



The Daily Bangla Sky

Rg. No. 29/16. vol. 10. Issu. 226, Dhaka Sunday 09 August 2026, 25 Shrawan 1433 BS, 8 Page, Tk. 10

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PM asks UNOs to treat people as their own, serve responsibly

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) to treat people as their own and discharge their duties with the highest sense of responsibility and humanity, saying public service is a great opportunity to stand beside the distressed and build a safe and liveable Bangladesh. "For everyone entrusted with state responsibilities, the opportunity to serve

the people is a sacred responsibility and a blessing from Allah. We must use this opportunity to stand beside the helpless and distressed and leave a safe and liveable Bangladesh for the next generation," he said. The Prime Minister made the remarks while addressing a meeting with UNOs from different upazilas at his office in Tejgaon here this afternoon, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary

Suzauddhowla Sujon Mahmud.

Referring to field-level administration officials as a bridge between the government and the people, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of treating the people of their respective upazilas as their own. The Prime Minister said, "You may be serving in an upazila that is not your own, but it is a part of your country. The people living there may not be from your

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No scope to favor anyone in proposed fuel policy : Energy Division

Staff Correspondent

The Energy Division has clarified that there is no scope to extend special benefits to any specific individual, organization, or group through the proposed policy on private sector import, storage, transportation, distribution, and marketing of refined fuel.

The division also stated that untrue information regarding the policy is being spread across social media and mainstream news outlets. The clarification was issued in a statement on Saturday (August 8) by Muhammad Arif Sadeq, Deputy Chief Information Officer of the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources. According to the statement, the government has taken an initiative to draft the

Attackers Break Into House Through Scissor Gate Loot Gold, Cash and Vandalize Belongings

Footballer and 2026 HSC Candidate. Uzayer Hossain Sajib Barely Escapes Through Back Door,



Masum Hawlader, Bagerhat

In Sadar Rajoir village, Khontaghata Union, Sarankhola Upazila, Bagerhat district an attack was carried out at a footballer's house on August 5, 2026 at around 9,10 PM report-

edly over a dispute following a football match. The victim is Uzayer Hossain Sajib a footballer and 2026 HSC examinee, He told correspondent Masum Hawlader: My father has been working in Dhaka for 10 years. We two brothers and my mother live at home. I am the youngest in the family.

Yesterday, after the football match, while I was coming home from the field, 4-5 people suddenly attacked me at the base of the well-known bridge at Rayenda Bazar Kheyaghat, I was kicked and punched, but I ran and somehow made it home. My mother was not home, she was at my maternal grandparents' house. I locked the front scissor gate and stayed inside. At around 9:10 PM a group of 20 to 25 people led by Elias, son of the late Khalil Munshi from Sarankhola Govt. Degree College intersection along with Miraj Gaji, Shipon fokir both are rayenda bazer, and others, armed with local weapons and sticks, broke

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Govt working to make Bangladesh international tourism hub : Afroza



Staff Correspondent

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam Rita yesterday said the government is working with all relevant stakeholders to transform Bangladesh into an international tourism hub, in line with its electoral commitment. "Making Bangladesh an international tourism hub is part of our election manifesto, and we are all working together towards that goal," she said while addressing the launching ceremony of the Travel and Tourism Development Centre (TTDC) at Hotel InterContinental in the capital.

Afroza said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is taking a fresh approach to unlocking the country's vast tourism potential and positioning the sector as a major driver of economic growth and employment. "The Honorable Prime Minister has only one goal-the development of the country and the development of its people," she said. "We are thinking anew for the country's tourism sector. If we all work together, we

will be able to fulfil the dreams we have for our nation through tourism," the minister added. Highlighting the government's ambition for the sector, Afroza said a National Tourism Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, has been formed with a target to increase tourism's contribution to GDP from around three percent at present to 6-7 percent in the coming years. A National Tourism Master Plan is also being finalised, while a mega tourism development initiative is underway covering Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Khulna, she said.

More than 100 professional tour guides have already been trained under the government's skill development programme, she added. The minister said tourism currently contributes nearly three percent to the national GDP, equivalent to around US\$10 billion, and supports more than two million jobs across hotels, airlines, restaurants, tour operations and local guiding services. She said more than 30 districts have recognised tourist destinations, but the country's enormous tourism potential has yet to be fully tapped.

"We are sitting on a gold mine and still using a teaspoon to dig," Afroza said. Stressing the importance of private-sector leadership, the minister said the government could formulate policies and open doors through diplomatic engagement, but

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565 garment workers laid off via SMS in Ashulia

Staff Correspondent

Alliance Knit Composite Limited, an export-oriented garment factory in Ashulia, has laid off 565 workers during an official holiday via SMS.

The factory cited business slump, financial crisis, and work shortage as reasons of this massive lay off. The Human Resource and Administration Department of the factory, located in the Pukurpur area of Ashulia, issued a notice on Saturday morning declaring the termination of workers across various departments.

The retrenchment comes into effect from Saturday. According to the notice containing the list of affected workers, the factory faces severe business depression due to global and domestic factors. Production was severely disrupted due to a lack of banking support and sufficient work orders. The management stated that to ensure business survival and continuity, it was forced to reduce excess workforce under Section 20 of

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PM to visit Ctg Sunday, meet Hefazat chief

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to visit Fatikchhari in Chattogram on Sunday (August 9), where he is expected to meet Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh Ameer Allama Shah Muhibbullah Babunagari. Hefazat Joint Secretary General Mawlana Azizul Haque Islamabadi said to media that the prime minister's visit was a matter of joy for the organisation.

He said a written list of demands from the Hefazat Ameer is expected to be handed over to the prime minister.

Mawlana Azizur Rahman, a grandson of Allama Shah Muhibbullah Babunagari, said the prime minister had expressed his desire to meet the Hefazat chief after taking oath as prime minister. However, as Ramadan began the following day and Babunagari was staying at Babunagar Madrasa to lead the Taraweeh prayers, he informed the prime minister that he would not be able to travel to Dhaka.

The prime minister then expressed his desire to visit

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BNP working to take country forward from past destruction : Fakhru

Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said BNP is working to move the country forward by overcoming the destruction left behind by the fascist Awami League government. "When the Awami League destroyed the country, the responsibility of saving it from that debris fell on the BNP. While the BNP is working to take the country forward, a certain quarter and a certain party are creating instability," he said. He was speaking as the special guest at a rally of doctors organised to mark the 37th founding anniversary of the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) at the LD Hall premises of the Jatiya Sangsad this afternoon. Fakhru said attempts are being made to push

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Home Minister calls for maintaining national unity against fascism

Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has called for maintaining the spirit of the historic July Mass Uprising and "Iron-clad national unity" to build a fascism-free Bangladesh.

He made the call while addressing a discussion titled "Role of University Teachers in the Fall of the Fascist Government" as the chief guest at Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building auditorium of Dhaka University (DU) this afternoon, marking the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising.

The discussion was jointly organised by the Dhaka University White Panel and the University Teachers' Association of Bangladesh (UTAB).

Professor Dr Md Morshed Hasan Khan, convener of the Dhaka University White Panel and secretary general of UTAB, chaired the programme.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Dr. ABM Obaidul Islam addressed the programme as special guests.

Salahuddin Ahmed said the victory achieved through 17 years of continuous democratic struggle and the blood of hundreds and thousands of martyrs cannot be used as a tool by any particular group to "sell its version of the spirit" of the uprising.

He called for completing democratic reforms

of the state structure through democratic practices and tolerance, without falling into provocative traps aimed at creating conditions



for the resurgence of fascism.

Ahmed said the interim government formed on August 8, 2024, under Article 106 of the Constitution was the outcome of the aspirations of the country's democracy-loving people.

The Home Minister said the fall of "fascist Sheikh Hasina" came through the student-people's uprising against 17 years of repression, enforced disappearances, killings and deprivation of voting rights.

"The politics of the Awami League and Sheikh Hasina died in Dhaka and was buried in Delhi," he said, adding that the people of Bangladesh could no longer be misled through politics centered on "selling the spirit" of the uprising. Speaking about the future roadmap for democratic reforms of the state structure and constitutional amendments, Salahuddin Ahmed

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Long Struggle Culminated in the July-August Mass Uprising; Fall of the Autocratic Government Was Its Outcome : Aslam Chowdhury FCA

Md. Omar Faruk | special correspondent

SITAKUNDA, Chattogram: BNP Chairperson's Adviser Mohammad Aslam Chowdhury FCA has said that the July-August Mass Uprising was not an isolated event but the culmination of years of continuous democratic movements led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the country's freedom-loving people. "The July-August Mass Uprising did not happen overnight. It was the result of a long struggle to restore democracy. The fall of an

autocratic government was the natural consequence of that movement," he said. He further stated that the prolonged movement led by the late Begum Khaleda Zia and BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman laid the foundation for the July-August uprising. "As a result of its authoritarian rule, the fallen Awami League government will remain remembered with public resentment. Any conspiracy aimed at creating instability and disorder in the country must be resisted through national

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Tarique Rahman was tortured at JIC during 1/11 : ICT chief prosecutor

Staff Correspondent

Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Md Aminul Islam yesterday said witnesses in different cases have testified that incumbent Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was tortured at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) at the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) headquarters in Dhaka during the 1/11 period.

"The JIC that we visited yesterday was the place where the Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was brought to one of its rooms during the 1/11 period. We have also found information through the accounts of various witnesses during our investigation that he was subjected to torture there. These findings will be reflected in the trials in due course," he said while talking to newsmen at the DGFI headquarters after inspecting the JIC this noon. Terming today's visit as

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12 DMP officers transferred to different units

Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has transferred 12 officers of different ranks, including Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) and Assistant Commissioners (ACs) to various units and divisions. DMP Commissioner Mosleh Uddin Ahmad issued two separate transfer orders on August 6.

According to one of the orders, ADC Tania Sultana, who was serving in the Traffic Tejgaon Division, has been transferred to the Public Relations (P&R) Division. ADC Ehsanul Kamran Tanvir, formerly of the Maintenance, Procurement and Workshop Division, has been transferred to the Traffic Tejgaon Division. The other order transferred 10 Assistant Commissioners to different units.

Under the order, AC Anish Kirtaniya of Patrol-Kotwali has been posted to the Transport Division, while Sudipta Kumar Biswas has been transferred to the Equipment Department. Ferdous Mehbub has been

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It Was the Awami League That Killed the Country's Politics : Jamaat Ameer

Masum Hawlader, Bagerhat

Leader of the Opposition in the National Parliament and Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, said, We do not believe the Awami League is fit to return to politics right now. Because it was they who killed this country's politics. They established a reign of terror. They emptied the laps of countless mothers, countless people were made to disappear, and not all of those who were disappeared have returned yet. In this situation, the Awami League will come back to politics again! By changing their skin, whatever. This is tragic for the nation. Rather, their provocations continue at every moment. A party like this that killed, that disappeared people, that went against an entire generation how can I take them into my party just to make the party bigger, without any remorse?

This is very unjust, a heinous crime. Action will be taken against those who do this.

Regarding Sheikh Hasina's return to the country, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman said, Even though there is a prisoner exchange treaty, the government knows why it is not bringing Hasina back. But we believe the government should bring Hasina back on its own responsibility. She needs to face trial.

He made these remarks as the chief guest at an exchange meeting with journalists and media workers at Bagerhat Circuit House auditorium on Friday, August 7, at 10:30 AM. On the issues of killings and violence across the country, the senior politician said, The responsibility to maintain peace and order in the country lies with the ruling party. In this regard, the ruling party itself must take steps. But for a long

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An unjustifiable rollback of drug price reform

THE government coming to repeal the Essential Drugs List 2026 and the Drug Price Determination Method 2026, which the interim administration introduced on January 8, is unjustifiable as the repeal will allow pharmaceutical companies to set prices for most medicines. By repealing the measures, the government has effectively reversed a much-needed reform in drug pricing and reverted to a three-decade-old system that covers only a fraction of the drugs. The reformed framework expanded the list of price-controlled generic drugs from 117 to 295 and introduced a new pricing methodology designed to strengthen government oversight of medicine prices. As a result of the repeal, the prices of around 180 additional medicines used to treat conditions such

as diabetes, hypertension and cancer as well as anaesthetics, pain relief and other commonly prescribed treatments, which had briefly come under government price regulation, will once again be determined by pharmaceutical companies. The government's justification that the interim administration's list and pricing method were drawn up without consulting the National Drug Advisory Council is flimsy as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2023 gives the council an advisory role only and does not require its approval before an essential medicines list can be published.

Such a move will place an additional burden on low- and fixed-income people at a time when inflation has already forced many households to reduce healthcare spending. The regulation of medicine and medical test prices, which now vary widely, has for long been a popular demand as low- and fixed-income groups suffer the most because of exorbitant out-of-pocket health expenditure, which is among the highest in South Asia. According to government data, out-of-pocket spending accounts for 79.3 per cent of total health expenditure, with medicines making up nearly two-thirds of those expenses. Moreover, with about half of the households having at least one member living with a chronic disease requiring regular medication and the poorest households having to spend about 35 per cent of their income on health care, compared with 5 per cent among the wealthiest, giving pharmaceutical companies a free rein will further suffocate the poorest households.

PM asks UNOs to treat

locality, but they are your own people," he said. "We are here today, but we will not be here tomorrow. Let us all work together to leave a safe Bangladesh for the next generation, where everyone can live a little better," he added. The Prime Minister said not all social problems could be addressed through laws alone, noting that many of them could be resolved by educating people and raising public awareness. He urged the UNOs to take a more proactive role in building public awareness in their respective areas. Highlighting the role of field administration in protecting the environment, the Prime Minister said although Dhaka had long remained among the world's top cities in terms of pollution, the situation had improved somewhat recently. He termed the improvement a positive sign and called for further efforts to build on the progress. "Many people in upazilas and municipalities want to plant trees on their own initiative. If government officials like you encourage them, someone who would plant 10 trees may plant 50. In this way, you can make a major contribution to protecting the environment," he said. The Prime Minister also urged the UNOs to take initiatives to promote sports at the local level, saying encouragement to different sports organisations could bring positive changes to society. "Young people involved in sports develop discipline and a sense of order," he said. The premier said there was no need to wait for national days such as Victory Day or Independence Day to organise sporting events. "Sports can be organised around any good local occasion, even on the birthday of a local person," he said.

