

There is no nation-building without efficient taxation

To say that the latest data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) regarding tax return filings for fiscal year 2025-26 is alarming would be an understatement.

That only 38% of registered Taxpayer Identification

Until we break this present scenario, imagining a future where we successfully increase the number of people filing their taxes appears out of reach.

Number (TIN) holders actually submitted their returns is truly disappointing. Bangladesh has long had a compliance crisis when it comes to taxation, and it is one that has undermined the very foundation of our national development.

However, to see filing rates plummet to a multi-year low despite multiple deadline extensions is a clear signal that our

attempts at fixing our tax culture are failing.

Part of the issue is that for too long, we have operated under a flawed paradigm where TINs are viewed as mere "access cards" for services rather than a commitment to civic duty, and the blame here falls largely on the authorities concerned, especially the NBR, for perpetuating this approach.

The deeper, more insidious issue is the lack of a genuine reason for people to believe that not only should they pay taxes, but that their tax money would actually be put to use. Our fiscal policy currently relies heavily on indirect taxes - VAT and customs duties - which disproportionately burden ordinary citizens. Meanwhile, those with the capacity to contribute significantly to the national exchequer often remain outside the net, protected by weak enforcement and a lack of transparency.

Until we break this present scenario, imagining a future where we successfully increase the number of people filing their taxes appears out of reach.

Transformation requires a shift, and it starts with the NBR pivoting from being a collection agency to a facilitator of compliance, simplifying processes while simultaneously closing the loopholes that permit evasion.

A nation that aspires to be a modern economy cannot survive on the tax contributions of a shrinking minority. It is time to treat tax compliance as an essential pillar of nation-building, and not another bureaucratic and administrative hurdle that the general public needs to combat.

Mirza Fakhrul named

paper must have a proposer and seconder who are members of parliament. A candidate may submit more than one nomination paper, but only one will remain valid after scrutiny. If only one candidate remains after scrutiny and withdrawal, the candidate will be elected unopposed. If there are multiple candidates, voting will be held in Parliament on 20 August.

The BNP holds a two-thirds majority in Parliament, making its nominated candidate the likely winner if the party maintains its position.

Election follows Shahabuddin's resignation

The election follows the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin on 24 July, citing serious illness.

Under the Constitution, a new president must be elected within 90 days of the office becoming vacant.

Until a new president is elected, Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed is serving as acting president, while Deputy Speaker Kaiser Kamal is performing the speaker's duties.

Fakhrul's political career

Born on 26 January 1948 in Thakurgaon, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir studied economics at the University of Dhaka and completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

He began his career as a lecturer at Dhaka College in 1972 under the Bangladesh Civil Service Education Cadre and later taught at several government colleges. Fakhrul became involved in politics during his student years at the University of Dhaka. He joined the East Pakistan Students Union and later served in leadership positions in the organisation.

After working in government service, he resigned in 1986 and entered active politics. He joined the BNP during the anti-Ershad movement in the early 1990s and later became president of the party's Thakurgaon district unit.

He was elected from Thakurgaon-1 in the 2001 parliamentary election and served as state minister for agriculture and later as state minister for civil aviation and tourism.

Fakhrul became BNP's acting secretary general in March 2011 and was appointed secretary general in March 2016, a position he continues to hold.

PM urges Islamic

in the election against those who wanted to take the country in a different direction."

He continued, "Over the past few days, they have again been trying to spread various kinds of statements and misinformation. They are trying to create chaos.

"That is why I am saying that we are working together and trying to keep the country on the right track. As we worked together two years ago, with the blessings of Huzur (Allama Shah Muhibullah Babunagari), I want to say and request that we must remain together in the days ahead as well," the Prime Minister said. Referring to various demands raised by the Qawmi madrasa community, he said the government would try to address them gradually.

"Yes, I know that some demands have been raised here. We will try to resolve those gradually. But we have to understand that many other people also live in this country. We want to build such a Bangladesh where the people and children of Bangladesh can live with food and shelter, live in peace, and people of different religions can live together peacefully," he said. Explaining the purpose of his visit to Fatikhkhari. Tarique said, "The main reason for coming here is to seek Huzur's (Allama Shah Muhibullah Babunagari) blessings."

Emphasising economic growth and social development, the Prime Minister urged everyone to remain vigilant so that those trying to spread misinformation and create disorder will not succeed. "We have to create employment opportunities for the people of the country, improve healthcare, strengthen the education system, and repair and develop roads, schools, colleges, bridges and culverts," he said.

Regarding to the investment climate in the country, the Prime Minister said instability would discourage both domestic and foreign investors. "If there is disorder in the country, foreign investors will not be encouraged to invest here . If there is no disorder, foreigners will invest, and as a result, our children and family members will have opportunities for employment," he said. "Restoring financial comfort for the people of the country is our main responsibility. We have formed the government to fulfil the responsibility that Allah Ta'ala has given us. You will pray so that we can do something better for the welfare of the people of the country," added the Prime Minister. At the meeting, Hefazat-e-Islam Secretary General Sajidur Rahman placed a seven-point set of demands on behalf of the ulema and Islamic parties.

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, among others, also spoke at the meeting. Earlier, the Prime Minister arrived in Fatikhkhari by helicopter from Banshkhali at around 3:20pm. After landing at Pelagazi Dighi field, he was warmly received

Hate should never replace facts

Md. Neyamul Hossain



hard work, often in difficult and low-paid jobs.

Malaysia has welcomed migrant workers from many countries to contribute to its economy, and many Rohingya are also part of that workforce. They are not asking the Malaysian government to provide them with a comfortable life or special rights. They simply want the opportunity to earn an honest living while waiting for a durable solution, whether that is returning to their homeland, resettlement in a third country, or at least access to basic education.

Many Rohingya have already been resettled in countries such as Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Those who remain in Malaysia are not there because they want to settle permanently. Most are simply waiting for the opportunity to rebuild their lives elsewhere through legal resettlement. In an interview with DVB News, Rohingya activist Farooq said:

"We fled from genocide. We are not coming here (Malaysia) to take over jobs, take land, or demand rights. We are here just to survive and stay safe."

But today, many Malaysians are being presented with a very different image through organized online hate campaigns. False information has played a major role in fueling public hostility.

In Kuala Lumpur, there have reportedly been cases where people from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and other countries pretended to be Rohingya in the hope of obtaining refugee resettlement opportunities. Yet when these individuals are involved in misconduct, the blame is often placed on the entire Rohingya community.

There have also been cases where people from other countries falsely identified themselves as Rohingya and married Malay

of the previous Awami League government from border areas amassed assets worth crores of taka through the illegal drug trade.

Following the change of government, those involved in the trade are now seeking partners within the current ruling party. Such important information can only be brought to light by the media," he said.

On development, the minister said development should no longer be measured by mega projects, massive buildings or large, expensive vehicles.

"Development now does not mean mega projects, huge visible buildings or large vehicles that can be touched. Today's development is the gas resources hidden beneath the ground—resources that the previous government could not or did not extract during its 17 years in power," he said.

