFA president by name in his statement. He said withdrawing the plan was essential because he believed FIFA should remain independent and operate with transparency and integrity.



"The decision to withdraw the project was absolutely necessary and beyond question, because I firmly believe in an independent FIFA that serves our game with commitment, transparency, and integrity," Wenger said. Infantino withdrew the proposed \$20 billion investment plan early Saturday following strong opposition from football officials around the world. UEFA had warned that European football could boycott FIFA matches and events if the plan went ahead.

BCB to commercialize domestic tournaments under new reform plan

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has undertaken a series of initiatives to make its domestic tournaments more competitive and commercially attractive, while significantly reducing operational costs. Tournament Committee Chairman Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir said the planned reforms could save the BCB between Tk 15 crore and Tk 30 crore annually, with the savings to be redirected towards cricket development. According to Alamgir, the BCB currently spends more than Tk. 50 crore each year in organizing domestic tournaments, a figure he believes can be substantially reduced through better planning and commercialization. "From what we have seen, the BCB spends a huge amount of money to run its tournaments. With some well-planned initiatives, we can significantly reduce those costs," Alamgir told the BSS in an exclusive interview. "After consulting with the board president, we have undertaken several projects regarding our domestic competitions. We have already discussed the plans with our stakeholders, and the results will be visible very soon," he added. Alamgir, a veteran cricket organizer from Chattogram, said the board is no longer interested in continuing to bear the full financial burden of tournaments such as the National Cricket League (NCL) T20, the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) four-day and one-day competitions. Under the proposed model, the BCB plans to market the BCL four-day, BCL one-day and NCL T20 tournaments as a single commercial package. Each competition will feature six privately owned teams, with approximately 60 days allocated for the combined schedule. The traditional eight-team NCL four-day championship, however, will continue in its existing format with divisional teams, alongside a three-day NCL Second XI competition. "If we continue these tournaments in the conventional way, they will not benefit us financially. That's why we have decided to market them. The money we save through effective cost-cutting can later be invested in

development projects," Alamgir said. "We have already shared our ideas with the marketing department to explore how domestic cricket can be marketed more effectively." Alamgir believes improved marketing will not only generate greater revenue for the BCB but also enhance the competitiveness and appeal of the domestic competitions. He also dismissed concerns over possible payment complications under the proposed ownership model. "The owners will not have to pay franchise fees like those in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). They will simply follow the existing payment structure that the BCB uses for players in tournaments such as the BCL and NCL. Therefore, there will be no payment-related complications, while the board will save a significant amount of money," he said. "These tournaments are marketable products. I find it hard to believe that the cricket board cannot sell its own competitions. If we can properly demonstrate the commercial opportunities to our sponsors, I believe we will be able to market these events successfully. Discussions have already begun, and the results will be seen very soon." He added that successful commercialization would also allow the BCB to pay players in advance, eliminating the recurring problem of delayed payments. "There is no need to charge a huge ownership fee. The owners would simply need to introduce the players' payments under the existing first-class payment structure or any other structure already in place," he added. Alamgir also revealed plans to introduce foreign players into the domestic competitions through a player exchange programme. "The exchange programme will reduce the cost of bringing foreign players in." "At the same time, it will make our competitions more competitive and attractive. Our local players will benefit immensely from sharing dressing rooms with overseas cricketers. Likewise, our players will also participate in tournaments abroad under the programme, gaining valuable international exposure."

Morocco, Algeria advance to WAFCON quarter-finals

Sports Desk

Hosts Morocco topped Group A at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) despite failing to score from a twice-taken penalty in a 0-0 draw with Senegal on Monday. Morocco advanced to the quarter-finals by finishing with seven points after beating Kenya convincingly and Algeria narrowly in earlier mini-league matches in Rabat. Goals from Marine Dafeur and Lynda Bendris earned Algeria a 2-0 victory over Kenya in a match played simultaneously, and they booked a last-eight place by coming second with six points. Senegal ended with four points and Kenya with none so both were eliminated from the two-yearly African women's football showpiece. Morocco will face the Group B runners-up and Algeria the Group B winners in the quarter-finals. They will discover their opponents on Tuesday after the final matches in that mini-league. Ivory Coast lead Group B with four points, Burkina Faso and Tanzania have three each and South Africa one, leaving all four nations with a chance to progress. Morocco beat Senegal 1-0 in both the 2022 and 2024 WAFCON tournaments, with the goal coming from a penalty on each occasion. The Atlas Lionesses had a chance to repeat those feats when awarded a spot-kick midway through the second half after Marieme Babou fouled Sakina Ouzraoui. Teenager Adjì Ndiaye saved the first attempt from Yasmin Mrabet, but came off her line too early and the Ugandan referee ordered a retake.