PM to visit Ctg Sunday

Fatikhkhari himself to meet Babunagari and seek his prayers.

Home Minister calls for

said a provision would be incorporated into the Constitution to limit the tenure of a prime minister to a maximum of two terms so that no elected government could become authoritarian in the future. He also said a system of checks and balances would be ensured between the upper and lower houses of parliament. "Constitutions of all democratic countries across the world have been amended over time in line with the needs and demands of society," he said. Similarly, he said, initiatives had been taken to amend Bangladesh's Constitution democratically to meet the aspirations and expectations of the people following the mass uprising. Addressing students and young people, Ahmed urged them not to make provocative statements out of political immaturity. Referring to alleged attempts to trap students at BUET and other educational institutions, he called upon students to remain patient and tolerant and to protest through democratic means.

On bilateral relations with India, the Home Minister said Bangladesh's relations with India must be based on mutual dignity, respect and sovereign equality. He said allowing convicted and fugitive accused Sheikh Hasina to make anti-Bangladesh statements or engage in political activities from Indian soil while seeking friendly relations with Bangladesh were "completely contradictory positions." He expressed hope that the Indian government would understand the matter and stop playing the "Hasina card." At the programme, family members of those killed during the July Uprising shared their experiences. They included Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdha, brother of martyr Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdha, Shafiul Alam, father of martyr Wasim Akram; Md Abu Hossain, brother of martyr Abu Sayed, and Nazma Khatun Lipi, mother of martyr Ekramul Haque Sajid.

A special honour was also presented to the family members of the martyrs in tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the July Mass Uprising. Later, the Home Minister visited a special photography exhibition organised to mark the July Uprising.

Teachers and students from different universities, social and political figures, and representatives of civil society attended the discussion.

Tarique Rahman was

part of the trial proceedings, the chief prosecutor said, people were brought to this facility, detained and subjected to torture and other forms of abuse. "It later became known as 'Aynaghar'. Detainees were held there in inhumane conditions for days, months and even years. We were able to get some sense of the brutality they endured through today's visit," he added.

Md Aminul Islam said they will urge the government to ensure that no TFI (Task Force for Interrogation) cell, JIC or so-called 'Aynaghar' is ever established again in Bangladesh in the future. "If any citizen of the country commits a crime, he or she must be brought under the law and made to face trial. But

The washroom and the social walls

Md. Neyamul Hossain

AT MY workplace, the University of Queensland in Australia, I have an uncomfortable experience almost every day. This happens in the washroom. There is one only a few steps from my office and I visit this small room several times a day. The source of the awkwardness is the occasional social encounter that I have inside.

Perhaps I am brushing my teeth or washing my face and hands at one of the basins. Behind me, a distinguished professor may be standing at the urinal. At other times, it might be a PhD student doing the same.

For cultural reasons, I feel uncomfortable being there while they do what they do. To free myself from the awkwardness, I speed up whatever I am doing. I deliberately turn my eyes away. I leave rather hurriedly, sometimes without even taking a paper towel to dry my wet hands. When I worked at a public university in Bangladesh, I never experienced this situation. Students and academics have separate washrooms on campuses in the country. Academics rarely use those designated for students, and students would never think of entering the facilities reserved for their teachers.

In some departments, academics even have one-person-at-a-time washrooms. Administrative staff working in the same office do not use them. They go elsewhere in the building to do their small-room work. This article is not really about my everyday experience in an Australian washroom. It's about something much bigger — something social rather than personal. It's about the social divisiveness that has been normalised in Bangladesh. The social walls have become part of what many people accept as the natural social order, seldom questioned, let alone challenged. Ironically, my slight embarrassment in Australia works as a social heuristic. It has prompted me to question the social divisions that we have built into institutions across Bangladesh.

Intercultural encounters often invite value judgement. We exercise such judgement when we compare what is familiar with what is unfamiliar. For example, English language speakers might say that learning Chinese is difficult. Yes, it is difficult for them but not for over one billion Chinese. If I applied similar judgement about my experience, I could say: How can Australia function without separate washrooms for students and academics?

But I do not ask that question and I probably never will. Instead, my daily experience in that small room leads me to pseudo-philosophical thinking: Which is less desirable? A few moments of personal awkwardness in my Australian workplace or a permanent system of social division and exclusion in Bangladesh?

A washroom, whether in Australia or Bangladesh, may reveal

something about society more broadly. Australia has been built on ideals of fairness and equality. Those ideals are reflected in many spaces and institutions, including washrooms. I do not wish to idealise Australian society, but I have certainly benefited from one of its social norms: people of all walks of life use the same facilities — students, professors, heads of school, deans, office staff, cleaners, delivery workers and everyone else.

Bangladesh, too, was founded on aspirations for equality. We broke away from Pakistan in 1971 because we had experienced discrimination and inequality — linguistic, economic and political. The July 2024 movement was likewise driven by demands for fairness, equality and justice. Yet written principles do not automatically become lived realities. Social divisions and inequalities remain woven into the fabric of Bangladesh society. Class walls may be invisible, but they are unmistakable. Those with privilege often see it as their right; those without it frequently accept it as their fate. Different social classes live largely parallel lives, pursuing different identities, ambitions and futures. These cleavages appear in many forms across different institutions.

When I worked at the University of Dhaka, I heard about an incident involving the university bus service. The buses were provided for students, academics and professional staff. On one route, some academics complained because members of support staff were using the same bus. To them, sharing the bus seemed to violate an unwritten social order. How could non-academic university employees sit beside academics? One cannot help wondering whether some of those same academics might have published their research on social inequality and human rights and dignity in international journals. There is often a striking gap between what we research, what we teach and what we desire for ourselves. A few years ago, I visited a friend in a government department in Dhaka. The building had two lifts. One was reserved exclusively for senior officials and was never used by lower-ranking employees. As a result, it remained largely empty while the other lift struggled to accommodate everyone else.

Education is perhaps the most important arena in which social divisions are both reproduced and reinforced. A family's social and economic position strongly shapes the education its children receive — the type of school they attend, where it is located and even the language through which they are taught. Although there are important exceptions, broad patterns remain evident. Children from poorer families are more likely to attend vocational institutions or madrasas, middle-class families generally choose mainstream schools, while wealthy- and newly affluent families often opt for private English-

proper justice for the attack, looting, and vandalism by the miscreants.

No scope to favor anyone

"Refined Fuel Import, Storage, Transportation, Distribution, and Marketing by the Private Sector Policy, 2026" to ensure an uninterrupted and secure fuel supply in the country. The primary objective of the proposed policy is to guarantee national energy security and maintain an uninterrupted supply system.

Additionally, it aims to establish a transparent and competitive framework. This will allow the country to leverage private sector infrastructure and investment capacity alongside existing state systems during emergencies or crises.

The Energy Division stated that the policy will be finalized after gathering feedback and suggestions from all relevant stakeholders in the energy sector.

The policy will only be considered for final approval if it successfully ensures public interest, energy security, a competitive market environment, transparency, and accountability. The statement further noted that speculative and false information regarding the draft policy has recently been published in certain media outlets and social platforms, calling such reports unwanted.

The Energy Division urged all concerned parties to act responsibly regarding the matter.

Govt working to make

ultimately hoteliers, tour operators, airlines and young entrepreneurs would have to turn Bangladesh into an attractive destination for international travellers.

"This is precisely where the private sector must lead from the front," she said. Afroza said closer coordination among government agencies, businesses, researchers, aviation stakeholders and the media would be essential to achieve the government's goal of making Bangladesh an international tourism hub.

"What tourism truly needs is cooperation-hoteliers talking to researchers, aviation talking to policymakers, and journalists holding all of us honestly accountable," she said.

Against this backdrop, the minister described the newly launched TTDC as an important platform for bringing the public and private sectors together and translating the country's tourism ambitions into concrete action.

Formally inaugurating the organisation, Afroza urged tourism, hospitality and aviation stakeholders to consider themselves not merely guests at the event but "founding partners in Bangladesh's next great growth story". "This country is for us, and we are for this country. Bangladesh before all. This is our main goal," she said. Nasser Rahman, MP and Chairman of the TTDC Launching Committee, chaired the launching ceremony and policy dialogue.

TTDC President Kazi Wahidul Alam gave a brief introduction to the organisation, while veteran hotelier and TTDC Executive Committee member Shahid Hamid FIH delivered the welcome address.

The programme also featured a keynote presentation by the Co-founder of Sharetrip Sadia Haque on the state of Bangladesh's tourism, hospitality and aviation sectors, followed by a high-level panel discussion involving representatives from the government, private sector, research organisations and media. Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin, BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, CPD Research Director Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, The Business Standard Editor Inam Ahmed, Galaxy Group President Ahmed Yusuf Walid and IHC South West Asia Area General Manager Ashwani Nayar took part in the discussion.

565 garment workers laid

the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006.

The notice assured that all legal dues and full compensation will be paid within the timeline stipulated under Section 20(2) of the Labor Act.

Furthermore, under Section 21 of the Labor Act, the laid-off workers will receive priority if the factory expands operations or hires new workers within the next year.

Jiarul Haq, an operator in the sewing department, said he received the lay-off notice on his mobile phone on Thursday night while visiting his village in Dinajpur during a three-day holiday. He expressed anxiety after losing his job without knowing the exact reason for his termination.

Explaining the decision, the factory's Managing Director Jaim Ahmed said, "We have no orders or work. That is why workers were laid off. When work arrives, we will recruit workers again."

Meanwhile, Rafiqul Islam Sujon, President of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, termed the business slump an excuse. He said sacking so many workers simultaneously during a holiday is inhumane, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the notice and reinstatement of the 565 workers with unpaid dues. Confirming the lay-offs, Industrial

medium or international schools. Some also send their children overseas for education.

Many people aspire to cross these class boundaries, even if they cannot entirely escape them. English-medium education, for example, has become increasingly available to lower-income families in Bangladesh and elsewhere. The underlying assumption is simple: if this form of education benefits the privileged, it should benefit everyone. The same thinking applies to private tutoring. Yet an English-medium school serving affluent families in Gulshan or Baridhara is not the same as one serving families in low-income neighbourhoods. The label may be similar, but the educational experience often is not.

The social status of those who use a service often shapes its quality. If academics never use student washrooms, they have little reason to notice whether those facilities are clean or properly maintained. They naturally ensure that their own facilities remain in good condition because they have a direct personal interest in them. Likewise, if senior officials travel only in their exclusive lift, they never experience the delays, overcrowding or breakdowns faced by everyone else.

The quality of food served in university residential halls in Bangladesh is a lasting concern. Imagine what could happen if academics shared the same food with students. This may be unthinkable in Bangladeshi universities, but it is not so in many countries. In 2025, I went to a Malaysian university on a short visit. My host professor took me to the dining facilities in different student dormitories for lunch or dinner almost every day. This question of quality is even more important in education. Many people argue that repeated reforms have done little to improve schooling for the majority. One reason may be that those making educational decisions rarely send their own children to mainstream public schools. Talking about our own children's education is very different from talking about other people's children. Yet discussions of education seldom acknowledge this class dimension.

My momentary embarrassment in an Australian washroom reminds me of a social system that I left behind when I migrated to Australia. In that system, people continue to experience opportunities and constraints according to their social standing — whether they are students, academics, professional staff, secretaries or lower-ranking employees.

A society that organises people and public services along class lines is unlikely to build genuine national consensus on its most pressing challenges. A divided society is already a weakened society, because before it confronts any external challenge, it is already divided against itself.

Police-1 Director Mominul Islam said the factory retrenched some workers due to a business slump caused by gas shortages and lack of sufficient work orders.

It Was the Awami League

time we have seen that violence starts from the side of those in power. There is no place for physical exercise in politics. Since the birth of Bangladesh, we have seen the exercise of muscle power in politics. It was not free in any era, not free in anyone's time. In response to journalists' questions about media freedom, party leader Dr. Shafiqur Rahman said, Those who want to exploit people in a fascist manner, their biggest tool to silence people's voice is to interfere with the media. Even now you cannot say the media is fully independent. Every government has shouted that the media is completely free. I did not believe it even once, and I still don't. But it needs to be free. On the rise in prices of gas, electricity, fuel, and 'ghost bills, Ameer-e-Jamaat Shafiqur Rahman said, People's lives have become miserable over the gas and electricity issue. Even the Speaker himself said there is no electricity in his area. For the last two months, ghost bills have started coming. You didn't use it, yet the bill doubled. Those who speak about this are again being threatened by the ministry. Why are they doing this? This shouldn't happen.

Regarding the government's success, failure, and the future, the senior politician said, The people will judge the ruling party's performance over 5 years. The country will be run for 5 years, and the opposition will also have 5 years. Now let the ruling party say whether the government is a failure or a success. And the people are already saying it.

The exchange meeting was chaired by Bagerhat District Jamaat Ameer Moulana Rezaul Karim Present were Bagerhat-1 MP Principal Md. Mashiur Rahman, Bagerhat-2 MP Sheikh Manjurul Haque Rahad, Bagerhat-4 MP Principal Abdul Alim, District Jamaat Secretary Sheikh Muhammad Yunus, and media workers. Later, the Ameer-e-Jamaat spoke as chief guest at the Rukon Conference of Jamaat-e-Islami at Bagerhat Ali Madrasa, After the Rukon Conference, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, joined party leaders and activists to perform Jummah prayers at the UNESCO World Heritage Sixty Dome Mosque.

12 DMP officers transferred

posted to Patrol-Kotwali, Mushfiqur Rahman Tushar to Chawkbazar Zone and Tania Sultana to the Women Support and Investigation Division.

Sheikh Suraiya Urmi has been transferred to Public Order Management (POM) West, Md Mahfuzar Rahman to Bangabhaban Security-1 and Nusrat Yasmin Tisa to the Traffic Division of Pallabi Zone.

Mohammad Saiful Islam has been posted to Patrol in the Cantonment area, while Md Sakilur Rahman has been transferred to the Detective-Cyber and Special Crime Unit.