He alleged that the country's electricity system and infrastructure had been made dependent on an import-based energy policy by importing fuel from abroad at costs thousands of times higher than domestic extraction costs, in order to benefit importers.

"Beyond the foreign currency we earn through ready-made garment exports and the foreign currency received through remittances, we do not have many sources of foreign currency earnings.

How ruthless and greedy must a government be to conspire to make such a weak economy dependent on imports just to make a group of looters rich?" he said, referring to the previous Awami League government.

The minister said the previous government chose to import gas instead of extracting domestic gas because there was less opportunity for profit from extraction.

"The previous government did not extract gas and instead opted for imports because the profit is lower when gas is extracted. It is not possible to create middlemen in this process. But the current government is giving the highest priority to gas extraction.

The government will import only as much gas as is necessary to sustain the electricity infrastructure.

We will try to meet the rest through domestic extraction. This will make it possible to reduce costs," he said.

Speaking about political reform, Swapon said the country needed a new political settlement.

"Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has announced a 31-point programme for this new political settlement. Through that programme, we want to repair Bangladesh.

We want to reform Bangladesh," he said.

SSC results to be

from August 11 to August 17, 2026.

The application process and relevant instructions will be available in a notice published on the websites of the education boards.

Earlier, the theoretical examinations of the SSC and equivalent examinations began on April 21 and continued until May 20. The practical examinations were held from June 7 to June 14. A total of 1,857,344 candidates sat for the examinations under the country's 11 education boards.

Of them, 930,305 were male and 927,039 were female.

TOAB and BATZA

dynamic and prosperous.

At this time, TOAB leaders emphasized on more effective government monitoring for the development of the tourism sector, solving existing problems of tour operators, and taking effective steps to formulate and implement tourism-friendly policies. BATZA leaders emphasized on increasing coordination among all stakeholders, including the government, tourism businessmen, related institutions, and the media, for the sustainable development of the country's tourism industry. At the same time, they expressed their determination to play a role in the development of this industry by highlighting the problems, possibilities, and positive initiatives of the tourism sector in the media.

In the discussion, views were exchanged on attracting international tourists as well as domestic tourism, promotion and branding of Bangladesh's tourist destinations, and improving the quality of tourism services.

After the meeting, the leaders of both organizations expressed their determination to continue regular communication, exchange of views, and mutual cooperation in the future for the development and growth of the country's tourism industry.

Country's total voter

had been sent.

The matter relating to amendment of the law had not yet been sent, he said, adding, "The document is under process. Once it is completed, that will also be sent," he said.

Regarding the presidential election, the EC Senior Secretary said submission of nomination papers for the election began

women. After obtaining property or financial benefits, they reportedly returned to their own countries. But the Rohingya do not have a country to return to. They cannot simply go back because they have no recognized nationality, passport, or visa. Many people fail to understand this important difference.

I have also seen AI-generated posters and misleading social media posts portraying the Rohingya as criminals. Such content is designed to provoke anger rather than encourage understanding. If an individual commits a crime, that person should be held accountable. Justice should always be individual, never collective.

From what I have observed online, many of the people actively participating in these hate campaigns identify themselves as Malaysians, but they are not ethnic Malays. Many appear to come from Indian, Indonesian, Rakhine, Nepali, Sri Lankan, Filipino, or other backgrounds.

I have also seen the word "kalar" being used in posters circulating in Malaysia. This slur has been widely used in Myanmar for decades by some Burmese and Rakhine people against the Rohingya. Seeing the same language appear in Malaysian hate campaigns raises serious concerns that Burmese and Rakhine actors may also be involved.

Regardless of who is involved, organized hate speech against an entire refugee community is unacceptable.

Criticism based on facts is legitimate. Every community has individuals who break the law, and they should face justice. But blaming an entire ethnic group for the actions of a few is discrimination, not accountability.

The Rohingya have already lost their homes, their citizenship, and their basic rights. They should not also become the targets of organized hatred based on misinformation. They are victims of an ongoing genocide and persecution and deserve stronger protection and security measures from the international community and the United Nations.

I respectfully call on the international community and Meta to investigate the widespread online hate speech directed at the Rohingya and to enforce its community standards consistently. At the same time, I encourage everyone to verify information before sharing it. Facts should guide our opinions -- not prejudice, misinformation, or collective blame.

We do not want to live as refugees, asylum seekers, or displaced people forever. Let us return to our homeland with our citizenship and rights. Otherwise, if the world has no place for us, then throw us into the Pacific Ocean altogether.

today. Mentioning that a BNP delegation collected nomination papers this morning, he said so far, no other party or candidate had come to collect nomination papers.

He said only BNP had collected two forms.

Dr Zahid stresses

Referring to the government's zero-tolerance policy against drugs, the minister instructed law enforcement agencies to conduct strict drives against drug-related activities.

He said, "No mercy will be shown to drug traffickers, trans- porters or users."

He further said, "Dinajpur is a food-producing district, and paddy transplantation is still ongoing for the upcoming Aman season. "There is no shortage of fertilisers in the country; there is an adequate stock. The agriculture department has been directed to ensure the proper use of chemical fertilisers. If the right amount of fertiliser is used in paddy fields, yields will be better." He advised the Deputy Commissioner to provide information on fertiliser availability based on demand and assured all concerned that fertiliser requirements would be met in a timely manner.

Bandarban Celebrates

indigenous communities are facing numerous challenges today. They emphasized that preserving this diverse way of life is essential for safeguarding their existence and achieving sustainable development. The speakers strongly urged both government and non-government sectors to take effective initiatives to secure indigenous rights and protect their linguistic and cultural identity. The day-long celebration was attended by representatives of various ethnic minority groups, leaders of local indigenous organizations, and members of civil society. The event concluded in the afternoon, marked by traditional attire, rich cultural expressions, and a renewed pledge to protect indigenous rights.

Govt to take initiative

the ministry is always ready to provide all-out cooperation in such initiatives.

The state minister said it is necessary to publish English translations of such books for Bangladeshi children and adolescents living abroad, so that they can also easily learn about the history of the country and the contributions of the leaders who sacrificed.

He said: "If Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had not declared the independence that day saying 'I revolt', perhaps we would not have an independent country today."

Similarly, he said Deshnetri, late Begum Khaleda Zia, risked her life to protect and restore democracy.

"If we do not present their contribution to the new generation, it may be lost in the evolution of time," he said.

"We have to protect this democracy and voting rights achieved through the student-people revolution on August 5, 2024, in the continuation of the long 17-year movement and struggle led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman," Yasser Khan said.

He called upon people from all walks of life to be vocal so that fascism does not return again in the country.

Lawmakers Selimuzzaman Selim, SM Jilani, KM Babar and Mostafizur Rahman Bhuiyan Dipu spoke as special guests at the event with 'Dashmik' proprietor Dipanta Raihan in the chair. Rabindra University Vice-Chancellor Professor Tahmina Akhtar and journalist and novelist Ehsan Mahmud spoke as discussants at the event.