Mrabet once again struck the ball to the left of the goal-keeper, and once again her effort was spectacularly parried to safety. Senegal had come closest to scoring in open play when Ndeye Diakhate rattled the crossbar with a volley as half-time approached. Algeria quickly took control against Kenya and were two goals ahead midway through the first half at another Rabat stadium. Dafeur claimed her second goal of the WAFCON by rifling a free-kick into the net from well outside the area on 14 minutes. Bendris dispossessed a Kenyan defender, then lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Lilian Awuor to increase the lead nine minutes later. Apart from chasing a record two-million-dollar WAFCON first prize, the semi-finalists qualify for the 2027 World Cup in Brazil.



Press Conference by Temple Management Committee in Jaintapur, Seek Administration's Intervention to Protect Temple from Land Grabbers.



Naeem Ahmad, Jaintapur-Gowainghat (Sylhet) Correspondent

The management committee of Sri Sri Jagannath Dev Akhra, in Jaintapur Upazila, Sylhet, has alleged attempts to occupy the historic temple and threats and intimidation against the temple's priest and Vaishnavs to force them to leave. They claim that a vested-interest family is deliberately carrying out various conspiracies with the aim of grabbing debuttar [dedicated to deity] property. In this situation, they have urged the administration to urgently intervene to ensure the temple's security and to keep religious activities running normally. These allegations were made by Shardinu Dash Purkayastha, General Secretary of the Sri Sri Jagannath Dev Akhra Management Committee, at a press conference held on Tuesday (August 4) at the Jaintapur Press Club auditorium. In his written statement, he said that Sri Sri Jagannath Dev Akhra, located in Purba Lakshiprosad Mouza of Jaintapur Upazila, is an ancient Hindu religious institution. After religious activities had been closed for a long time, local followers of the Sanatan Dharma took the initiative to resume worship in late 1999. At that time, it was alleged that neighbor Moti Lal Das, harassed them by filing various lawsuits. He further stated that later, following court directives and administrative initiatives, an investigation committee was

formed. The investigation found that about 17 bighas of land, including the Akhra house were in the name of Lord Jagannath Dev, while some other land was wrongly recorded in the names of various individuals. After that, a lawsuit was filed in court to establish ownership of the debuttar property and to correct the records. At the end of the long legal process, on May 29 of this year, the Senior Assistant Judge Court ruled in favor of establishing the deity's ownership.

Following the verdict, the temple was renovated, and arrangements for the priest's residence and drinking water were completed. On June 17 -

The Sri Sri Jagannath Dev Temple and deity, were re-established in the presence of thousands of devotees. After that, worship was being conducted peacefully, he claimed.

However, on July 2, when they went to identify the agricultural land of the debuttar, property, a planned clash was instigated, alleged Shardinu Dash Purkayastha. In connection with this incident, Bakul Das filed a case as plaintiff against him and several others associated with the temple. Since then, he alleged, the priest and Vaishnavs have been threatened and told to leave the temple, and attempts are being made to shut down the Akhra's activities.

At the press conference, allegations of biased behavior were also made against, Masuq Mia, UP Member of Nijpat Union, and local journalist Nurul Islam.

The written statement claimed that Masuq Mia was present at the scene, later became a witness in the case, and started plowing the debuttar land. At the same time, journalist Nurul Islam was also accused of taking the side of the opposing party.

At the press conference, the temple management committee strongly demanded that the administration take quick and effective steps to ensure the security of the priest and Vaishnavs, create an environment for normal religious activities at the temple, and protect the debuttar property.



Operations of Five Unregistered Private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centers Shut Down in Faridpur

Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter, Faridpur

The Civil Surgeon has shut down the operations of five private hospitals and diagnostic centers near Faridpur Medical College Hospital for operating without registration for a long time and for allegations of various irregularities and mismanagement. On Tuesday (August 4) at noon, this action was taken during a joint operation by the District Commissioner and the District Civil Surgeon. The operation was led by District Civil Surgeon Dr. Mahmudul Hasan. During the operation, the activities of Al Jara Specialized Hospital, Lily Private Hospital and Diagnostic Center, Medico Hospital and Diagnostic Center, Holy City Private Hospital, and Ma-Moni Diagnostic Center were declared closed. District Civil Surgeon Dr. Mahmudul Hasan, said the operation was conducted to ensure the registration of healthcare institutions and to guarantee quality and safe medical services for patients. The concerned institutions have been urged to complete the necessary registration quickly and operate while maintaining healthcare standards. He further said, "Such monitoring and mobile court operations will continue in the future in the public interest." It is worth mentioning that the general public has strongly demanded that such operations continue.