This Rain-Soaked Night

Taslima Khandokar (Nushrat) Sohail
Upazila Correspondent



It is the middle of Ashar night, darkness all around,
Rain falls "tapur tapur" on the tin roof.
The sleepless city, the drenched alleys,
Water glitters under the lamppost light.

Droplets dot the windowpane,
They slide down at a single touch.
A soft yellow light glows inside,
Outside, thunder makes my heart tremble.

Steam rises from the teacup, an old book in hand.
I do not feel like turning the pages today.
I only listen to the rain and the night,
To the leaves, to the drain water, to a distant dog's bark.

I remember those childhood nights,
Load-shedding, the hurricane lamp, and mother's stories.
Running in the yard in wet clothes,
With no fear of catching a fever from the rain.

Now I have grown up and carry an umbrella,
Yet sometimes I still long to get drenched.
These rain-soaked nights feel so close,
Because they say nothing, they only listen.

The night deepens, the rain begins to ease.
Somewhere far away, frogs croak on and on.
I rest my forehead against the window and think,
If such a night comes to an end, my heart will ache.



Zubaida Rahman appreciates DAB for humanity, professional excellence

Staff Correspondent

Dr Zubaida Rahman, wife of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, yesterday described the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) as a shining example of humanity and professional excellence and said it would continue to stand by the people, while promoting doctors' welfare and improving healthcare. "I believe that, upholding its tradition, professional competence and humanitarian commitment, DAB will continue to play an important role in promoting doctors' welfare, improving the quality of healthcare and standing by the people," she said.

Zubaida Rahman, also Vice President of Ziaur Rahman Foundation, made the remarks while addressing a doctors' rally as a special guest at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, marking the 37th founding anniversary of DAB. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman attended as the chief guest at the programme, chaired by DAB President Professor Dr Harun Al Rashid. Zubaida Rahman said, "I believe that DAB is a shining example of humanity and professional excellence among the country's medical community." At the outset of her speech, Zubaida Rahman paid tribute to Shaheed President Ziaur

Rahman and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and extended greetings to DAB members and the country's medical community. Earlier, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Dr Zubaida Rahman planted neem and arjun saplings on the premises of the LD Hall. They later formally inaugurated the rally by hoisting the national and party flags and releasing balloons and pigeons. DAB leaders and doctors from different parts of the country attended the gathering. BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Social Welfare Minister Abu Zafar

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Police restrict Alia Madrasa access amid student hostel dispute

Staff Correspondent

Police restricted access to the road leading to Dhaka's Madrasa-e-Alia (Alia Madrasa) near the Bakshibazar intersection for around two hours on Saturday amid tensions over access to the madrasa hostel, with Islami Chhatra Shibir alleging that students have been prevented from entering the dormitory since August 6. The road was barricaded shortly after noon and remained restricted until around 2pm, preventing vehicles from entering the madrasa premises through that route. Vehicles leaving the area, however, faced no obstruction. After the barricade was removed, police personnel remained stationed near the madrasa dormitory until around 6pm. An assistant deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told Dhaka Tribune that no formal barricade had been imposed at the intersection. He said traffic movement had instead been briefly controlled on one side of the

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Dhaka CNG stations see relief as gas supply normalises

Staff Correspondent

CNG stations across Dhaka are gradually returning to normal operations after days of acute gas shortages, easing long queues and prolonged waits for motorists. Most stations reported normal gas pressure from Saturday morning, according to staff at several CNG stations across the capital. Tarique, a sales attendant at Akij CNG Station in Tejgaon, said gas supply had remained normal since morning, allowing customers to refuel without difficulty. "There are no long queues, and gas pressure is also better than before," he said. At Zaman CNG Station in Merul Badda, station operator Sharif said the station resumed operations on Saturday after remaining closed for several days due to the gas shortage. "Gas pressure is good today. Both CNG-run auto-rickshaws and private cars are refuelling normally. There has been no supply problem so far," he said. Private car driver Yunus Mia said he faced no difficulty getting gas on Saturday. "Gas was available normally. There was no major queue, and the pressure was good," he said.

CNG driver Nasir Hossain said drivers had faced severe difficulties over the past few days, often waiting for hours to get only Tk60-70 worth of gas. "Today, the situation is much better. I was able to get more than Tk200 worth of gas," he said, urging the government to ensure a stable supply. The gas crisis was triggered by delays in unloading liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) due to maintenance work at an LNG terminal in Maheshkhali. The resulting decline in gas supply to the national grid caused shortages in Dhaka and several other areas. The shortage affected residential consumers, CNG drivers and industrial users alike. Long queues formed at CNG stations across the capital, while some stations sold gas in limited quantities and others were forced to shut down temporarily. The situation has gradually improved, with the government earlier saying the crisis would ease significantly within a few days. With gas supply and pressure returning to normal at most CNG stations in Dhaka on Saturday, the hardship faced by motorists has eased considerably, at least for now.

Initiative to Build Jaflong Railway Line Feasibility Surveyed by Ariful Haque



Naim Ahmed, Jointapur-Gowainghat (Sylhet)

Initial preparations and a feasibility study have been undertaken to build a railway line from Sylhet to Jaflong. To this end, Minister of Labor and Employment and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, along with the Secretary of the Ministry of Railways and other senior officials, arrived in Sylhet. This afternoon, Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury came to Jaflong by bus, accompanied by Md. Fahimul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry of Railways, Md. Abdur Rahman Tarafdar, Secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Employment and Md. Afzal Hossain,

Director General of Bangladesh Railway. During the visit, they conducted an on-site inspection of various aspects of the proposed railway route from Sylhet to Jaflong. At the same time, the concerned officials assessed the proposed railway construction site, connectivity, and the initial feasibility of project implementation. Other members of the inspection team included Dr. Ziaul Haque, Secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division Kabir Ahmed, Head of the Physical Infrastructure Division, Syed Moinul Hasan, Chief Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department Md. Belal Hossain, Chief Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department along with senior officials from the relevant ministries, Bangladesh Railway, and the local administration. After the inspection, Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury

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RAJUK to identify vulnerable buildings, take steps to reduce earthquake risks

Staff Correspondent

Chairman of the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (RAJUK) Engineer Md Riazuul Islam yesterday said RAJUK is taking phased measures to identify faulty and vulnerable buildings in the capital and reduce earthquake risks. "Building height alone is not responsible for collapses during earthquakes. Faulty designs, soil conditions and construction irregularities are also major factors," he told a discussion on "The Country at Earthquake Risk: What We Should Do".

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Mob Culture Suddenly Emerges in Sarankhola, Bagerhat



soldiers of the pen. Disturbing News, Three of those who attacked the Sarankhola Press Club in this manner have been identified. Two days earlier, on Thursday 05/08/2026, in Rajoir village, Khontakata Union, Sarankhola, a group of 20-25 armed men led by Elias, son of the late Khalil from in front of Sarankhola Govt. Honors College, Abul Boyati of Boyati Bari, Miraj from Rayenda Bazar and Swapan Fokir and associates

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Special Reporter

Sarankhola Press Club Attacked!!! On 07.08.2024 at around 8:00 PM the Sarankhola Press Club was attacked and vandalized. Air conditioners and furniture were smashed. Press Club President Ismail Hossain Liton, and General Secretary Mohidul Islam, were seriously injured. The two injured were admitted to Sarankhola Upazila Health Complex, 20-25 miscreants took part in the attack. Two computers and other belongings were looted. To commemorate the day, a special prayer was organized in Sarankhola to honor the



Bangladesh Mofsal Journalists Society Dhaka Metropolitan (North) Committee Approval

Staff Correspondent

Dhaka, August 7, 2026, Friday: The Dhaka Metropolitan (North) Committee-2026-2027 of Bangladesh Mofsal Journalists Society has been approved. The 31-member committee was approved by the organization's central

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Distribution of 30,000 Saplings to 170 Organizations in Sitakunda

Solidarity with the Five-Year Tree Plantation Program Targeting 2.5 Billion Trees; Annual Goal of 50,000 Saplings Achieved.

Md. Omar Faruk | special correspondent



have been distributed among 170 social, cultural, educational institutions, cooperative societies, voluntary and youth development organizations in Sitakunda. The program was implemented by the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation and Mohsin-Fatema Siddiqui Social Welfare Organization (MFSS), with support from the Department of Forests and the Chattogram North Forest Division. Earlier, 20,000

To maintain environmental balance and combat the adverse effects of climate change, 30,000 saplings of various species

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Bagerhat Medical Foundation Launched for Underprivileged People

Masum Howlader, Bagerhat

The Bagerhat Medical Foundation, has started its journey with the goal of ensuring specialized and mental health services free of charge or at a low cost for the underprivileged people of Bagerhat district. Yesterday evening, a committee was formed at the Bangladesh Supreme Court Cafeteria in Dhaka with doctors, health experts, lawyers, social workers, journalists, businessmen, government and non-government officials, and distinguished persons from Bagerhat working in the country and abroad. The meeting was chaired by Senior Professor Dr. S. M. Abu Jafor of Evercare Hospital. The event was hosted by Dr. Md. Faridul Islam, former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and President of the Officers' Forum and Dr. Rafiqus Salehin, Vice Chancellor of Khulna Medical University. The presentation was made by Md. Rafiqul Islam Jaglu, CPA and US expatriate, Chairman of Latif Master Foundation. Those present at the meeting included:



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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

এম.বি.বি.এস (সি.ইউ)
এম ফিল (ফিজিওলজি-বি.এস.এম.এম.ইউ)
এমপিএইচ (এপিডেমিওলজি)
সি.সি.ডি (বারডেম)
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক ও বিভাগীয় প্রধান
বিজিসি ট্রাঙ্ক মেডিকেল কলেজ
BMDC Reg- A68436

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বিকাল ৫ টা - রাত ৭ টা

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চেম্বার :
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সীতাকুণ্ড কামিল (এম.এ) মাদ্রাসার বিপরীত পাশে
সীতাকুণ্ড বাজার, চট্টগ্রাম।

ডক্টর'স
CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

Allegations of Irregularities in Road Construction : Newly Constructed Road Collapses into Canal Before Completion

Vehicle movement halted as a section of the road collapses into a canal.



Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

A section of approximately 200 metres of the Amtali-Gazipur regional road in the Kalibari area of Amtali Upazila collapsed into the Chalitabunia Canal on Friday, allegedly due to irregularities in the construction work. As a result, vehicular move-

ment along the road has been suspended, causing severe hardship to several thousand people who regularly use the route. Local residents have alleged that the situation occurred because the contractor failed to follow the terms of the work order, used substandard construction materials and committed various irregularities during the project. They have demanded a prompt investigation and action against the contractor and the officials responsible for supervising the work. Chawra Union Parishad Chairman of Amtali Upazila, Md. Akhteruzzaman Badal Khan, acknowledged

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Hanging Body of Housewife Recovered in Saidpur, Nilphamari

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Police recovered the hanging body of a 20-year-old housewife named Smriti Akter from a bedroom in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari on Friday (August 7) morning. The body was recovered from the Bottoli Bazar area under Kashiram Belpukur Union of the upazila. The deceased, Smriti Akter, was the wife of Naimur Haque of the same area. According to police and family members, Smriti Akter went to sleep after having dinner on Thursday (August 6) night. As she did not wake up in the morning, family members called out to her several times. Receiving no response, they looked through the window

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Pirojpur holds consultation meeting on reducing plastic pollution and integrated waste management to protect Sundarbans biodiversity

Pirojpur Representative

A district-level consultation meeting has been held in Pirojpur calling for reducing plastic pollution and strengthening integrated waste management to protect Sundarbans from the harmful effects of plastic and polythene pollution. This Thursday (August 6) morning, the meeting, organized at the Pirojpur Sadar Upazila Parishad auditorium by the initiative of the Transformation and with the support of the German Government (IGAT) and Helvetas Germany, was attended by government officials, environment-related people, media personnel, representatives of various organizations and youth representatives.

The meeting was chaired by Swapan Kumar Guha, Executive Director of Transformation, and was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Md. Abu Sayeed. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md. Alauddin Bhuiyan Joni, Sadar Upazila Executive Officer Mamunur Rashid, Deputy Director of the Youth Development Department Md. Abdul Hai Mallick, Assistant Director of Environment Department Pirojpur Nikhil Chandra Dhali, Assistant Conservator of Forests Bagerhat Supriya Hui, Head of Program Sharia Mannan of Helvetas Bangladesh, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Recycle Jar Md. Monowarul Islam, Project Coordinator of Transformation Subhashish Bhattacharya and Project Officer Shaheda Banu Sonia were present and gave environmental guidelines. Chief Guest Deputy Commissioner Abu Sayeed said that Sundarbans is a priceless natural resource of the country. To keep it pollution-free, waste segregation from the source stage, increase the use of recyclable waste and ensure integrated waste management. The district administration is conducting extensive activities including running mobile courts at different times to keep Pirojpur pollution-free. We all have to work together to keep Sundarbans and its surrounding districts pollution-free. It was informed in the meeting that under the project, 17 youth forums have been formed with 530 youth in 17 upazilas of five districts adjacent to Sundarbans. They have already conducted more than 300 awareness programs and distributed 170,000 eco-friendly bags. The meeting emphasized the need for more active participation and coordinated initiatives of youth leadership in environmental protection.



Public Resistance Against Drugs Grows in Two Areas of Sitakunda

OC Mahinul Islam Calls for Public Cooperation and Information Sharing

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

SITAKUNDA, Chattogram: A rally and protest meeting against drugs were held in two separate areas of Sitakunda on Friday (August 7), with local residents vowing to build a drug-free society.

The programmes were held in the afternoon and evening at Polowan Para under Ward No. 9 of Sayedpur Union and in the Dharmapur-Kolabaria area of Baraiyadhala Union, under the slogan, “Let us pledge together to build a drug-free society.”

Speaking at the programmes as the chief guest, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Model Police Station Md. Mahinul Islam urged local residents to provide information to police and extend their cooperation in combating drugs and other criminal activities.

At around 4:00pm, a drug-awareness rally and protest meeting was held at the premises of Haji Ali Akbar Sawdagar Jame Mosque in Polowan Para. The programme was organised by local residents of Ward No. 9.