Writer Kalam Farajji, author of the two books and journalist Sabrina Shuvra, poet Mintu Haque, Dhaka University Chhatra Dal president Ganesh Chandra Roy Sahas and Touhidur Rahman Awal also spoke.

The speakers termed the writer's initiative to narrate the life stories and political history of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman and Begum Khaleda Zia in a children-friendly manner as highly commendable and time-befitting.

Tree Plantation Program-2026

along with other officers and employees of the port.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony, Rear Admiral Arif Ahmed Mostafa, Chairman of Mongla Port Authority said.

Through planting approximately 1,000 fruit-bearing, forest, medicinal and ornamental tree saplings at various points including the Mongla Port Headquarters, on both sides of the main road and railway line, the permanent port residential area, and the Khulna residential area, Mongla Port will play a leading role in building a green Bangladesh and protecting the natural environment.

He further said,The responsibility for ensuring proper care of the trees planted in previous years as well as those being planted now lies with all of us, including the concerned officers and employees. He also expressed hope to personally conduct on-site inspections of the saplings every month after the tree plantation activities are completed.



Young women's voices, leadership essential to build inclusive Bangladesh: Dr Zubaida

Staff Correspondent

Vice-President of Ziaur Rahman Foundation Dr Zubaida Rahman on Sunday applauded the achievements of the young adolescent girls and young women and stressed the importance of nurturing future women leaders. "When young women are empowered to lead, they strengthen not only their communities but the future of our nation.

Their voices, ideas and leadership are essential to building a more inclusive and prosperous Bangladesh," she said while speaking as the chief guest at a programme. The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, UN Women and UNOPS Bangladesh, jointly celebrated the leadership, resilience and aspirations of the next generation of women leaders through "She Leads Tomorrow," the

National Dissemination Event of the project "Enhancing Women's Political Leadership through SDG 5 and SDG 16 Localisation in Bangladesh," held at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka. Supported by the Joint SDG Fund, the initiative has empowered more than 1,000 adolescent girls and young women to become leaders and change-makers in their communities. Young women's

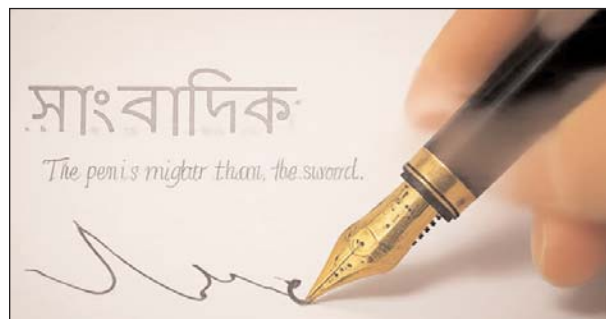
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Discussion Meeting Held in Brahmanbaria for Overall Improvement of Education

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria)

A discussion meeting was held with principals, headmasters, and teachers of various

secondary schools, madrasas, and technical educational institutions in the district participated. District Commissioner of Brahmanbaria, Md. Abu Saeed, attended the meeting as the chief guest.



educational institutions in the district, with the aim of improving the overall quality of education in Brahmanbaria district, enhancing the quality of education, and developing students as skilled and competent human resources. The meeting was held today at Brahmanbaria Municipal Community Center. Principals, headmasters, and teachers from all

teaching, and taking effective measures for the development of students' merit and talent. Speakers at the meeting said that quality education is one of the main foundations for the development and progress of a country. To prepare students to keep pace with the modern world, acquiring knowledge only from textbooks is

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None will be allowed to play with people's fate: PM

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today urged all democratic forces to stand united against those seeking to create disorder, spread confusion and obstruct the country's development saying none would be allowed to play with the fate of the people. "Now is the time to build the country, now is the time to shape the destiny of the nation. Therefore, we have to turn the 40 crores hands of our 20 crores people into the hands of workers and take our country forward," he said. The Prime Minister

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Top leaders meeting can resolve issues: Indian envoy

Staff Correspondent

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Sunday expressed confidence that a meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi could help resolve outstanding issues between the two neighbours. Describing both leaders as "people's persons", the envoy said direct engagement at the highest political level could contribute significantly to addressing issues

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Jet fuel price adjusted upward

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on Sunday fixed Jet A-1 (jet fuel) price for domestic and international airlines at Tk 159.52 and \$1.0358 per litre respectively. The new pricing would come into effect from 12 midnight leading to August 9, 2026, according to the regulatory commission circular issued today. Secretary of BERC Md Nazrul Islam Sarkar issued the circular saying that considering the Platts Rate from July 5 to August 4, 2026 the price has been fixed.

The BERC held a public hearing today in accordance with Sections 34 (4) and 34 (6) of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act, 2003 in view of the proposal of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL). Considering detailed price according to Platts Rate of Jet A-1 from July 5 to August 4, 2026 along with the US dollar exchange rate in Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's (BPC) Letter of Credit (LC) settlement,

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Management Deficiencies in Ratargul, Tourists Suffer on Risky Watch Tower

Naim Ahmed, Jointaupur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Ratargul Freshwater Swamp Forest in Gowainghat. Submerged trees during the rainy season, boat rides, and rich biodiversity draw huge numbers of tourists here every year. But while the pressure of tourists has increased, there are still various deficiencies in security and tourism management compared to that. The specific carrying capacity' how many tourists can enter Ratargul each day has still not been determined. According to the Forest Department, more than 300 tourists come on regular days, and over 500 on Fridays and Saturdays. Local boatmen claim that on holidays this number reaches nearly 2,000. Although around 250 boats operate from Ratargul's three ghats, tourists were rarely seen using life jackets during the on-site visit. There is also no separate effective system for immediate rescue in case of an accident. Tourists also have complaints about boat fares.

One of the main attractions for tourists was the watch tower inside the forest. Built in 2014, this tower has been closed for about

three years after it became risky. As a result, tourists are being deprived of the opportunity to see the vast beauty of the swamp forest from above. The Forest Department said an initiative has been taken to build a new watch tower. Meanwhile, the noise of engine-powered boats operating on the river reaches even the deep parts of the forest. According to Forest Department officials, this can disturb aquatic animals and wildlife. Loud noise and music by tourists are also having a negative impact on wildlife. However, no major garbage or plastic waste was seen inside the forest during the on-site visit. Relevant authorities said cleanliness workers are regularly removing waste. No complaints of tree cutting were found either. There has been no major visible infrastructural development in Ratargul in the last five years. At present, one Beat Officer and four Forest Guards are on duty. There are also questions about whether this manpower is sufficient compared to the huge pressure of tourists. There are potholes in various parts of the road leading to Ghat No. 2 and 3 of Ratargul.

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PM hands over keys of new houses to flood-hit families in Banshkhali

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday handed over keys of newly built houses to families, whose homes were destroyed in the recent floods in Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram. The Prime Minister handed over the keys to the beneficiaries after visiting the flood-affected West Banshkhali area under Baharchhara Union at around 1:20 pm as part of his programme to rehabilitate the flood-hit people.