Press conference against Abdul Haque, the president of the managing committee of the West Kadamtala

Independent Ebtedayi Madrasa, in Pirojpur, alleging embezzlement, fraud and recruitment business



Pirojpur Correspondent

The victim's family held a press conference against Abdul Haque, a fourth-class employee of Khanakuniyari PERC Fazil Madrasa and the president of the managing committee of the West Kadamtala Independent Ebtedayi Madrasa. The victim's family from Khanakuniyari held the press conference at the Pirojpur Press Club auditorium on Tuesday afternoon. In a written statement at the press conference, the victim, Md. Manik Sheikh, said that Abdul Haque is a fourth-class employee of Khanakuniyari PERC Fazil Madrasa and the president of the regular committee of the West Kadamtala Independent Ebtedayi Madrasa. He has been hiding his name and title and showing off his power for years and has established a reign of heinous injustice.

In the last five years, he has embezzled about 1.4 million taka from at least 10 people by tempting them to provide jobs to ordinary innocent people and unemployed youth of the area. When they protested about his injustice, he harassed them by filing false cases.

In addition, there are no regular classes in the West Kadamtala Independent Ebtedayi Madrasa and there are no residential students. However, Abdul Haque has been receiving various government allocations and inconveniences for a long time by submitting fake and fabricated lists of at least 170 students to various government offices.

Victim Monira Jasmine said that the fraudster Abdul Haque took 200,000 taka from her in cash by falsely promising her a job. Now she is not in contact with him anymore.

The victim, Atiqur Rahman, said that Abdul Haque had taken away three lakh taka by showing his inclination to appoint him as the headmaster of the West Kadamtala Independent Ebtedayi Madrasa. Despite repeated requests, he did not return the money.

In this regard, the accused, Abdul Haque, said that he denied all the allegations made against him in this regard. He claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched against him.

The press conference was attended by Md. Manik Sheikh, Abdur Razzak, Md. Atiqur Rahman, Monira Jasmine, and the victim's family members from the West Kadamtala area.

Disbursement of interest-free micro-loans by social services office at Fakirhat, Bagerhat

SA Kalam, Fakirhat, (Bagerhat)

Under the initiative of Bagerhat's Fakirhat Upazila Social Service Office, 30 working group (committee) members have distributed interest-free micro-loans of Taka 7 lakh.

On Tuesday (August 4) at 12 noon in the auditorium of the upazila expanded complex building, distri-



bution of interest-free micro-loans to these members, upazila executive officer Md. Roknuz Zaman. Upazila Social Service Officer Subrata Biswas and others were present at the time. According to the related sources, 20 thousand taka was paid to 10 people of Kalkalia Samiti on this day.



Presenting Objective, Impartial and Public-Interest News is Our Responsibility, Bagerhat Upazila Press Club Monthly Meeting

Bagerhat Correspondent

The monthly meeting of the Bagerhat Upazila Press Club was held.

The meeting took place on Monday (August 3) at 9:00 PM at the Press Club office.

The meeting was chaired by Masum Hawladar, President of Bagerhat Upazila Press Club. Also present were M A Wadud, Vice President, Tanvir Soheli, General Secretary, S M Mahmud Hasan, Joint General Secretary Mahabubur Rahman Badal, Finance Secretary Abul Kalam Asad, Office Secretary, Jahangir Sheikh, Sports and Cultural Secretary Executive Members Sheikh Asadur Rahman, Rezaul Kabir and other members of the Press Club.

The overall activities of the organization were reviewed at the meeting, and various ongoing organizational matters were discussed in detail. During this time, special emphasis was placed on improving the quality of local journalism, presenting objective, impartial, and public-interest-related news, and

upholding journalists, professional ethics and responsibility.

In addition, members presented various important proposals and opinions to make the Press Club's organizational activities more dynamic, effective, and member-friendly. The meeting also discussed implementing training workshops for journalists' skill development, professional development programs, social initiatives, and various media-related programs in the future.

Speakers at the meeting said that free, independent, and responsible journalism plays an important role in the development of society and in establishing good governance. Therefore, everyone must work together to maintain professional unity, mutual cooperation, and to safeguard the interests of journalists.