Addressing the gathering, OC Mahinul Islam said police alone cannot eliminate drugs and crime from society. “Public cooperation is essential. People must provide information to police and work together with law enforcement agencies to combat criminal activities,” he said. He described drugs as a serious threat to families, society and the country, stressing the need for collective efforts to protect young people from drug abuse.

The OC also suggested forming community committees in different neighbourhoods to monitor criminal activities and identify individuals involved in such activities. He said efforts should initially be made to rehabilitate offenders socially, and if that fails, police should be informed so that legal action can be taken.

He urged residents to immediately inform police if they come across any information regarding drug dealing, consumption or trafficking.

“We want every area of Sitakunda to become free from drugs. Police will always stand beside the people. But effective action against criminals requires active cooperation from the community,” OC Mahinul Islam said.

Among others, Kazi Enamul Bari, journalist M. Jamshed Alam, journalist S. M. Iqbal, Md. Sirajul Islam, Md. Idris Mia and Md. Delwar Hossain spoke at the meeting. Hafiz Kazi Md. Khairul Islam presided over the programme, moderated by Md. Alauddin.

Protest Meeting in Dharmapur-Kolabaria
Later in the evening, at around 7:00pm, another protest meeting against drugs was held in the Dharmapur-Kolabaria area of Baraiyadhala Union.

The meeting, organised by local residents, was also attended by OC Md. Mahinul Islam as the chief guest.

Dr. Anwar, Abdul Hai, Alamgir Hossain and Shahadat Hossain Jihad were present as special guests. The programme was presided over by Nur Mohammad and moderated by Kamrul Hasan Bappi.

Speakers said drugs not only destroy individuals but also push entire families and communities towards destruction. They called for strong social resistance against drug dealers and users and urged everyone to raise awareness among the younger generation about the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The meeting concluded with a call for collective efforts by the police, administration and local communities to build a drug-free Sitakunda.

Zubaida Rahman appreciates

Md. Zahid Hossain, Health Minister Sardar Md. Sakhawat Husain, Prime Minister's Adviser Ismail Zabihullah, State Minister for Health Dr. M A Muhiit, DAB Secretary General Dr Md Zahirul Islam Shakil, and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office, among others, were present on the occasion.

Police restrict Alia Madrasa

road, while the other side remained fully open. The restriction lasted roughly one to one-and-a-half hours, from around 1pm to 2:30pm, as madrasa authorities invited student representatives for talks with the principal. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said no notable incident took place at the madrasa on Saturday. The development came amid allegations by Abdul Alim, president of the Islami Chhatra Shibir unit at the madrasa, that students have been unable to enter the hostel for the past three days.

Alim alleged that students trying to enter the hostel—including both Shibir activists and general students—were beaten and had their phones snatched by Chhatra Dal activists between August 6 and 8. He claimed around six students had been beaten and said no students, whether affiliated with Shibir or not, had been able to enter the hostel during the period.

Bangladesh Mofsal Journalists

office for the next one year on Friday. Asian TV staff reporter Farid Ahmed Nayan has been appointed as the president of the approved committee and Dainik Banglar Kantha staff reporter Syed Idris Ali has been appointed as the general secretary. The organization informed that the committee has been formed with the aim of uniting the mofsal journalists of Dhaka Metropolitan North area, enhancing their professional skills, protecting the rights and interests of journalists, and making the organization's activities more dynamic. It is hoped that the leaders of the newly formed committee will perform their duties according to the organization's policies for the next one year and undertake various activities for the welfare of journalists. The Dhaka Metropolitan (North) Committee was approved through an approval letter signed by the founder and chairman of Bangladesh Mofsal Journalists Society, Khandaker Achifur Rahman, and Secretary General Md. Chagir Ahmed. Leaders at various levels of the organization congratulated the 31 members, including the president and general secretary, of the new committee. They expressed hope that mutual cooperation and professional unity among journalists in Dhaka Metropolitan North will be further strengthened under the leadership of the newly formed committee.

Mob Culture Suddenly

attacked the house of the Editor of The Daily Bangla Sky with local weapons. They broke the lock of the scissor gate, entered the house and vandalized everything.

They looted gold jewelry and cash.

Regarding this, the head of the family, the Editor of The Daily Bangla Sky, contacted The UNO Sarankhola upazila, and The OC of Sarankhola Police over the phone, but has received no resolution so far. The sons, daughters and housewife of that family are living in fear for their lives. Elias, Abul Boyati, Miraj Gazi, and Shipon Fakir and Raynda Bazar associates are reportedly patrolling at night on motorcycles with local weapons and sticks. Because of this, no one from the Editor of The Daily Bangla Sky's family can enter their house. This is part of mob culture. In the interest of the country, locals believe that full security for the people needs to be ensured without any delay.

In the same pattern, a group of 20-25 people on 07/08/2024. attacked the President and General Secretary of Sarankhola Press Club and vandalized the Press Club. The identified attackers are Elias, son of Khalil, Abul Boyati of Boyati Bari, Miraj Gazi from Rayenda Bazar, and Shipon Fakir and associates?

The same situation has now gripped Sarankhola.

When speaking with Rafiq from Gymbola yesterday, he said, Today on 07/08/2026 some people came from Rayenda Bazar to Gymbola, picked one person up from his house and beat him on the road.

Speaking with farmer Ashraf Uddin from Amragachhia, he said, There is fear in every house in the village. Thefts are happening. People's cows and goats are being stolen and there is no one to look into it. If you speak up, you will be beaten on the road.

Abdul Hai from Dhansagar said, Brother, we are living in extreme fear. No matter which party is in power, this should not be happening. They are beating people in front of our eyes, snatching things, and demanding extortion. If we protest, our lives will be at risk. As it is, income is low and the prices of daily necessities are extremely high. We can't tolerate this anymore. Suman Khalifa from Sarankhola said, “I don't dare to go out after evening. First, the number of river pirates with ill intentions has increased. Second, if they can pick someone up, they will demand ransom for release. Has this terrible mob culture really started in Sarankhola?”

RAJUK to identify vulnerable

organised by the Dhaka Utility Reporters Association (DURA) at the National Press Club here this morning. He stressed the need to ensure approved designs, proper soil tests and compliance with engineering standards in building construction. Riazu said it was not possible to assess all buildings in Dhaka at once due to their huge number. “We have planned to conduct Rapid Visual Assessment, Preliminary Engineering Assessment and Detailed Engineering Assessment in phases,” he mentioned. The RAJUK head said an initiative had been taken to establish a research institution to strengthen RAJUK's capacity to deal with earthquakes. The institution will conduct risk assessments, raise public awareness and undertake research.

Riazu said earthquake risk reduction was not the sole responsibility of RAJUK, stressing coordinated efforts by city corporations, disaster management authorities, Fire Service and other relevant agencies.

He warned that an approved six-storey building would not be allowed to be illegally extended to 10-storey or constructed in violation of its approved design. The RAJUK Chairman also stressed the responsibilities of architects and engineers, saying that they should remain involved in construction supervision and implementation. Necessary action would be taken against professionals involved in irregularities, he added.

He urged building owners to construct buildings according to approved designs and obtain occupancy certificates.



Two Arrested in Sarail, Including One Impersonating Police and Two with Ganja

M Badal Khandakar, District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria

Police in Sarail, Brahmanbaria have arrested one youth for allegedly consuming drugs and identifying himself as a police officer during an altercation with locals, and in a separate operation arrested two drug dealers with three kilograms of ganja.

During a special operation by Sarail Police Station on Friday (August 7), they were arrested in two separate incidents in the Kuttapara Mor area of the upazila.

According to police sources, the name of the arrested youth who impersonated a police officer is Md. Ashraful Islam (20). He is the son of Nurul Haque Mia from Rajarbagh village in Belabo Upazila, Narsingdi District.

Police said Ashraful consumed drugs at Kuttapara Mor in Sarail and identified himself as a police officer. At that time he got into an argument with several locals. Locals became suspicious of his speech and behavior, detained him, and informed the police. Later, Sarail Police Station went to the scene, arrested him and took him to the station.

Meanwhile, in a separate operation in the same area, two people were arrested with three kilograms of ganja. The arrestees are Jannat Begum (18), daughter of the late Handu Kha from Merashani village in Vijayanagar Upazila, Brahmanbaria, and Sohag (27), son of Kalam Mia from Azampur village in Akhaura Upazila.

Police claim that Jannat Begum and Sohag were preparing to take drugs to Dhaka. Police conducted a search after becoming suspicious of their movement. At that time, three kilograms of ganja were recovered from them. They were later arrested and taken to the police station.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sarail Police Station, Md. Manjurul Kader Bhuiyan, confirmed the incident and said that regular cases have been filed against the arrested individuals under the relevant laws. After completing legal procedures, they have been sent to court. Police said that anti-drug operations are ongoing and legal action will be taken against those involved in drug trafficking and drug-related crimes in accordance with the law.

BUET Professor of Civil Engineering Dr Mehedi Hasan Ansari presented the keynote paper at the event.

Speakers underscored the need for identifying vulnerable buildings, enforcing the Bangladesh National Building Code, conducting regular drills and training, and raising public awareness. Fire Service and Civil Defence Deputy Director Saleh Uddin said 41 fire stations around Dhaka had been earmarked for earthquake response and special response teams were ready. He stressed coordinated preparedness involving all stakeholders. Institute for Planning and Development (IPD) Executive Director Professor Dr Adil Mohammad Khan said earthquake risks also depend on the location and soil conditions of buildings.

Initiative to Build Jaflong

said that if the Sylhet-Jaflong railway line is launched, travel for domestic and foreign tourists to Jaflong will become easier, safer, and more comfortable. He added that with the introduction of rail connectivity, ordinary people will also receive various benefits.

He further said that with the railway in operation, not only will Jaflong's tourism industry develop, but goods can also be transported comparatively at lower cost and faster through freight wagons. As a result, he expressed optimism that economic activities in Gowainghat and across the entire Sylhet region will become more dynamic.

Distribution of 30,000

saplings had already been distributed. With this, the annual target of distributing a total of 50,000 saplings has been achieved.

On Saturday (August 8) morning, the sapling distribution ceremony was held at the Sitakunda Upazila Freedom Fighters Complex. The event was presided over by Shamima Nasrin, Executive Director of the Mohsin-Fatema Siddiqui Social Welfare Organization (MFSS). It was conducted by Palash Chowdhury, General Secretary of the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation.

The chief guest was Md. Fakhru Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Sitakunda. Special guests included Master Abdul Mannan, Member Secretary of the Sitakunda Upazila Freedom Fighters Command Council; Joint Convener freedom fighter Abu Kassem; and Kayyum Chowdhury, General Secretary of the Sitakunda Press Club. Speakers at the event included Lion Md. Gias Uddin, President of the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation; Organizing Secretary Lion Advocate Md. Sarwar Hossain Lovlu; Kausar Ahmed Sarwari, President of MFSS; and Taisir Uddin, General Secretary of MFSS, along with leaders from various levels of the organization.

In his speech as chief guest, UNO Md. Fakhru Islam said, “There is no alternative to tree plantation in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and play a vital role in maintaining environmental balance by supplying oxygen.”

He added that tree plantation must be turned into a social movement to ensure environmental balance and a livable world for future generations. He also called for large-scale plantation of fruit-bearing, forest, and medicinal trees across the country under the government's five-year target of planting 2.5 billion trees.

The event was attended by Vice Presidents of the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation Khorsheed Alam, Md. Manjur Morshed Chowdhury, A.K.M. c, Md. Shahnewaz, Professor Nurul Gani Chowdhury, Abu Zafar Mohammad Sadek, Md. Omar Faruk, Md. Abu Taher, Nur Khan, Bakhtier Uddin, Lion Md. Alim Uddin, Wasim Uddin, along with presidents and general secretaries of various social and humanitarian organizations and more than three hundred social workers.

Long Struggle Culminated in

unity,” he added. He made these remarks while addressing a Victory Rally and Public Assembly organized on Wednesday morning (August 5) by the Sitakunda Upazila and Municipal BNP, along with its associate and affiliated organizations, marking the anniversary of the July–August Mass Uprising.

Aslam Chowdhury said he had never compromised with authoritarianism, despite facing imprisonment and personal and business-related hardships. “Nothing could divert me from my principles. Inspired by the uncompromising leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia, I remained active in the movement for democracy. The people of Sitakunda have successfully overcome every challenge, and I believe they will continue to do so in the future, Insha'Allah,” he said. He also emphasized that under the ideals of the late President Ziaur Rahman and the leadership of Tarique Rahman, Bangladesh is moving forward through positive politics and good governance. “The country's development and progress are receiving appreciation in the international arena. Our guiding principle is not words, but action—Bangladesh first. Every leader and activist of the BNP and its affiliated organizations must contribute from their respective positions to build a prosperous nation,” he added.

The rally and discussion meeting was presided over by Dr. Kamal Kader, Convener of Sitakunda Upazila BNP, and moderated by Mohammad Morshalin, Member Secretary of the Upazila BNP.

Among those who addressed the gathering were BNP leaders Didarul Islam Mahmud Chowdhury, Zohurul Alam Zohur, Md. Salamat Ullah, Municipal BNP Convener Jakir Hossain, Member Secretary Saleh Ahmed Chhulu, Joint Member Secretary Fazlul Karim Chowdhury, Nurul Anwar Chairman, Nur Uddin Mohammad Jahangir Chairman, Abul Bashir Chairman, Abul Kalam Azad, Kazi Enamul Bari, Freedom Fighter Abul Munsur, Yusuf Nizami, Badul Alam Badrul, Bakhtiar Hossain, Mojaheer Uddin Ashraf, Alauddin Masum, Advocate Ainul Kamal, Mostafizur Rahman Hiru, Idris Mia, Jahed Hossain, K.M. Nazim Uddin, Khorsheed Alam, Upazila Jubo Dal President Md. Sahab Uddin Raju, General Secretary Md. Ismail Hossain, Awrangzeb Mostafa, along with a large number of leaders and activists from the BNP and its affiliated organizations, including Jubo Dal, Krishak Dal, Sramik Dal, Swachhchasebak Dal and Chhatra Dal, from the upazila and union levels.