During his visit, the Prime Minister also talked to the affected people and inquired about the wellbeing of their

titled "House Handover, Grant and Relief Materials Distribution" at the Banshkhali

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Human chain and protest march demanding justice for the murder of Amtali AK School student Emon

Amtali, (Barguna) Correspondent.

A human chain program was held demanding justice for the murderers of Javed Emon (16), a science department student of Amtali AK Government Pilot Secondary School. At 10 am on Sunday, the school's teachers, staff, students, guardians and the public from all walks of life participated in the human chain program at the Amtali AK School intersection. The human chain program was addressed by Amtali Government High School Headmaster Md. Fazlur Rahman, Physical Education Teacher Babu Pratul Chandra, Imran, Rakib, ninth grade students Miyad Khan, Oli, Junayd, School Branch Chhatra Dal President Mushfiq Rashid Hira, Amtali Government College Branch Chhatra Dal Vice President Abdullah (among others).



After the human chain, a protest march was taken out. The procession circled the main roads of the city and ended at AK School. It is worth mentioning that on July 29, at 6 pm, Amtali Police recovered an unidentified body wrapped in a sack from the sluice gate of the Pasharbania Canal in Arpangasiya Union of the upazila.

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Six more children die with measles-like symptoms; death toll climbs to 873

Staff Correspondent

Six more children died with measles-like symptoms in 24 hours until 8:00am on Sunday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 873 this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), all the latest fatalities were suspected measles deaths. With the latest update, the number of suspected measles deaths has risen to 775 while the number of laboratory-confirmed measles deaths remained

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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সি.সি.ডি (বারডেম)
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক ও বিভাগীয় প্রধান
বিজিসি ট্রাঙ্ক মেডিকেল কলেজ
BMDC Reg- A68436

সাক্ষাতের সময় :
প্রতি রবিবার ও বৃহস্পতিবার
বিকাল ৫ টা - রাত ৭ টা

সিরিয়ালের জন্য যোগাযোগঃ
01675-271725
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সীতাকুণ্ড ডক্টরস চেম্বার

সীতাকুণ্ড কামিল (এম.এ) মাদ্রাসার বিপরীত পার্শে
সীতাকুণ্ড বাজার, চট্টগ্রাম।

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

Bangladesh keen to work with UK to prevent irregular migration

Staff Correspondent

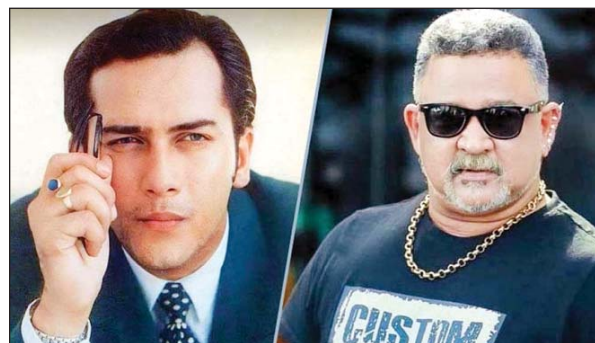
Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Chowdhury has emphasized the need to work jointly with the United Kingdom to create skilled and quality human resources, ensure safe and quality employment, and protect the rights, dignity and overall welfare of migrant workers. He made the remarks during a courtesy meeting with British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke at his office today, said a press release here. Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment State Minister Md. Nurul Haque



and Ministry Secretary Md. Mokhtar Ahmed were present at the meeting. The minister expressed the expectation of UK assistance in English language, technical and vocational training to develop skilled and internationally competitive manpower in line with the demands of the UK labour market.

Ariful Haque Chowdhury also emphasized maintaining the continuity of sustainable rehabilitation and social reintegration of returnee migrant workers through the ongoing 'RISE' project, implemented in partnership with FCDO, ILO and the World Bank. During the meeting, State Minister Md. Nurul

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Hero Salman Shah murder case, villain actor Don arrested

Staff Correspondent, Dhaka

Police have arrested villain actor Don Haque in the murder case of popular Bengali film hero Salman Shah. Airport Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamrul Hasan Talukder told Jago News on Sunday (August 9) afternoon. He said that the immigration police detained Don from the airport area. Then a CID team came and took Don away. A case is ongoing in the CID. They are investigating. Last year, 29 years after Salman Shah's death, the court ordered the murder case

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Young women’s voices

voices, leadership essential to build inclusive Bangladesh: Dr Zubaida

The event brought together senior government officials, Members of Parliament, diplomats, United Nations representatives, development partners, civil society leaders, academics, media personalities and young women leaders to celebrate the project's achievements and discuss the future of women's political leadership and inclusive governance in Bangladesh.

State Minister of Planning Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki attended the event as special guest, while Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office, Professor Dr. S. M. Abdul-Awal joined as the guest of honour.

Saki emphasised the importance of women's participation in achieving Bangladesh's development goals.

“Women’s meaningful participation is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Empowering young women to lead today means building stronger institutions and a more inclusive Bangladesh for tomorrow,” he said.

Prof Abdul-Awal highlighted the importance of translating the SDGs into action at the local level.

“SDG localisation is about turning national commitments into meaningful action in communities. Young women must be active partners in that journey, shaping the decisions and solutions that will define Bangladesh’s future,” he said.

United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in Bangladesh Carol Flore-Smerczniak underscored the value of partnerships in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ensuring that no one is left behind.

Delivering the welcome address, Country Manager of UNOPS Bangladesh and Bhutan Sudhir Muralidharan highlighted the importance of investing in young women's leadership to build stronger institutions, inclusive governance and resilient communities. Representative of UN Women Bangladesh Gitanjali Singh emphasised the importance of creating enabling environments where women and girls can lead, participate and influence decisions that shape their futures.

One of the major highlights of the event was the official launch of the “She Leads Tomorrow” coffee table book by the chief guest, documenting inspiring stories of courage, resilience and leadership from project participants.

The guests also inaugurated the “She Leads Tomorrow” photo exhibition, showcasing powerful visual narratives of adolescent girls and young women whose lives have been transformed through the initiative.

The programme featured participant experience sharing, storytelling, a video screening and an inclusion ceremony, followed by three high-level panel discussions on women in diplomacy, women in politics and the role of media in advancing gender equality. Partner schools were also recognized during an appreciation ceremony for their contribution to promoting leadership, civic engagement and meaningful participation among adolescent girls.

Implemented over a 12-month period from September 2025 to August 2026 across Dhaka, Chattogram and Rajshahi, the project engaged more than 1,000 adolescent girls and young women from government schools, madrasas and marginalized communities through leadership development, mentorship, civic education, policy dialogue and advocacy.

The initiative also strengthened collaboration among local government institutions, civil society, think tanks, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, the private sector and development partners to accelerate the localisation of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). A key achievement of the project is the development of the Bangladesh Model for SDG Localisation, a scalable framework that promotes collaborative action, strengthens local ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and places young women's leadership at the heart of sustainable development, said the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Bangladesh.