Finally, the members present expressed their firm commitment to building the Bagerhat Upazila Press Club into a stronger, more united, modern, and people-oriented organization.



Video of Employee Sleeping in Office Goes Viral in Dimla, Served with Show-Cause Notice

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter, Nilphamari

A video of Shamsun Nahar an employee of Goyabari Union Land Office in Dimla Upazila, Nilphamari, sleeping during office hours has gone viral on social media.

In connection with the incident, Upazila Assistant Land Officer Roushan Kabir has issued a show-cause notice to the employee.

The incident occurred around 3:30 PM on Monday (August 3) at the Goyabari Union Land Office. At that time, several people present at the office saw the concerned employee sleeping during official hours. Later, a video of the incident was recorded and published on social media, after which it spread quickly.

Regarding this, Goyabari Union Land Officer Abu Raiyan said, "I had a meeting at the Upazila office at 4 PM, so I left the office around 3:30 PM. After that, Shamsun Nahar was in the office. She has been suffering from illness for a few days. However, after learning about the incident, she has already been served a show-cause notice."

Dimla Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Roushan Kabir said, "There is no scope for negligence in duty during office hours. The matter is being taken seriously. If the allegation is proven true, necessary action will be taken against the accused as per government rules."

Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Imranuzzaman said, "A show-cause notice has already been issued to the concerned employee following the incident. After receiving her written response, further necessary action will be taken as per the rules." Meanwhile, attempts were made to contact the accused employee, but she could not be reached.

Hassle-free passport services bring smiles to applicants in Khulna

Khulna Correspondent

Passport seekers in Khulna have expressed satisfaction over receiving services smoothly and without the involvement of brokers at the Khulna Divisional Passport and Visa Office.

"I received my passport within seven working days, Alhamdulillah. Without the help of any brokers, I completed every step of the procedure myself, starting from the application process. It was a very easy and hassle-free experience. My passport delivery date was August 1, but I received it on Sunday," said Shakina Begum, a former professor (now on PRL) of Government Brojo Lal College, while talking to BSS. "This was my appointment date. Everything, from fingerprint collection to the photo shoot, was completed within just 20 minutes that day," she added.

Another passport recipient, Abul Hashem, a worker from Paikgachha upazila who is scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia for employment, told BSS, "I was thinking of getting a passport without the help of a broker. But I was afraid that I would have to face many hassles at the passport office. However, to my surprise, I found that I could apply online for an ordinary passport. There was no trouble or unnecessary waiting at any stage of the process."

"After simple verification of my old passport with the application form, the concerned official asked me to enter a room where my digital photograph and fingerprints were taken. Then I received a receipt mentioning the date of passport collection. What surprised me more was that I received an SMS on my mobile phone the day before the scheduled delivery date, informing me that my passport was ready for collection from the Boyra office," he said with satisfaction.

"In my opinion, such hassle-free services are unprecedented in present-day Bangladesh. All credit goes to the officers and staff members of the Khulna Divisional Passport Office for creating such an arrangement. We hope all public sector offices will function with the same spirit," he added.

Coast Guard Installs RO Plant in Mongla's Joymonir Ghol to Ensure Safe Drinking Water for Locals.

Masum Hawladar, Bagerhat

The Bangladesh Coast Guard has installed an RO plant, in Mongla's Joymonir Ghol area to ensure safe drinking water for local residents.

On Tuesday (August 4) at noon, Lieutenant Commander Sabbir Alam Sujon, Coast Guard Media Officer, shared this information.

He said, "The Bangladesh Coast Guard has come forward to meet various needs of people in coastal and riverine areas and has been conducting public service activities."

As part of this ongoing effort and as part of the current government's public welfare programs, at 11:00 AM today, Tuesday, August 4, Coast Guard Base Mongla installed a modern RO (Reverse Osmosis) plant on the premises of Joymonir Ghol Government Primary School under Mongla Police Station, Bagerhat. The aim is to address the local people's long-standing crisis of safe drinking water.

With the installation of the RO plant, along with the school's teachers, students, and staff, the surrounding local residents will also be able to access safe and pure drinking water. This will help resolve the long-standing



drinking water crisis in the school and the Joymonir Ghol area, as well as play an important role in preventing waterborne diseases and ensuring a healthy lifestyle. He further said, "The Bangladesh Coast Guard will continue such public service activities in the future for the welfare of people in the country's coastal and riverine areas."