Hanging Body of Housewife

and saw her body hanging from a beam inside the room. Later, police were informed, and officers from Saidpur Police Station went



Chattogram Education Board Deputy Inspector Visits Bhatiary Cantonment Public School and College

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

Professor Mohammad Mosleh Uddin, Deputy Inspector (College) of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chattogram, visited Bhatiary Cantonment Public School and College (BCPSC) in Chattogram on August 6. During the visit, he inspected the institution's examination control room, physics, chemistry and biology laboratories, ICT lab, canteen complex, auditorium and the eight-storey academic building currently under construction. He also visited classroom activities in both the school and college sections and interacted with students, offering valuable guidance on their studies and future careers.

Later, a discussion meeting was held at the teachers' lounge, where Professor Mohammad Mosleh Uddin highlighted the dignity, importance and significance of the teaching profession based on his personal experiences. He also praised the discipline, dynamic administration and high standard of quality education maintained by educational institutions operated by the Bangladesh Army.

He said, “Just as teachers devote their knowledge, talent and hard work to the institution, the institution also ensures their maximum welfare through proper recognition and evaluation.” Professor Mosleh Uddin praised the continued success of Bhatiary Cantonment Public School and College and encouraged the teachers to remain dedicated to further improving the quality of education. The teachers listened attentively to his speech and expressed their appreciation with rounds of applause. At the end of the visit, he recorded his impressions in the institution's visitors' book, writing, “Educational institutions operated by the Bangladesh Army can serve as role models for all other educational institutions in Bangladesh. Bhatiary Cantonment Public School and College is no exception. I wish the institution continued success and prosperity.” The programme was conducted by the institution's Principal, Major Nasir Uddin.



Feni Arrest : Notorious Robber 'Gunda Roni' Nabbed in Chhagalnaiya; 6 Warrants Pending

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

?Police arrested a notorious robber and six-case warrant-executing accused, Nurul Amin alias 'Gunda Roni' (41), during a special drive in Chhagalnaiya, Feni.

?Acting on a secret tip-off, a team from Chhagalnaiya Police Station apprehended him near the Chhagalnaiya market area at around 12:30 AM on Saturday (August 8). The arrestee, Roni, is the son of Abdur Rouf from Jamadar Bari in the Bashpara area under Chhagalnaiya Municipality. ?According to police sources, Roni faces trial in six separate cases before the court, including three for burglary, two for robbery, and one for narcotics:

?Burglary Cases: Chhagalnaiya PS FIR No. 4/238 (Dated: Aug 5, 2018; Sections: 457/328/380), FIR No. 8 (Dated: Mar 11, 2015; Sections: 328/457/380), and FIR No. 13/61 (Dated: Apr 17, 2010; Sections: 408/379).

?Robbery Cases: Chhagalnaiya PS FIR No. 1/220 (Dated: Oct 1, 2017; Sections: 395/397/412) and FIR No. 08/95 (Dated: Aug 16, 2007; Sections: 395/397). ?Narcotics Case: Chhagalnaiya PS FIR No. 22 (Dated: Aug 29, 2015; Section: 19(1)/3(b) of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990).

?Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, Mohammad Abu Taher, confirmed the arrest and stated that the accused is being produced before the court on Saturday. He added that the overall law and order situation in the area remains normal.

to the scene and recovered the body.

Saidpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rezaul Karim Reza said the body was recovered and sent to the district morgue for an autopsy.

Allegations of Irregularities

that the road had collapsed into the canal. He said, “The road has fallen into the canal. Write whatever you can. Let us see what happens.”

According to sources, the Amtali-Gazipur regional road is 15 kilometres long. In the 2023–24 fiscal year, the Barguna Executive Engineer's Office invited tenders for the expansion and reconstruction of a five-kilometre section from Amtali Kalibari to Talukdar Bazar. The project, costing Tk 5 crore, was awarded to a Rajshahi-based contracting firm named Barendra Construction.

The work was reportedly subcontracted to Md. Akhteruzzaman Badal Khan, chairman of Chawra Union Parishad and joint general secretary of the then Amtali Upazila Awami League. Local residents alleged that, using his influence at the time, Badal Khan left the road construction work unfinished. He reportedly resumed the work after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, following pressure from various quarters.

Residents further alleged that irregularities began from the very start of the construction work. They claimed that substandard construction materials were used and that the contractor did not follow the specifications and terms of the work order during the road expansion.

According to local residents Saiful Islam and Babul, they had repeatedly informed Barguna Executive Engineer Mehedi Hasan and Amtali Upazila Engineer Md. Idris Ali about the alleged irregularities, but no action was taken.

Local residents alleged that because of the contractor's irregularities, several sections of the road began collapsing even before the work was completed. On Saturday morning, approximately 200 metres of the road in the Kalibari area collapsed into the Chhalitabunia Canal. Several trees also fell onto the road, bringing vehicular movement to a halt.

After receiving the news, Senior Assistant Engineer of Barguna LGED, Shyamal Kumar Gain, visited the site on Saturday afternoon.

A visit to the Kalibari and Patakata areas of the Amtali-Gazipur regional road on Saturday found that around 200 metres of the road in two separate locations had collapsed into the canal. The collapse before completion of the project has sparked strong criticism among local residents regarding the quality of the construction work. With the road falling into the canal, vehicular movement has been suspended.

Md. Mehedi Zaman Rakib, joint convener of the Amtali Upazila Jubo Dal, said, “The contractor used substandard construction materials and committed serious irregularities, which caused approximately 200 metres of the road to collapse into the Chhalitabunia Canal. We informed the concerned authorities several times about the irregularities in the contractor's work, but they did not take any action. A prompt investigation should be conducted and appropriate action should be taken regar...”



Army Initiative Aims to Reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality in CHT : 10-Day Special Training Completed

Staff Reporter

In a significant milestone toward ensuring healthcare for pregnant women and newborns in the remote Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh Army has successfully concluded a 10-day training workshop for grassroots health workers across 10 upazilas of Rangamati. The initiative addresses challenges posed by rugged geography, limited communication, and a shortage of skilled healthcare personnel. The closing ceremony and certificate distribution were held on Thursday (August 6) at the Prantik Auditorium of the Rangamati Region Headquarters.

Managed by the Rangamati Region and supported by the Civil Surgeon's Office, the training was conducted at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Rangamati. Fifteen grassroots health workers participated in the program. Equipped with practical skills, the trainees are now prepared to return to their communities to provide maternal care, promote safer motherhood, deliver neonatal care, and offer emergency first aid.

Speaking as the chief guest, Rangamati Region Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Nazmul Haq stated, “Army personnel have been working tirelessly to bring healthcare services directly to the doorsteps of people in the CHT's remote areas. Our primary objective is to reduce maternal and infant mortality by building a skilled healthcare workforce.” He urged the trainees to serve marginalized communities with dedication.

Dr. Nuyen Khisa, Civil Surgeon of Rangamati, also addressed the audience. Moderated by Captain Mohsena Nazbeen Shipa, the event was attended by Rangamati Sadar Zone Commander Lieutenant Colonel Ekramul Rahat and Deputy Director of the Family Planning Department Sohag Moy Chakma as special guests.

?Both Bangladesh Army and the Civil Surgeon's Office reaffirmed their commitment to continuing such welfare initiatives to enhance healthcare quality and ensure maternal and child safety across the region.



Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agree on mutual defense pact

International Desk

Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have reached a mutual defense agreement as Iran-backed Houthis rebels have intensified attacks against targets associated with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan—a nuclear-armed country—and Turkey, which has NATO’s second-largest military and a rapidly expanding defense sector, signed the agreement on Friday. Under the pact, an armed attack against any one of the three nations will be treated as an attack against all three. The agreement was concluded during a meeting in Saudi Arabia attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to Pakistan’s foreign ministry. The ministry said the agreement aims to enhance joint deterrence and strengthen the three countries’ ability to respond collectively to acts of aggression.



Trump administration faces ammunition strain, weak public support for Iran war

International Desk

US President Donald Trump said Thursday that while overall US ammunition stockpiles remain sufficient, supplies of some types are under increasing strain. Speaking at the White House Oval Office, Trump said the United States has a “virtually unlimited supply” of some munitions, while others are “a little bit tighter,” without providing details. His remarks came two days after reports said the US military had used nearly 80 percent of interceptors for a key missile defense system during the war with Iran, with commanders warning that ammunition stocks were “dangerously low.” The Atlantic, citing current and former defense officials, reported that supplies of long-range weapons and advanced interceptors, including Patriot and THAAD missiles, had fallen to as low as 20 percent of desired levels. Five months into the war, US public support for the prolonged conflict has weakened. A media poll found Americans who expect greater instability in the Middle East outnumber those expecting more stability by three to one. A Marquette University Law School poll found inflation and cost of living were the top public concerns, followed by the economy and then the Iran conflict. Since January, 56 percent have cited inflation and living costs as a primary or secondary concern. Labor Department data showed inflation rose to 3.3 percent in March, 4.2 percent in May and 3.5 percent in June, above the Federal Reserve’s 2 percent target. Meanwhile, uncertainty over the Strait of Hormuz continues to threaten energy security. US crude imports from Saudi Arabia fell to zero in July, the first full month without such imports since 1985. Trump said Thursday that no deal had been finalized to reopen the waterway, but negotiations with Iran were continuing and an agreement could be reached soon. Saudi-based media, citing senior sources, reported that Iran and Oman had reached an understanding on reopening the Strait for 60 days, pending approval by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

Russian attacks kill 4 in Kyiv region as air defenses struggle

International Desk

Russian drone and missile attacks killed four people, including a child, in Kyiv and the surrounding region on Saturday, Ukrainian officials said, as Ukraine carried out another strike on a Russian oil facility. The attacks came as Ukraine’s air defenses struggle to cope with frequent Russian drone and missile barrages amid Moscow’s nearly four-year-old full-scale invasion. Grandparents, grandson killed Two grandparents and their 3-year-old grandson were killed when several Russian drones destroyed their home in the Brovary district of the Kyiv region, northeast of the capital, authorities said.

The agreement comes as Saudi Arabia seeks to broaden its defense relationships. The kingdom has faced attacks on important infrastructure and oil facilities amid the ongoing conflict involving Iran. A U.S. official said Friday that President Donald Trump would end the American blockade of Iranian ports if Iran agrees to an acceptable arrangement for reopening the Strait of Hormuz and complies with the terms. According to the official, regional mediators have informed the U.S. administration that Iran and Oman could reach an agreement concerning the strategically important waterway within the next few days. Washington is expected to review the outcome of the Iran-Oman negotiations before deciding how to respond. The official, who spoke anonymously while discussing internal government deliberations, also stressed that the United States would reject any arrangement allowing Iran to impose tolls, service charges or other restrictions on ships passing through the strait.

Helicopter crashes while fighting Utah wildfire as Oregon blaze claims dozer operator’s life

International Desk

A heavy-lift helicopter carrying two people crashed Friday while assisting firefighters battling a large wildfire in central Utah. The incident occurred as crews in Oregon continued efforts to contain another uncontrolled fire that killed a bulldozer operator. Authorities had not yet confirmed the condition of the two people aboard the helicopter because emergency teams were unable to reach the crash site immediately. In Oregon, 47-year-old Jason Ensign died Thursday while operating a bulldozer for a timber company. Officials said the Wrights Spring Fire grew rapidly and unexpectedly, blocking his escape route, according to the local sheriff’s department. The Oregon fire began Wednesday in the south-central part of the state, east of Chiloquin. By Friday, it had spread across nearly 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) and remained completely uncontained, the U.S. Forest Service reported. Officials attributed the unpredictable fire behavior to extremely hot and dry conditions. The helicopter involved in the Utah crash was among seven aircraft assisting with a wildfire in central Utah that was sparked by lightning on July 27. The aircraft went down near Richfield, roughly 160 miles (258 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Tyler Hecht of the Great Basin Incident Management Team said weather conditions were considered suitable for aerial firefighting at the time of the crash. The aircraft, a Sikorsky S-64, had been operating over rugged, steep terrain. The crash also sparked an additional fire. Hecht said during an afternoon news conference that officials did not know how long the helicopter had been airborne before the accident. Fire and rescue crews were unable to reach the crash site by Friday evening because of the surrounding flames. Officials hoped to gain access within the following 24 hours. “We didn’t want to put them at bigger risk,” Sevier County Sheriff Nathan Curtis said, adding that crews would enter the area as soon as conditions allowed. Officials also said they could not determine whether the wildfire had reached the crash site. Aerial firefighting operations were temporarily suspended following the accident but were later restarted. The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA are expected to investigate the crash. However, investigators could face delays in reaching the site if the wildfire continues to burn in the area. Sikorsky S-64 “Skycrane” helicopters are operated by government agencies and private companies for firefighting and other heavy-lifting tasks. The aircraft can carry tanks containing water or fire retardant, which can then be released over active fires. Firefighters had been warned Friday morning to prepare for unpredictable winds, extremely dry vegetation and high temperatures. Forecasters also warned of possible dry thunderstorms and lightning, while red flag warnings remained in effect.