As the project concludes, She Leads Tomorrow stands as a celebration of the courage, determination and aspirations of young women who are helping shape a more inclusive, peaceful and equitable Bangladesh.

Jet fuel price adjusted

the BERC adjusted the price for August.

The commission formed a committee to review and adjust the monthly price of Jet A-1 submitted its report for August to the commission, taking into account international Platts rates, the US dollar exchange rate and changes in transportation costs.

Management Deficiencies

Due to inadequate parking, there was a long traffic jam of tourist vehicles from Friday noon to evening. At the same time, there was no visible presence of Tourist Police in the area. Ratan Kumar Adhikari, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gowainghat said complaints regarding life jackets, boat fares, traffic jams, and parking will be reviewed and necessary measures will be taken. Md. Shah Alam, Forest Officer of Sari Range said the old watch tower has been closed due to safety risks. An initiative has been taken to build a new tower. He also said new plans are being made to protect Ratargul’s environment and biodiversity.

With its boundless natural beauty, Ratargul still fascinates tourists. But those concerned believe it is urgent to take effective steps for security, environmental conservation, and tourism management before the pressure of tourists, uncontrolled boats, and management risks increase further.

Discussion Meeting Held

not enough. Alongside this, they must be developed with morality, human values, discipline, creativity, technological knowledge, and a sense of social responsibility.

During this time, importance was also given to creating awareness among students about drugs, juvenile delinquency, eve-teasing, and various forms of social degradation, while maintaining a proper educational environment in institutions. The expansion of technical and practical education was also discussed to prepare students for their future lives and careers.

In the discussion meeting, teachers presented their opinions on various problems, prospects, and challenges of the district's education system. Discussions were also held on the infra-structural development of educational institutions, strengthening the relationship between teachers and students, improving the teaching environment, and measures to prevent student dropout.

In his speech as chief guest, District Commissioner Md. Abu Saeed said that the role of the teaching community is extremely important in developing students as worthy citizens of the future. To improve the quality of education in educational institutions, as well as to develop students with moral and human values, teachers, guardians, and the administration must work together. He further said that opportunities must be created for the development of students' talents and they must be engaged with modern technology and relevant knowledge. At the same time, he emphasized ensuring discipline, cleanliness, and a beautiful learning environment in every educational institution.

The District Commissioner called upon all heads and teachers of educational institutions in the district to work with sincerity, responsibility, and dedication to improve the quality of education. He said that it is possible to further advance the education system of Brahmanbaria through collective efforts.

Relevant officials from the district's education department, principals, headmasters, and teachers from secondary schools, madrasas, and technical educational institutions were present at the meeting.

Through the discussion meeting, the expectation of more effective coordination and cooperation among all concerned

was expressed for the development of the district's education system, improving the quality of education, and building the next generation as skilled, competent, and patriotic citizens.

None will be allowed

said this while addressing a rehabilitation programme for flood-affected people at Hatazari Government College ground this evening.

Highlighting the prevailing situation of the country, he said some political parties are spreading confusion and trying to obstruct the government’s development activities.

“Today, we have to make a decision. All democratic people of Bangladesh who believe in democracy and freedom of expression have to decide what steps we should take against those who want to create disorder, block roads by coming onto the streets and want to mislead people,” he said.

Calling upon the people to remain united against such attempts, Tarique Rahman said, “Let us take pledge, let us take an oath that we must stand against those who want to jeopardize country’s development and progress, and out to obstruct way of improving the fate of the people.”

“Changing the fate of the people is our vision and mission. We will work, we will build the country, Bangladesh First (Korbo Kaj, Gorbo Desh, Sobar Agee Bangladesh),” he said.

“BNP firmly believes that people are the source of all political power. Since the people have lent their support to BNP, it’s our sacred responsibility to to implement the party’s 31 points development goal,” he said.

Terming BNP’s 31-point development goal as the people’s programme, the Prime Minister said, “BNP would take the country forward by overcoming all obstacles to fulfill the aspirations of the people. The party will continue working to change the fate of the people and transform the country as developed one.”

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

PM hands over keys

High School and College ground, organised for the rehabilitation of families affected by the recent floods in Chattogram.

Under the government rehabilitation initiative, 100 flood-affected families in Banshkhali were selected to receive the keys of the newly built houses.

Earlier, 100 affected families had been identified to receive the houses, which were constructed with government funding using RCC pillars, wood and corrugated iron sheets to make them more resilient to natural disasters, with each house having two rooms and an attached toilet.

Heavy rain and hill runoff since July 7 inundated several remote and low-lying areas of Banshkhali, damaging homes and affecting fish farms, ponds and other water bodies.

The Prime Minister earlier visited Matarbari in Maheshkhali to inspect development activities, including the Matarbari deep-sea port and coal-fired power project.

After completing his Banshkhali programme, the Prime Minister is scheduled to travel to Fatikchhari, where he will meet Hefazat-e-Islam Ameer Allama Shah Muhibullah Babunagari at Al-Jamiatul Islamia Azizul Ulum Babunagar Madrasah. He will later visit Hathazari and attend another rehabilitation programme for flood victims at Hathazari Government College ground at 5:00 pm.

In the evening, the prime minister will attend an organisational meeting at the auditorium of Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View hotel in Chattogram.

After completing his engagements, the Prime Minister is scheduled to return to Dhaka by a flight from Hazrat Shah Amanat International Airport at 9:30 pm.

The visit marks Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first trip to Maheshkhali, Fatikchhari and Hathazari after assuming office.

Top leaders meeting can

in Bangladesh-India relations. “I listened to his (Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s) speeches many times. He is a people’s person, and our Prime Minister (Modi) too. I think when two leaders meet, a lot of problems are sorted out. I have full confidence,” Trivedi told reporters. The High Commissioner made the remarks after inaugurating a “Children Playing Area” at the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in the capital this afternoon.

Expressing optimism about bilateral relations, Trivedi said there was no reason to view the current situation negatively.

“I am very confident. There is nothing negative. Things remain positive,” he said, adding that solutions could be found through engagement.

His remarks came ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit, scheduled for September 12-13 in New Delhi to which Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been invited by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his capacity as the current Chair of BIMSTEC.

India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) earlier confirmed that New Delhi had separately extended a formal invitation to Tarique Rahman to visit India after he assumed office in February this year. Last month, foreign minister Dr Khalilur Rahman said that Dhaka was reviewing the invitation and would announce its decision.

Responding to questions on Indian visas, Trivedi said there was huge demand among Bangladeshis and visa processing capacity was being gradually increased.

Human chain and protest

Later, his family identified the body by looking at the photo of the body, the shirt, pants and shoes he was wearing.

Investigating officer Nidrasquina Naval Police Outpost Inspector Sagar Bhadra said, “Primary clues to the murder have been found. However, for the sake of the investigation, it cannot be disclosed at this time. I hope the real mystery will be revealed very soon.