Colombia’s new President sworn in at Cali ceremony

International Desk

Conservative politician Abelardo de la Espiella was sworn in as Colombia’s president on Friday in the southwestern city of Cali rather than the capital, Bogotá. The unusual choice of location was intended to underscore his determination to take a tougher approach toward illegal armed groups active in the region. De la Espiella, 48, takes over from Gustavo Petro after narrowly defeating Petro-backed candidate Sen. Iván Cepeda in the June 21 runoff election. A political newcomer, De la Espiella entered the race as an outsider and financed his campaign largely with wealth earned through his work as a lawyer and businessman. His inauguration took place in a university auditorium in front of Congress, reflecting a broader political shift toward the right in Latin America. Among the international figures attending the ceremony were Spain’s King Felipe VI, acting U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche and FIFA President Gianni Infantino. Presidents from across Latin America, including Argentina’s Javier Milei, Ecuador’s Daniel Noboa and Chile’s José Antonio Kast, were also present. Following the inauguration, De la Espiella planned to visit a military battalion in Cali to speak with troops. His objective was to strengthen the morale of security forces while sending a direct warning to armed groups in the region: surrender or risk being designated as military targets. Known by the nickname “El Tigre,” or “The Tiger,” De la Espiella has promised to confront Colombia’s long-running security crisis by abandoning Petro’s strategy of negotiating with armed organizations. He has argued that the previous peace efforts have failed to bring lasting security. Security was a major concern during the inauguration. Authorities established multiple checkpoints throughout the city, inspecting vehicles for possible suspects and explosives. Control over lucrative illegal activities, including drug trafficking and illegal mining, remains a major source of conflict among several armed organizations. These include dissident groups that rejected the peace agreement signed a decade ago by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Clan del Golfo criminal organization and the National Liberation Army, or ELN. Regional Political Impact De la Espiella, who holds both Colombian and U.S. citizenship, assumes office with support from U.S. President Donald Trump at a time when concerns over crime, migration and economic conditions are influencing politics across Latin America. Glaeldys González, an Andes analyst with the International Crisis Group, said De la Espiella’s victory could further strengthen the conservative trend across the region and help solidify cooperation among right-wing governments as the number of left-leaning administrations declines. De la Espiella has also said Colombia will join the

“Shield of the Americas,” a regional initiative focused on combating drug trafficking that emerged from a summit hosted by Trump in March. His foreign-policy plans include restoring diplomatic relations with Israel while cutting ties with Cuba and Nicaragua, countries he has described as “tyrannies.” Petro Promises Strong Opposition The new president is expected to encounter determined resistance from former President Petro, who initially refused to accept De la Espiella’s election victory and alleged that the results had been manipulated. Petro claimed that programmers interfered with thousands of vote-counting records. International observers and Colombian electoral authorities rejected those allegations.



Although Petro did not attend the inauguration, he said as he left the presidential palace Friday that he would respect the decision of Colombian voters. Political analyst Sergio Guzmán said Petro is likely to become a forceful and outspoken opponent of the new administration as he attempts to maintain and expand his political influence. Petro has called on social movements in southwestern Colombia to establish “people’s militias” to protect themselves against possible attacks by what he described as “fascists.” He has also urged supporters to prepare for a nationwide strike if the new government attempts to imprison him after he leaves office. The Associated Press reported in March that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had identified Petro as a “priority target.” Analyst Andrés Macías of Externado University warned that Petro’s rhetoric, combined with De la Espiella’s planned hard-line security policies, could increase the possibility of clashes during protests and lead authorities to respond more aggressively. In Cali, where Petro remains popular and where Cepeda received strong support, student and social organizations held demonstrations. Protests were also reported in Bogotá and Barranquilla. “We are defending our dignity and continuing the resistance, while making it clear that he did not win here,” 25-year-old Sebastián Ocampo told the AP during a demonstration in Puerto Resistencia, a residential district that became a focal point of the massive anti-government protests of 2021. Amanda Castro, a 29-year-old merchant from southern Cali, said opinions in the city remain sharply divided. “There are very divided opinions in Cali,” she said, adding that residents were hoping the demonstrations would remain peaceful.

Iran believes time is on its side as it seeks control over Strait of Hormuz

International Desk

A woman waves an Iranian flag next to a billboard showing a graphic of a man wearing a shirt showing the face of late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed during a joint U.S. and Israeli strike on Feb. 28, with words calling upon the avengers of Imam Hussein, one of Shiite Islam’s most beloved historical saints, in a square in downtown Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi) CORRECTS: Amends wording for clarity. Iran’s leaders believe they can eventually force the United States to accept their control over the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy route, and see time as working in their favour. Iranian officials are aware of growing pressure on the United States, including limited supplies of some advanced missile interceptors, public opposition to the war and rising fuel and other prices ahead of the November congressional elections. They also believe reopening the strait by force could be costly for the US and potentially require ground troops. Iran’s allies, including the Houthis in Yemen, could further expand the conflict and disrupt another major international trade route. From Tehran’s perspective, these factors could eventually leave US President Donald Trump with little choice but to make concessions. But the strategy carries significant risks for Iran as well. Trump has highlighted US strikes that have severely weakened Iran’s top leadership, navy and air force. At the same time, he has alternated between threatening further escalation and saying negotiations are progressing. Iran’s economy has also suffered heavily, partly because of a US blockade. The country has faced mass protests in recent months, raising concerns that further economic pressure could fuel renewed unrest. Possible deal could give Iran major leverage Iran says it is close to reaching an agreement with Oman

on managing the Strait of Hormuz, which lies between the two countries. However, the proposed arrangement would depend on the US lifting its blockade. That means Trump would ultimately have to approve it even if, as Iran says, Washington is not directly involved in negotiations. It remains unclear whether Iran would be allowed to charge fees under the arrangement. But any deal that formally recognises an Iranian role in managing the strait would represent a major shift from its previous status as an open international waterway. The strait carries about one-fifth of the world’s traded oil and gas. Abdolreza Davari, an analyst and former adviser to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said Iran was seeking more than financial benefits from the waterway. “More than revenue from the strait, Iran wants to confirm its management and sovereignty over the strait,” he said. Formal Iranian control over even part of the waterway would be seen as a significant victory for Tehran and a setback for Washington, which has yet to achieve some of its changing objectives in the conflict. It could also raise concerns about international freedom of navigation and create a precedent for countries to disrupt major global trade routes. China, a major buyer of Iranian oil, said as recently as May that normal and safe passage through the strait should be restored. Tehran believes it has the advantage Iranian officials argue that the country has greater leverage as the conflict continues. Mahdi Mohammadi, an adviser to Iran’s chief negotiator, said on social media that Iran was seeking the defeat of its adversary rather than simply an agreement. Iran has repeatedly said the Strait of Hormuz will not return to its previous status as an open waterway and has threatened to continue attacking ships that attempt to pass without its permission. Iran’s joint military command has described the issue as an “unbreakable red line.”





‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’ crosses \$1b at global box office in six days

Entertainment Desk

Tom Holland-starrer Spider-Man: Brand New Day has crossed the \$1 billion mark at the global box office just six days after its theatrical release, becoming the second-fastest film in history to reach the milestone. Sony Pictures said on Aug 4 that the latest instalment in the Spider-Man franchise had earned about \$1.05 billion worldwide in its first six days. The film trails only Avengers: Endgame, which earned around \$1.2 billion during its opening weekend in 2019. Strong opening weekend The film has also set several box-office records. According to Sony, Spider-Man: Brand New Day earned \$360 million domestically during its opening weekend, surpassing Avengers: Endgame's \$357.1 million to claim the biggest domestic opening weekend ever. Endgame still holds the record for the biggest global opening weekend, with \$1.2 billion. The new Spider-Man film also recorded the biggest Thursday preview, the highest Friday opening and the largest launch in Sony Pictures' history. Fourth billion-dollar film of 2026 Produced by Marvel Studios and Amy Pascal with a reported budget of \$225 million, the film is the fourth movie released in 2026 to cross \$1 billion worldwide.



Priyanka Chopra, Russell Crowe to star in sci-fi thriller ‘Bluefly’

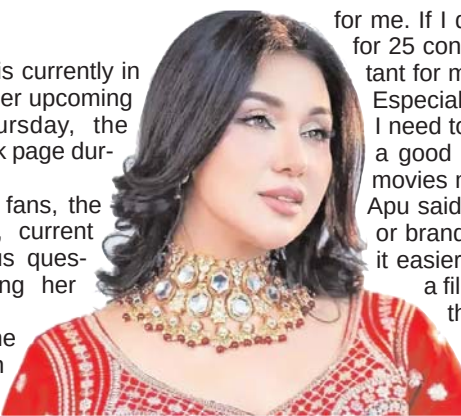
Entertainment Desk

Priyanka Chopra is set to share the screen with Hollywood star Russell Crowe in Bluefly, an upcoming military science-fiction thriller directed by Nimród Antal, known for Predators. The film centres on a secret mission in the Congo, where a team is sent into dangerous territory to recover a crashed aircraft that is not supposed to exist. The screenplay has been written by David Frigerio, William Eubank and Carlyle Eubank. Production is expected to begin in the coming months on Australia's Gold Coast. Antal described Bluefly as an intense, character-driven thriller built around a bold science-fiction concept. He said the project would combine a grounded and fast-paced story with a strong sense of suspense. Chopra announced the film on Instagram with the caption, "Onto the next." Her husband, singer Nick Jonas, showed his support in the comments with fire emojis. According to the film's official synopsis, a grieving UN translator is recruited for a covert operation to retrieve a mysterious aircraft that has crashed deep in the Congo. As a Special Operations team travels upriver through territory controlled by militias, the mission takes an unexpected turn. The closer they get to the aircraft, the more they realise they were never supposed to bring it back. The filmmakers have yet to disclose the roles Chopra and Crowe will play. No other cast members have been announced so far. Crowe has several projects in the pipeline, including Netflix's Unabomber, The Weight, Billion Dollar Spy and a reboot of Highlander. Chopra recently appeared alongside Idris Elba and John Cena in The Bluff. She is also set to star in SS Rajamouli's Varanasi and Reset, opposite Orlando Bloom.

Why Apu Biswas suddenly comes live from Nepal

Entertainment Desk

Dhallywood actress Apu Biswas is currently in Nepal. She is busy shooting for her upcoming movie 'Shikar' there. On Thursday, the actress went live on her Facebook page during a break from shooting. During a long conversation with fans, the actress talked about her work, current career, personal life, and various questions raised about her, including her irregularity in movies. Coming live, Apu first clarified the reason for not being a regular in movies. Currently, she is giving the highest priority in her life to her son's education and giving him time. The actress said, "Many people are worried about my movies. Why isn't Apu doing movies? If I don't do movies, it will end! Let's talk about these things a little. My child is now eight plus. As a mother, giving her time is the most important thing



for me. If I do movies now, I have to give her time for 25 consecutive days. That time is very important for my child. Especially since my mother died six years ago, I need to give her the most time for her to have a good future. So, I haven't really focused on movies much." Apu said, "The timing of photoshoots, openings or brand work is very light. Doing these makes it easier for me to maintain the child. Shooting a film continuously is not possible for me at the moment. However, along with work, I am also giving time to my business. Many of you know that I have a signature beauty parlor, and I also sell salwar kameez online from boutiques." Although she is not a regular in movies, Apu is often seen in various brand promotions and photoshoots. Some people have raised various questions about it. Although she is not angry about them, this Dhallywood queen has given a reasonable answer.

Ariana Grande’s new video reignites debate over body and beauty standards

Entertainment Desk

Singer Ariana Grande's new music video and latest album have once again sparked public discussion about her appearance, raising broader questions about how society talks about celebrities' bodies and beauty standards. The release of her new album, "Petal," last week and a new music video have led to renewed comments about Grande's thin appearance. MusicVideos Some people have expressed concern about her health, while others say such comments amount to body-shaming and invade her privacy. Others argue that celebrities' influence on young fans makes discussions about their appearance unavoidable. Grande, 33, has faced public scrutiny over her appearance throughout her career. More recently, attention has focused on the visibility of parts of her body, including her sternum and rib cage. Grande has rejected suggestions that she is unhealthy and has repeatedly said that commenting on other people's bodies is inappropriate. Her representative told People magazine that Grande plans to step back from public life after her current tour because of what was described as "endless, ongoing public scrutiny." Her latest video also addresses the pressure and judgment that often come with fame. In the nearly seven-minute video, Grande portrays the harsh process of being evaluated and judged as a public figure. The discussion has also prompted experts to question whether public comments about celebrities' bodies are helpful. Johanna Kandel, founder and CEO of the National Alliance for Eating Disorders, said people should consider why they are making such comments and what effect those comments may have. Scrutiny of women's appearances is nothing new Public figures have long faced intense scrutiny, while women in particular have often been judged by their appearance. Although efforts to promote body acceptance have grown in recent years, changing ideas about beauty, health and thinness continue to fuel debate. The growing use of weight-loss medications, including among celebrities, has added another layer to the discussion. Some experts worry that the increasing visibility of very thin celebrities could affect people who already struggle with body image or eating disorders. Celebrities & Entertainment News Allison Butler, a senior lecturer in communication at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, said the debate can become overly divided between criticizing Grande's appearance and demanding that nobody discuss it at all. Experts generally agree that people should avoid making assumptions about another person's health based solely on their appearance. Rachel Goldman, a psychologist and clinical assistant professor at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine, said people should resist speculating about celebrities' bodies. Public comments about someone's appearance, whether intended as praise or criticism, can reinforce the idea that a person's value depends on how they look, she said. At the same time, experts say concerns about eating disorders and unhealthy relationships with food should not simply be ignored. Kandel recalled that when someone first expressed concern about her own eating disorder,



the comment was harsh rather than supportive. She said such issues should be discussed with curiosity and compassion instead of criticism. Talking to children about body image Experts say parents can help children by shifting conversations away from judging bodies and toward understanding the messages society sends about appearance. Goldman said children should be reminded that appearance alone does not indicate whether someone is healthy or doing well. "Young people need to understand that their body is just one part of who they are," she said, adding that a person's worth is not determined by body size or shape. Jennifer Hill, a 56-year-old pediatric nurse from Broomall, Pennsylvania, tries to teach that message to her 16-year-old daughter, who is a cheerleader and runner. Hill said her daughter dislikes comments about her body, so she reminds her that everyone is different and that people are born with different bodies. Hill said attitudes have improved since her youth in the 1980s, when people were often more open about making harsh comments about appearance. However, she said social media has created new pressures for young people. Through her work with young people experiencing emotional difficulties or eating disorders, Hill has also seen how sensitive conversations about body image can be. EatingDisorders Her advice to parents is to listen rather than make direct or judgmental comments. "Communication is key," she said, stressing the importance of open conversations in which young people are given space to speak. Grande sets boundaries Grande recently addressed her fans from the stage, saying she knows some people are worried that negative attention is affecting her. She said the situation is more complicated and that setting personal boundaries and taking a break can both be necessary while still allowing her to enjoy her professional and creative work. Her comments were met with loud cheers from fans, many of whom are young women.

Maria Nur is back on screen

Entertainment Desk

Popular presenter Maria Nur has returned to Bangladesh after living in the US for almost two years. She wants to spend time with her family. The popular presenter, who was once known as 'Cricket means Maria Nur', has now participated as a guest on the 'Behind the Fame with RRK' podcast. Maria Nur started her career 17 years ago as an RJ for a private radio channel. At that time, her salary was Tk5,000 per month. As a child, she used to participate in Bangladesh Television and Betar and received a salary of Tk120 to Tk150. After gaining immense popularity in modeling, she was praised for her performance in Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's web series 'Ladies and Gentlemen'. Maria Nur received offers to act in legendary director Mrinal Sen's biopic and Anjan Dutt's film from West Bengal. However, she was later not offered to act in any other film for a specific reason. She candidly revealed that reason in the podcast. Hosted by Rumman Rashid Khan, the programme will be aired on Maasranga Television on August 8 at 9:00pm.



Pakistan’s ‘Mera Lyari’ in running for Oscars

Entertainment Desk

Pakistani film 'Mera Lyari' has made it to the Oscars, the most prestigious award in the international film industry. The film, which was produced with the funding of the Information Department of the Sindh government, is enjoying a great success in the province. The Sindh government has termed the matter as a great pride and honor for the entire Pakistan. A high-level meeting of the Film Board was recently held to review this success and the overall development of the provincial film industry. The meeting was chaired by Senior Minister of Sindh Province and Minister for Information and Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon. 'Mera Lyari' is based on the social background and local culture of Lyari, a traditional and talked-about area of Karachi.



Expressing satisfaction over the film's inclusion in the preliminary race for the Oscars, Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said, "It is a great joy for Pakistan and Sindh Province that 'Mera Lyari' has made it to the global stage like the Oscars. If the film is able to get the final Oscar nomination, it will be a historic milestone. Through this, our local art, culture and talent will be presented in a unique way to the world." The Film Board meeting was informed that the first phase of film projects started under the Information Department have been successfully completed. Now discussions are underway with various national and international OTT platforms and world-renowned distributors to distribute these films worldwide. Information Secretary Kashif Gulzar Sheikh, Director General of Information Moez Pirzada, film director Hizbullah Memon and other senior officials of the board were present at the meeting.



Call for Infantino to resign comes amid wave of support

Sports Desk

Beleaguered FIFA president Gianni Infantino has received some much-needed support after over a week of scathing criticism revolving around the now shelved private investment plan but there was again a call Friday for him to resign.

The 56-year-old Italian-Swiss lawyer's position remains far from assured despite support from friends he has made during his 10 years in power, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and leading figures in South American football.

FIFA said it could raise up to \$4.2 billion based on a valuation of \$20 billion for a new commercial subsidiary, called the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), which it proposed would run events such as the World Cup and Club World Cup.

However, old ties have been cut loose.

European football's governing body, UEFA, who he served as secretary-general from 2009-16, is in open conflict with FIFA and on Thursday doubled down on last Saturday's statement saying it no longer has "confidence" in Infantino.

UEFA repeated its threat of boycotting the World Cups and one of its member associations, the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) called for Infantino to go immediately. "We (NFF) are going to ask the FIFA president to resign now," said its straight-talking president Lise Klaveness on Friday.

Infantino is high on certain not to heed such a call and carry on his campaign to be elected for a fourth and final term in Rabat next March.

Infantino, who had spent the past turbulent week amongst friends in Morocco who are co-hosting the 2030 World Cup, is for the moment the only candidate.

The deadline for nominations is November 18.

There is also a mechanism whereby an extraordinary FIFA congress can be called and a vote of no confidence in Infantino held.

Klaveness, also a lawyer, would be many people's choice as a successor, and also the first woman to be head of world football.

However, Klaveness told AFP her personal ambitions had not played a role in demanding Infantino's resignation.

"We're not there yet," said Klaveness.

"For us, it's now about the issues I just mentioned, and not about particular individuals.

"It would be strange for me to start answering questions about myself, and that goes for everyone," the 45-year-old added.

- 'Public lynching' -

North and Central America's governing body CONCACAF's president Victor Montagliani has been the most oft-cited name in terms of challenging Infantino.

CONCACAF -- which includes the three co-hosts of the recent World Cup -- had been along with UEFA the most brutal in their criticism of Infantino and called for "a compre-

hensive reckoning with this presidency".

However, there has been radio silence from CONCACAF since the latest FIFA statement backing Infantino was issued late on Wednesday following an emergency meeting of senior directors in Morocco.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had also been critical of the manner in which the plan had been handled but like CONCACAF kept its own counsel following the FIFA statement. However Infantino, who has moved on to Colombia where he attended Friday's inauguration of the country's hard-right president Abelardo de la Espiella in Cali, is not without support.

Photos released by the Colombian Football Federation show a smiling Infantino standing alongside South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) president Alejandro Dominguez and the president of the Colombian federation, Ramon Jesurun.

CONMEBOL, which includes iconic federations such as Argentina and

Brazil, had on Thursday expressed its "concern regarding the repeated unilateral actions taken" by FIFA.

However, on Friday, the CONMEBOL president told journalists "one cannot ignore the great work" done by Infantino.

"We must continue working for football through dialogue; it is not necessary to always agree," Dominguez added.

Following the powerful Argentine Football Association (AFA) and the Paraguayan federation on Thursday, Infantino also received support Friday from the federations of Venezuela and Ecuador.

Mexico -- one of the World Cup co-hosts -- also swung behind him.

"The FMF (Mexican Football Federation) supports president Infantino's leadership," it said in a statement.

CAF's executive committee "unanimously reconfirmed its support" for the FIFA president in a statement on Thursday.

The body's decision will have pleased South Africa's sports minister Gayton McKenzie, who had urged African football to resist what he called the "public lynching" of Infantino.

FIFA chief Infantino gets backing of South American football

Sports Desk

FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Friday received support from several leading South American football figures as he visited Colombia amidst the crisis engulfing world football's governing body.

Infantino arrived early on Friday in the Colombian city of Cali to attend hard-right president Abelardo de la Espiella's inauguration.

Photos released by the Colombian Football Federation show a smiling Infantino standing alongside South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) president Alejandro Dominguez and the president of the Colombian federation, Ramon Jesurun.

The visit to Colombia comes as the head of world football has been embroiled in a storm following a much-criticised and ultimately abandoned plan to open the World Cup to private investment.

The 56-year-old Italian-Swiss lawyer, who has been in office since 2016, declined to answer a question from an AFP journalist about whether he considered FIFA's woes to be over.

Later, while attending a children's soccer festival at a sports complex in Cali, he spoke of his "happiness" at being at the event.

"It is a joy to be here today," the FIFA boss told dozens of children kited out in football gear at an event in the southwestern city.

"Football is joy, football is happiness, football is unity," he said, adding that "so many champions" were born "in this part of the world, in this part of Colombia."

- 'Not necessary to always agree' -

Infantino, who will seek a fourth and final term in the presidential election in Rabat next March, is facing criticism, notably from European body UEFA, which on Thursday maintained its threat to boycott the World Cup despite FIFA's withdrawal of the private investment proposal.

CONMEBOL, which has only 10 FIFA-affiliated members but includes iconic federations such as Argentina and Brazil, had on Thursday expressed its "concern regarding the repeated unilateral actions taken" by FIFA.

However, when asked by a Colombian media outlet on Friday, the CONMEBOL president stated that "one cannot ignore the great work" done by Infantino.

"We must continue working for football through dialogue; it is not necessary to always agree," Dominguez added.

Following the powerful Argentine Football Association (AFA) and the Paraguayan federation on Thursday, Infantino also received support on Friday from two other South American federations -- Venezuela and Ecuador.

In line with their confederation's statement, they welcomed the withdrawal of the controversial plan to create a commercial entity open to private investors known as the FIFA Forward Enterprise.

In a letter to the FIFA chief, Ecuadorian federation president Francisco Egas Larreategui added that he had confidence in Infantino "as well as in those currently leading football to continue working for the good of our sport".

Close to figures on the right of politics, such as US President Donald Trump, Infantino attended De la Espiella's presidential inauguration ceremony later on Friday.

Colombia's incoming leader has broken with tradition by choosing to hold the ceremony in Cali, considered the capital of salsa, rather than before Congress in Bogota.

Maradona bloated, bedridden and resigned before death, says icon's masseur

Sports Desk

Diego Maradona was bedridden, suffering from edema, and appeared resigned to his fate in his final days, according to the testimony of the Argentine football legend's masseur at the trial into the circumstances of his death in 2020.

Maradona "wouldn't get out of bed, he didn't want to eat, he didn't want to wash, he didn't want to look after his personal hygiene", Nicolas Taffarel testified on Thursday.

He claimed that at the time he had alerted the 1986 World Cup winner's medical team that they should be more present and visit "every day", as heard in an audio message played in court.

Seven healthcare professionals have been on trial since mid-April in Argentina for potential negligence that may have contributed to the football icon's death.

"I reported the issues I observed with him, but I saw no concrete action or swift resolution," added the masseur, on the verge of tears as he spoke of Maradona.

"He was bloated, his legs were swollen..." Taffarel recounted.

"The doctors told me to calm down, that these symptoms would pass. When you're anxious, you put your trust in them; you tell yourself it will pass, that everything will sort itself out. But it didn't pass."

On November 24, the day before Maradona's death, Taffarel told how he tried in vain to persuade him to come round and drink mate.

Maradona's 'Hand of God' ball heads to US auction

Sports Desk

The soccer ball that Diego Maradona used to score his infamous "Hand of God" goal during Argentina's win over England in the 1986 World Cup is expected to sell for \$10 million at a US auction this month.

Maradona's goal in the quarter-final match at the Estadio Azteca saw him punch the ball past the England goalkeeper, with the South Americans ultimately winning 2-1.

After the game, the Argentine star said his goal was scored "a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God." His nation went on to win the World Cup.

Heritage Auctions, based in Texas, expects the ball will sell for eight figures when it goes under the hammer from August 21 to 23, with a \$2.5 million opening bid.

"I think it's easily the most historic ball in the realm of soccer," Dan Imler, vice president of sports at Heritage Auctions, told AFP.

He noted it is also the ball that Maradona used, in the same match, to score the so-called "Goal of the Century" in which he dribbled past several English defenders before finishing past the goalkeeper.

"Both of the goals scored are just so iconic, so memo-



orable," Imler said.

The jersey that Maradona, who died in November 2020, wore during the Argentina-England clash currently holds the record for the most expensive soccer shirt -- standing at \$9.3 million.

Tensions between old foes Argentina and England flared again in a semi-final at this year's World Cup, where the South American side prevailed before losing the final.

Politically, the two sides have a long-standing sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands.

Colorful rally held to mark World Wushu-Kung Fu Day

Sports Desk

A colorful rally was organised in the capital today by the Bangladesh Wushu Federation to mark World Wushu-Kung Fu Day, with the aim of promoting and expanding wushu and kung fu worldwide and highlighting their importance in leading a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.

Bangladesh Wushu Federation General Secretary Md Dildar Hasan Dilu, Vice-President S M Shahidul Haque Bhuiyan, Treasurer Habibur Rahman Siddiqui and member Md Russell, along with federation officials, wushu coaches and judges, representatives of various clubs and organisations, and a large number of wushu athletes, took part in the rally.

The participants carried banners, festoons and placards highlighting the positive messages and benefits of wushu and kung fu.

After the rally, Md Dildar Hasan Dilu and S M Shahidul Haque Bhuiyan addressed a brief gathering.

They said the federation was committed to encouraging young people to practise wushu to maintain physical and mental well-being, keep them away from drugs and other forms of social degradation, and strengthen Bangladesh's presence in wushu on the international stage.



Rajshahi Stars set to debut AFC Women's League

Sports Desk

Bangladesh women's club champions Rajshahi Stars FC will make their debut in the AFC Women's Champions League this month, with the team beginning preparations for the continental competition.

The players and coaching staff paid a courtesy visit to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Friday before starting training scheduled to commence today (Saturday).

The preliminary stage will be played in Malaysia from Aug. 17-23.

Drawn in Group A, Rajshahi Stars will face India's East Bengal, hosts Sabah FA and Guam's Rovers FC.

Head coach of Rajshahi Stars Golam Robbani Choton said the team would enter the tournament aiming to make history after completing its preparations.

"This is a historic opportunity for us. We want to prepare well and represent Bangladesh with a strong performance on the continental stage," Choton said.

Travis Head wins Australian cricketer of the year gong

Sports Desk

Star batsman Travis Head has won Australia's top cricketing honour for the second year in a row, edging Alex Carey to claim the Allan Border Medal.

The opener polled 153 votes, one ahead of wicket-keeper and South Australia teammate Carey, and three clear of fast bowler Mitchell Starc.

Fellow players, the media and umpires select the player of the year, with the awards handed out at a function in Brisbane on Friday evening.

Head played 30 matches across all three formats during the 2025-26 international season, blasting 1,437 runs.

The left-hander's highlight was a brilliant 123 off 83 balls on day two of the Ashes Test against England in Perth which helped Australia claim an eight-wicket win. He



went on to score two more big Ashes centuries. "To think that I've got two medals and my kids can look at them and I can tell them (about it) in 20 years' time is pretty cool," said Head.

Head was only the fifth player to win back-to-back Allan Border Medals, following in the footsteps of Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke, David Warner and Shane Watson.

Starc's remarkable durability through Australia's 11 Tests last season, including 31 Ashes wickets, saw him recognised as Australian Test player of the year.

Mitchell Marsh was named ODI player of the year while Tim David took the Twenty20 honour.

Earlier this year, Annabel Sutherland claimed her second consecutive Belinda Clark Award, which recognises Australia's best woman cricketer.



PHP Float Glass accused of environmental pollution, fish deaths and damage to farmland : Administration assures legal action subject to investigation



Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

Waterlogging has become a daily problem in the Charalkandi area of Ward No. 9 of Barabkunda Union No. 5 of Sitakunda Upazila of Chittagong. Roads, homes and surrounding areas are submerged with even a little rain. More than a thousand families are being forced to live in inhuman conditions due to waterlogging. Local residents allege that one of the reasons for this waterlogging is the unplanned discharge of chemical-rich waste water by PHP Float Glass Industries Limited. They claim that the factory has been dumping chemical-rich waste into the drain next to Charalkandi Road through a narrow canal for a long time. As a result, the drain has almost filled up with waste, silt, dirt and polythene and the normal flow of water is being obstructed. According to the locals, the water mixed with chemicals is spreading into houses, ponds and farmlands. This is killing fish in the ponds, reducing the fertility of the farmlands and disrupting crop production. They also complain that the risk of various water-borne diseases,

including skin diseases, is increasing among children, women and the elderly. Public life in Charalkandi practically comes to a standstill during the monsoon season. It becomes extremely difficult to take a sick patient to the hospital, take a pregnant mother to a medical center or even remove the body of a dead person from the house. Due to the waterlogging, school-going students also have to suffer greatly even when going to school regular-

ly. Locals complain that although the matter has been reported to the authorities of PHP Float Glass Industries Limited several times, no effective action has been taken so far.