Six more children die

unchanged at 98. A total of 988 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, bringing the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 136,320. Meanwhile, 75 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections to 17,115. Since March 15 this year, a total of 118,382 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised across the country, of whom 114,142 have recovered, according to DGHS data.

Bangladesh keen to work

Haque said training centres in the country could be connected with various UK institutions to create skilled and internationally competitive manpower in line with the demands of the European labour market.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke expressed interest in working jointly with the Bangladesh government to create skilled manpower in Bangladesh according to the demands of the international labour market.

She highlighted the UK’s concerns regarding safe, regular and cost-effective labour migration from Bangladesh and informed the meeting about efforts to strengthen cooperation to improve the migration system.

Hero Salman Shah

to be handled. Dhaka City's Sixth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Jannatul Ferdous Ibne Haque gave this order.

From old documents, it can be seen that the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) investigated for a long time to unravel the mystery of Salman Shah's death by involving multiple investigation agencies. The agency reported that Salman Shah's death was a suicide. However, his family and fans could not accept it. In continuation of this, Salman Shah's maternal uncle Mohammad Alamgir filed a murder case at the Ramna Police Station in the capital on October 21 last year. A total of 11 peo-

ple, including his ex-wife Samira Haque and villain actor Don Haque, were accused in the case. Although there has been speculation about the real cause of death for a long time, no effective steps have been taken to investigate. The CID is currently investigating the case.

Work to build a greener Bangladesh begins after tree fair: Mintoo

Staff Correspondent

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo has said that although the National Tree Fair 2026 has formally ended, the responsibility to plant and care for trees and build a greener Bangladesh has not. Rather, the main work begins now.

“Every sapling collected from the fair must be planted properly and cared for regularly. If people from all sections of society, including families, educational institutions, and youth and young people’s organisations, come forward collectively, the target of increasing the country’s tree cover to 27 percent by 2035 can be achieved ahead of schedule,” he said.

The minister made the remarks while addressing the closing ceremony of the National Tree Fair 2026 at the Haimanti Auditorium of the Forest Bhaban in Agargaon in the capital on Sunday.

Mintoo said this year’s National Tree Fair was not merely an event for buying and selling saplings; rather, it had evolved into a national movement involving public participation to protect the environmental balance, promote greening and address the challenges of climate change. Organised under the theme “Let us decorate the country with tree planting, Bangladesh first,” this year’s fair achieved greater success than expected, he added.

He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the National Tree Planting Campaign and National Tree Fair 2026 on July 9, 2026. The government’s activities for environmental and forest conservation are not limited to announcements; they have already entered the implementation stage, he added. The minister said that, in line with the government’s election pledge, a programme has been undertaken to plant 25 crore saplings across the country over the next five years and create new green jobs. Under the programme, work to plant five crore saplings in the first year is underway, of which the Forest Department will plant 3.5 crore saplings.

Fair share of water to be ensured politically: Anee

Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee on Sunday said Bangladesh will pursue political efforts to secure its fair share of water from Transboundary Rivers, including through renewal of the Farakka Treaty.

He made the remarks while addressing a seminar titled “Transboundary Cooperation in South Asia: Prospects and Challenges” as the chief guest at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the capital today.

The minister said Bangladesh shares 57 transboundary rivers with neighbouring countries, and regional peace, food and water security, environmental sustainability, climate resilience and economic prosperity are closely connected to these rivers, he said.

“The Farakka Treaty will be renewed politically and the fair share of water will be ensured,” the minister said.

The minister blamed the previous government’s lack of political foresight and a subservient policy for failing to ensure Bangladesh’s fair share of water from the Farakka.

State Minister for Water Resources Forhad Hossain Azad, Narsingdi-5 constituency lawmaker Md Ashraf Uddin Bakul and Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Md. Saimum Parvez attended the seminar as special guests.

Anee said South Asian countries are facing growing risks from climate change, floods, river erosion, drought, salinity and water scarcity.

He said stronger transboundary cooperation could help countries exchange information on river flows and flood forecasting, conduct joint research, respond to disasters and develop climate-resilient infrastructure.

The minister stressed the need for stronger cooperation among South Asian countries to address common challenges, including sustainable water management, climate change, energy and regional connectivity.

State Minister Azad said the government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been working tirelessly for the country’s development since assuming office.

“The Padma Barrage project has already been approved and work on it will begin soon. Work on the Teesta Master Plan will begin at the earliest once the technical advisory committee gives its opinion,” he said.

He expressed hope that Bangladesh would become self-reliant through implementation of the Padma Barrage, the Teesta Master Plan and canal excavation, reflecting the vision of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

Association of Engineers Bangladesh Member Secretary Engineer Shahrin Islam Tuhin chaired the seminar, while Bangladesh Water Development Board Additional Chief Engineer Dr Mohammad Abul Hossain delivered the keynote speech. Former secretary Engineer ANH Akhtar Hossain, among others, attended the seminar.

Bangladesh seeks visa-on-arrival facility from Indonesia

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh on Sunday sought Visa on Arrival (VoA) facilities from Indonesia for its ordinary passport holders as Dhaka and Jakarta discussed ways to deepen cooperation in tourism, hospitality and aviation.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam raised the issue during a meeting with Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Listiyowati at the ministry here.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M. Rashiduzzaman Millat was also present at the meeting.

Afroza said Indonesia is a popular destination among Bangladeshi travellers and that the government attaches importance to securing Visa on Arrival facilities for Bangladeshi ordinary passport holders travelling to the Southeast Asian country.

The Indonesian ambassador expressed her willingness to cooperate with the Bangladesh government in efforts to facilitate the VoA facility for Bangladeshi passport holders.

During the meeting, the two sides also stressed further strengthening bilateral relations, particularly through greater cooperation in tourism and hospitality. Ambassador Listiyowati expressed Indonesia's interest in working with Bangladesh to develop the country's tourism sector.

State Minister Millat said the government has taken initiatives to modernise the National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (NHTTI) as part of its efforts to develop skilled human resources for the tourism and hospitality industry.

He also said the government is considering establishing a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bangladesh as part of its plan to develop the country into an aviation hub.

The Indonesian ambassador expressed interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NHTTI to strengthen cooperation in Bangladesh's hospitality sector. The meeting also discussed broader opportunities for strengthening Bangladesh-Indonesia cooperation in aviation and tourism.

Aminul urges every student to plant a tree

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque has urged students to plant a tree each at every school and college across the country, saying records of the trees planted by students will be maintained and additional saplings will be supplied to educational institutions as necessary. He made the call while addressing a tree plantation programme at Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory School and College here on Sunday.

Addressing the students, Aminul Haque said, “Each of you should plant a tree in front of your home, at your school or college, or by the roadside. Records of the trees you plant will also be maintained. There will be a list of trees planted by each school and college.” Describing the present time as suitable for tree plantation, he said trees planted now would grow quickly due to monsoon rains and favourable weather. Therefore, students, teachers and guardians should immediately become involved in tree plantation activities.

The state minister said tree plantation is important for maintaining environmental balance and tackling the impacts of climate change. He said the main objective of launching tree plantation programmes at schools and colleges is to create environmental awareness among students and make educational institutions greener.

He said, “Our election pledge has a target of planting 250 million trees over the next five years. Everyone must participate in this programme to make the country and cities greener.”

School authorities should encourage students to plant trees alongside classroom teaching. If every student plants a tree, he said, large-scale greening can be achieved collectively.

US Ambassador explores Bangladesh’s floating guava market

Staff Correspondent

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen on Sunday visited the traditional floating guava market at Bhimruli in Jhalakathi, a popular seasonal attraction in the southern district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kawsar Hossain welcomed the Ambassador with bouquets when he arrived around 9am.

Christensen later toured the floating market on a small boat and tasted locally grown guavas.

Sitting on the boat, he observed the trade at the market and enjoyed the surrounding lush green landscape.

After spending some time at the floating market, the US ambassador left for Atghar Kuriana in Pirojpur by a trowler. Officials of the US Embassy and local administration accompanied him during the visit.

Talking to reporters at the end of his visit, the US Ambassador said he thoroughly enjoyed visiting the floating guava market. “The beautiful environment surrounded by greenery fascinated me,” he said.

Science-based play materials being added to curriculum: Bobby Hajjaj

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj on Sunday said that “Science Toys”, science-based play materials, are being incorporated into the curriculum to foster scientific thinking and creativity among primary-level students.

“We want children to learn science not just from the pages of books, but through play and hands-on activities. This plan has been adopted to make the learning process enjoyable and practical for children,” he said.

The state minister made the remarks as the chief guest at an event organised by UNICEF Bangladesh at a city hotel on the “Foundational Learning Action Tracker (FLAT),” said a press release issued here.

Bobby Hajjaj said special emphasis is being placed on science, mathematics, design and creativity in primary education. Alongside science-based materials, a decision has been made to establish “Math Labs” in every primary school, where children will be able to easily master fundamental mathematical concepts such as shapes, forms, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using various materials.

Highlighting the importance of addressing foundational learning gaps, the state minister said the main goal of primary education is to build a solid foundation in basic reading, writing and arithmetic for every child.

Mentioning various initiatives taken to bring “out-of-school children” back into the mainstream of education and prevent dropouts, he also said a decision has been made to provide free school uniforms to help retain children in schools.

The formal launch of the “Free School Uniform Distribution Programme” will be held for the first time on August 16.

Regarding the Mid-Day Meal programme, Bobby Hajjaj said a practical and effective implementation framework is being developed by addressing the shortcomings identified through experience from the pilot project. Strong monitoring and evaluation systems will be ensured in the implementation of every project.

Rehan Asif Asad outlines govt’s five priorities for ICT, telecom

Staff Correspondent

Rehan Asif Asad, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Posts, Telecommunications, Information Technology, Science and Technology, has outlined the government’s five priorities for ICT and telecom, a designated trust sector.

The priorities are (i) consistent, forward-looking policy under a five-year tax framework — noting the telecom sector’s 51–56% effective tax burden against a global average of 22–27%, and the removal of the SIM tax; (ii) improved mobile and broadband connectivity, as Bangladesh ranks seventh globally in subscribers but far behind in service quality; (iii) Digital Public Infrastructure under “One Citizen, One ID, One Digital Wallet,” built on the Estonian X-Road platform, offered free of cost, with every ID connected to bank accounts and the National Board of Revenue.

The priorities are also (iv) AI-ready talent, equipping the 23,000–30,000 annual engineering and science graduates with AI, cybersecurity, and data skills, and introducing these subjects into the school curriculum; and (v) electronics manufacturing, with garment-sector-style incentives, citing Vietnam’s growth from US\$1 billion to US\$217 billion in consumer electronics exports in a decade. He cited the UN–ITU finding that every 10% improvement in broadband penetration adds 1% to national GDP. The Adviser highlighted the priorities as the chief guest at a Policy Dialogue “Accelerating Bangladesh’s Digital Future: Policy Priorities for Innovation, Investment & ICT-Led Growth” hosted by American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at a hotel in the capital.



New Pakistan-Saudi-Turkey defense pact ‘purely defensive’ and open to others: Ishaq Dar

International Desk

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated Sunday that a new defense pact signed with Saudi Arabia and Turkey is “purely defensive” and remains open to other regional nations. The “Mecca Joint Defense Agreement,” also known as the Makkah Accord, was signed Friday by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to deepen security cooperation amid regional tensions. Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agree on mutual defense pact A primary provision stipulates that an armed attack



Shanghai cancels over 1,300 flights as China braces for Typhoon Dolphin

International Desk

Shanghai’s two major airports canceled more than 1,300 flights Sunday as authorities across parts of eastern China evacuated hundreds of thousands of people ahead of Typhoon Dolphin, which brought heavy rain to northern Taiwan. The storm’s outer bands affected northern Taiwan, including the capital Taipei, on Saturday. Several Taiwanese airlines also canceled flights to China scheduled for Sunday. Dolphin had maximum sustained winds of about 162 kilometers per hour (101 mph) as of Sunday morning, according to authorities. The typhoon was expected to bring heavy rainfall and increase the risks of flooding and landslides as it approached Zhejiang province and

against any one of the three states shall be considered an attack against them all. Dar emphasized this aligns with Article 51 of the UN Charter regarding collective self-defense and clarified the agreement is not directed at any specific country, including Iran. The alliance combines Pakistan’s nuclear capabilities, Saudi Arabia’s economic influence, and Turkey’s advanced defense industry. Dar noted the accord does not replace existing bilateral or multilateral agreements. While landmarks in Islamabad and Saudi cities were illuminated in celebration, defense analysts cautioned that despite the collective defense clause, the pact should not be viewed as a NATO equivalent. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia previously signed a separate mutual-defense agreement in September 2025.

Biden’s cancer spreads, causing severe pain, son says

International Desk

Former U.S. President Joe Biden’s prostate cancer has spread to other parts of his body and is causing him significant pain, his son Hunter Biden has said. In an emotional and wide-ranging interview with the BBC broadcast late Friday, Hunter Biden spoke about his 83-year-old father’s health, saying the cancer has metastasized to his bones and beyond. “It’s very painful and it’s very debilitating in many respects,” Hunter Biden said, describing the situation as deeply difficult for the family. Joe Biden, who was the oldest person to serve as president of the United States, faced persistent concerns about his age and health during his four years in office. His administration and advisers also came under criticism over allegations that the extent of his health problems had not been fully disclosed. Those concerns intensified after Biden ended his 2024 reelection campaign following a widely criticized debate performance against Donald Trump, who later succeeded him as president. Biden disclosed his prostate cancer diagnosis in May 2025, less than four months after leaving the White House.