In this regard, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Abdullah Al Mamun said, "We have not received any written complaint in this regard so far. If the locals submit a written application, we will investigate on the spot. If the investigation finds the allegations true, necessary action will be taken against those concerned as per the prevailing law." Meanwhile, the residents of Charalkandi have sought urgent intervention from the Department of Environment, district administration and concerned government agencies to quickly repair drains and canals, ensure waste management of industrial factories and permanently resolve waterlogging. They hope that if effective measures are taken quickly, the long-standing suffering of thousands of people will end every monsoon.

Two Arrested in Jorarganj Police Operation, Including a Convict Sentenced to 20 Years

Jwel Nag Mirsarai Chattogram

On the date of 07/08/2026 Under the leadership Mohammad Abdul Halim, Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station. SI (Unarmed) Md. Faruk Uddin, along with accompanying forces, arrested Shahriar Hossain Tareq, son of Sirajuddowla, resident of JamAlpur, Kurshid Alam Miajibari, Post Office: Baraiyarhat-4326, Jorarganj, Chattogram.

The arrest was made at around 8:00 PM on 06/08/2026 from the accused's own house. He was wanted under CR-237/26 (Jorarganj PS), Sections-323/326/307/506(2) of the Penal Code as per an arrest warrant.ASI (Unarmed) Md. Abdul Momin, along with accompanying forces, arrested Safayet Hossain Noyon, son of Saleh Ahmed, mother Saleha Begum, resident of West Olinagar (Chaloandhe Bari), Ward No. 8, 1 No. Korirhat UP, Jorarganj, Chattogram The arrest was made at around 4:20 AM on 07/08/2026 from the West Olinagar area. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and Tk. 40,000 fine, with an additional 6 months imprisonment in default of fine, under Sessions Case-330/23, GR-296/22, Patiya PS Case No. 10(08)2022, Sections- 36(1) 14(A) of the Narcotics Control Act as per the court verdict. The arrestees have been sent to the Hon'ble Court.

Bichanakandi Unsafe, Eco-Park Plan Not Implemented

Naim Ahmed, Jointaupur-Gowainghat (Sylhet)

Bichanakand is one of the most popular tourist spots in Gowainghat Upazila, Sylhet. The clear water streams flowing down from India's Meghalaya hills the vast expanse of stone fields, and the hill-surrounded natural beauty draw thousands of domestic and foreign tourists here every day. The influx of tourists is especially heavy during the rainy season and on weekends.

But while the number of tourists has increased, security and service standards have not kept pace. During an on-site visit from Thursday noon to afternoon, it was found that safety rules are not being properly followed in boat operations. Most boats are not using life jackets. Adequate warning signboards were also not visible. No responsible security arrangements were visible to ensure tourist safety in the Zero Point area.

It was observed on the ground that almost all boats used to transport tourists are operating without life jackets. There were also complaints in some places of carrying more passengers than the capacity. Yet during the rainy season, as hill floods and currents increase, any accident could lead to major loss of life.

Locals say that every year many tourists who cannot swim go into the clear water and fall victim to accidents. There have been multiple incidents of drowning deaths in Bichanakandi in the past as well.

Mahmudul Hasan a tourist from Savar, Dhaka said, "Bichanakandi's natural beauty is amazing. But there are many shortcomings in basic facilities for tourists. Boat fares are comparatively high, and food prices are also steep. There is no changing room for female tourists. The biggest problem is that there is no quality residential hotel, motel, or resthouse here. As a result, tourists coming from far away have to return the same day or make arrangements to stay overnight elsewhere.

Sajid Ahmed a university student from *Chattogram, said, There are no good restaurants. The ones that exist have unsatisfactory food quality, yet the prices are very high. The administration needs to pay attention to these issues.

Boat owner Shamim Ahmed said, We don't always get enough tourists. There are losses on many days. That's why we sometimes have to charge higher fares.

Lilu Mia, President of Bichanakandi Small Tourism Industry Business Association said, Business is good on Friday and Saturday. On other days, with fewer tourists, we just manage to survive. If the government and concerned authorities prioritize the tourism sector, the economy of this area will become more prosperous. During the on-site visit, no Tourist Police or volunteer team was seen on duty for tourist safety. However, one *BGB member was seen on duty for border security in the Zero Point area.

However, Md. Omar Faruk Mollah, OC and In-Charge of Bichanakandi Tourist Police Zone, claimed that Tourist Police are on regular duty. He said, Boatmen have been



instructed to use life jackets. If there are complaints of extra fares being charged, action will be taken. Meanwhile, piles of market garbage were seen in the Hadarpur boat ghat area.

Locals allege that some of this waste is mixing with the river water. This is causing environmental pollution as well as marring the beauty of the tourist area.

To preserve the environment and develop tourism in Bichanakandi, an eco-park or eco-tourism project was undertaken in 2018 on about 34.59 acres of land. The project included plans to plant around 10,000 forest and medicinal trees, build modern washrooms, separate changing rooms for men and women, seating areas, and create employment for locals.

But the on-site visit showed that most of the project area is lying vacant. There was also no visible trace of the trees planted in the past. The planned infrastructure has not been implemented either.

Md. Badrul Islam, Administrator of Bichanakandi Union Parishad, said, Many of the tourists' complaints fall under the Upazila administration. However, developing Bichanakandi as a modern tourist center is now a demand of the time.

Ratan Kumar Adhikari, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gowainghat, said, The matter of the past eco-park project will be looked into. Complaints from tourists and security-related issues will also be investigated on-site and necessary measures will be taken.

Meanwhile, during the on-site visit, some workers were seen carrying stones in the border area adjacent to Zero Point. Video footage related to this is preserved with this reporter. Efforts are underway to get the statement of the concerned authorities on the matter.

Bichanakandi is one of the country's most popular tourist destinations. At special times, hundreds of thousands of tourists gather here. Even on weekly holidays, thousands of people come to enjoy the boundless natural beauty. In the rainy season, with Meghalaya's green hills, rafts of white clouds, and hill streams, Bichanakandi appears in a new form. However, for this promising tourist center, it is urgent to strengthen security, strictly monitor boat operations, provide necessary infrastructure for female tourists, ensure a clean environment, and implement the stalled development projects. Otherwise, there remains a risk that the sustainable development of the tourism industry will be hindered.



August 5th is the day of mass uprising in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Faridpur

The day has been marked with deep respect to the memory of martyrs at the initiative of various social, cultural organizations and administrative institutions on July mass uprising in Faridpur.

People from all walks of life paid tribute to the 'Julai Martyrs Memorial', located on Hasibul Hasan Lovelu Road in the city on Wednesday.

The event, presided over by Mazharul Islam, the district administrator of Faridpur, held a minute's silence at the beginning in respect to the memory of the martyrs. Later, special prayers were conducted to wish for the forgiveness of their departed souls. At the beginning of the tribute period, Faridpur-3 MP Chowdhury Naib Yousuf laid a wreath at the memorial to the martyrs. Tributes were paid in stages by the District Administration, Police Administration, Zonal Assembly, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Civil Surgeon's Office, District Information Office, Fire Service and Civil Defence, District Prisons, Electoral Offices, Agricultural Extension Directorate, Drug Control Directorate and National Youth Force. Also, various public-private institutions including the Environment Department, District Office consisting of Anti Corruption Commission (Dudak), Regional Passport Office, BADC, Forest Department, Public Health Engineering Department, Fisheries Department, Livestock Department, District Employment and Manpower Office, TTC and Youth Development Department participated in this. Among the educational institutions, Government Rajendra College, Government Sarda Beautiful Women's College among others various cultural and social organizations commemorate with reverence the contribution of martyrs by laying wreaths on the memorial.



Discussion meeting held on the occasion of the July Uprising

M Badal Khandaker, Brahmanbaria District Correspondent

The local BNP boycotted the Upazila administration's event after elected independent MP for Brahmanbaria-2 constituency, Rumin Farhana, was made the chief guest. No BNP leader or activist was present at the program. Regarding this, Rumin Farhana said, "BNP will have to accept that people voted for me and made me an MP. BNP has to accept this harsh truth." The discussion meeting was presided over by Sarail Upazila Executive Officer Md. Saiful Islam. Others who spoke at the meeting included Sarail Upazila Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Enam Khan; Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Mohammad Nizam Uddin; and Officer-in-Charge of Sarail Police Station, Monjur Kader Bhuiyan. On the ban on broadcasting Sheikh Hasina's speech, Brahmanbaria-2 MP Barrister Rumin Farhana said, "The media is not just 26 channels. Nowadays, everyone has media in their hands. Those who want to listen will be able to. In this way, no one's speech can be stopped from being broadcast. During Sheikh Hasina's time, we saw that Tarique Rahman's speech was banned from being broadcast. It was banned by a court order. If that was not democracy, then how is this democracy?" On Wednesday (August 5) at noon, at the end of a reception and discussion meeting organized at the Sarail Upazila Parishad auditorium in Brahmanbaria on the occasion of July Day, she made these remarks in response to a question. The Sarail Upazila administration organized the reception and discussion meeting.

Discussion and Prayer Held in Mirsharai to Mark July Mass Uprising Day

Jewel Nag, Mirsharai, Chattogram

A discussion meeting and prayer ceremony were held at the Mirsharai Upazila Conference Hall on Wednesday, August 5, to commemorate July Mass Uprising Day. The event was organized by the Mirsharai Upazila Administration in honor of those who sacrificed their lives during the July movement. The program was presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Somaiya Akter. It began with a one-minute silence as a mark of respect for the martyrs of the July uprising, followed by a discussion on the significance and legacy of the movement. Among the speakers were Officer-in-Charge of Mirsharai Police Station Farida Yasmin; Sub-Inspector Abdullah Al Masud, representing the Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station; Upazila Agriculture Officer Pratap Chandra Roy; Upazila Fisheries Officer Arifur Rahman; Upazila Education Officer Rozina Rahman; Secondary Education Officer Ferdous Hossain; Convener of Mirsharai Upazila Press Club Mahbub Palash; Mirsharai Press Club representative Anwar Hossain; and July student movement representative Mirzada Sohel, among others.

In their speeches, the participants highlighted the historical importance of the July Mass Uprising, describing it as a powerful reminder that no government can sustain itself through force. They emphasized that the movement stands as a significant example of the people's struggle against the suppression of democracy and freedom of expression.

The speakers also expressed hope that Bangladesh would never again witness the curtailment of democratic rights and freedom of speech. They called for a peaceful, prosperous, and welfare-oriented nation where citizens can live in harmony and dignity. The program concluded with a special prayer seeking eternal peace for the souls of the martyrs of the July movement. All attendees paid their deepest respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Inauguration of Road Widening and Renovation Work in Mirsarai

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai correspondent, Chattogram

The widening and renovation work of the road from Nizampur to Haitikandi, Sahearkhali, Bhorbazar-Oli Ahamed-Abdur Rahman Road in Mirsarai Upazila, Chattogram District, was inaugurated by Nurul Amin MP, Honorable Member of Parliament for Chattogram-1 (Mirsarai). Present at the inauguration were Abdul Awal Chowdhury, Convener of Mirsarai Upazila BNP former Member Secretary Gazi Nizam along with leaders of the Upazila and local BNP and its affiliated and associate organizations.

At this time, the speakers said that once the widening and renovation work of the road is completed, movement for local people will become easier, the communication system will improve, and local economic activities will become more dynamic.



July People's Uprising Day celebrated in Fakirhat

SA Kalam, Fakirhat (Bagerhat)

In Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat, July People's Uprising Day was celebrated with due dignity and various programs.

The 12 July warriors were felicitated with crests at the ceremony. Prizes were also distributed among the winners of various competitions. Organized by the upazila administration, the program was presided over by the upazila executive officer So: Roknooz Zaman at 11 o'clock on Wednesday (August 5) at the upazila parishad auditorium. Fakirhat Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Sharif Newaz delivered the welcome address on the occasion. Under the supervision of Upazila Secondary Academic Supervisor Asaduzzaman, Upazila BNP President Sheikh Kamrul Islam Gora, General Secretary Sheikh Shariful Kamal Karim, Upazila Jamaat Islami Amir Mao: ABM Taibur Rahman, Upazila Agriculture Officer Sheikh Sakawat Hossain, NCP Upazila President Md. Miazur Rahman, July fighter Abu Ayyub Anshari and others spoke. Officials of various government departments, teachers, students were present.



July Uprising Day celebrated in Pirojpur with various arrangements

Pirojpur Correspondent

Various programs are being celebrated in Pirojpur since morning on the occasion of July Uprising Day. Today, Wednesday at 9:30 am, wreaths were laid at the July Martyr Memorial located in the central Shaheed Minar square of the district town. At this time, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Ministry Ahmed Sohel Manjur, Reserved Member of Parliament Sultana Jasmine Jui, Deputy Commissioner Abu Sayeed, Superintendent of Police Manjur Ahmed Siddiqui, District Council Administrator Principal Alamgir Hossain, Pirojpur Press Club, District BNP, District Jamaat, District Information Office along with various government and non-government departments, socio-cultural organizations and people from different classes and professions paid tribute to the martyrs. Later, at 11 am, a reception was given to the family members of the July martyrs and July warriors at the Shaheed Omar Faruk Auditorium of Sadar Upazila Parishad. At the same time, a discussion meeting was held highlighting the significance of the day. The speakers present expressed their determination to build a non-discriminatory, democratic and humane Bangladesh by embracing the spirit of July.



Rupa Akter (21), daughter of Umar Ali, village - Char Gobadia Madhya Para, Police Station - Kotwali, District - Mymensingh was arrested with yaba tablets during an operation by the Mymensingh District Detective Branch (DB) Police and later handed over to the learned court.