Zelenskyy visits Moscow-friendly Serbia as Russian strikes kill 4 in Kyiv region

International Desk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned Russia’s latest deadly attacks on Kyiv as he visited Serbia on Saturday, a European country that has maintained close ties with Moscow since Russia invaded Ukraine. ExecutiveBranch Four people, including a child, were killed in overnight Russian strikes on Kyiv and the surrounding region, while Ukrainian forces attacked Russian oil facilities. Zelenskyy arrived in Belgrade on Friday for his first official visit to Serbia. At a joint news conference with Zelenskyy, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic called Ukraine a “friendly nation” and said he was pleased to host the Ukrainian leader. It was the first visit by a Ukrainian president to Serbia in eight years. The two leaders discussed their countries’ efforts to join the European Union, bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation. Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine regularly come under Russian drone and missile attacks. Ukraine’s air defenses have struggled to cope with the scale of the attacks as its supply of interceptors remains limited. At the same time, Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil facilities have become increasingly frequent, causing fuel shortages and putting pressure on Moscow. Patriot missile supplies slow Vucic, who has kept close relations with Moscow and declined to impose sanctions on Russia, said Serbia respects Ukraine’s territorial integrity and that its position would not change. The stance has drawn pressure from the European Union. “The situation in Ukraine is difficult,” Zelenskyy said. “There was another missile strike last night — ballistic missiles targeting our infrastructure. There were also attack drones.” He said deliveries of Patriot air defense interceptors, the



only weapon in Ukraine’s arsenal capable of intercepting ballistic missiles, have slowed compared with last year. “There are fewer of these missiles in 2026,” Zelenskyy said, adding that Ukraine received more each month in 2025. Zelenskyy said the US has agreed to allow Ukraine to produce its own Patriot interceptors, but the plan has been delayed by paperwork. ExecutiveBranch “The process for some of these licenses is also taking a long time,” he said. Child killed with grandparents The talks in Belgrade came after Russian drones destroyed a family home in Brovary district, northeast of Kyiv, killing a three-year-old child and the child’s grandparents, according to local officials. Three other family members and a neighbour who came to help were injured and taken to hospital. The attack destroyed the house and damaged nearby buildings and vehicles. Zelenskyy said at least one other person was killed in an attack involving six ballistic missiles targeting civilian infrastructure in Kyiv. Ukraine’s air force said it had shot down or intercepted 135 of 151 Russian drones launched overnight. The attack also included six ballistic missiles and other guided missiles. Russia has repeatedly attacked populated areas across Ukraine, although Moscow says its forces target only military facilities. Ukraine’s Defence Ministry said Friday that its air defenses had destroyed or intercepted around 5,300 Russian drones and missiles last month. That was just under 60% of the roughly 9,000 drones and missiles Russia launched during the period. Zelenskyy has repeatedly urged countries, particularly the US, to provide more air defense ammunition. Supplies have become tighter amid the war involving Iran.

Iran sets new conditions for Strait of Hormuz reopening, UAE says ship targeted

International Desk

Iran has set new conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, while the United Arab Emirates said a vessel owned by its state-run oil company was targeted by an Iranian missile as tensions continued to rise across the Middle East. History Meanwhile, Yemen’s military carried out attacks against the country’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels, while Turkey’s parliament took a step forward on legislation aimed at supporting a peace process with Kurdish militants. Here are the latest developments across the Middle East: Iran sets conditions for reopening Strait of Hormuz Iran’s Supreme National Security Council said the Strait of Hormuz would not be reopened until the United States “corrects its behavior,” setting out demands that could complicate ongoing talks over the strategic waterway. The council’s secretary, Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, who is also a commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said the US must never again threaten Iran and must permanently end its war with Iran and its regional allies. Iran also demanded that Washington lift its naval blockade of Iranian ports, withdraw its military forces from the region, provide “complete compensation” for war-related damage, remove sanctions and release frozen Iranian assets “unconditionally.” The US did not immediately comment on the demands. Under an interim agreement reached in June, discussions on lifting sanctions, compensation and frozen assets were to be part of a final deal. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said earlier Saturday that Tehran was close to reaching an agreement with Oman on navigation through the strait. However, he said reopening the waterway would depend on meeting other conditions and accused the US of violating the interim agreement. Oman, which has been mediating the talks, said discussions were continuing in a “positive and constructive atmosphere” and condemned attacks on vessels in the strait. Details emerge on possible Iran-Oman deal The Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil and natural gas supplies, was considered an international waterway before the war. Arabs& Middle Easterners A temporary agreement being negotiated by Iran and Oman would allow the strait to reopen, with vessels entering through a route close to Iran and leaving through a route near Oman, according to two people familiar with the talks. Under the proposed arrangement, ships would not have to pay fees or tolls while crossing the waterway during the interim period. The agreement is intended to restore an earlier separate understanding between the US and Iran and restart a 60-day period for negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme. During that period, Iran is expected to be allowed to sell oil. The current 60-day deadline for reaching a final agreement is due to expire in just over a week. The two people said the proposed deal has the backing of members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and could eventually be announced jointly by Iran, Oman, the US and the International Maritime Organization. However, they cautioned that the terms could still change before the agreement is finalized. UAE says Iranian missile targeted vessel A vessel owned by Abu Dhabi’s state-run oil and gas company ADNOC was attacked while passing through



the Strait of Hormuz, Emirati authorities said. The UAE Foreign Ministry said Iran fired a missile at the vessel as part of attacks on commercial shipping. ADNOC said no one was injured in the attack early Saturday. The company said more than a dozen of its vessels have been targeted by missiles and drones while crossing the strait since the US and Israel launched their war on Iran in February. According to ADNOC, one crew member has been killed and 20 others injured in the attacks.

The company did not provide details about the location of Saturday’s incident or report the extent of any damage. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre later said a vessel east of Khasab, Oman, was hit by a projectile, causing a fire that was later extinguished. The vessel and its crew were reported safe. It was not immediately clear whether the incident involved the ADNOC vessel. Turkey says defense deal not aimed at any country History Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said a new defense agreement signed by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey is not directed against any particular country. The agreement, signed Friday, states that an attack on any one of the three countries would be considered an attack on all. Speaking to Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency on Saturday, Fidan said the three countries do not consider any state an adversary unless it takes hostile action against them. He said the agreement does not identify any common threat. Under the mutual defense arrangement, a member country would formally request assistance, which could include intelligence-sharing, logistical support or the deployment of military units, Fidan said. He added that a secretariat for the mechanism would be established in Saudi Arabia. Fidan said several other countries have shown interest in joining the agreement. He also said he expects Egypt, which he described as a “natural partner,” to join at a later stage. Yemen’s military attacks Iran-backed Houthis Yemen’s military carried out attacks against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in response to recent Houthi strikes in central and eastern parts of the country. Col. Majed al-Nazili, a spokesperson for Yemen’s military, said the attacks targeted Houthi “sites and capabilities” along several front lines but did not provide further details. The renewed escalation between the Houthis and Yemen’s internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, has raised concerns that the country’s civil war could resume following a truce reached in 2022. Turkey’s Kurdish peace bill clears parliamentary committee A Turkish draft law aimed at advancing a peace process with the country’s Kurdish insurgents passed an initial hurdle in parliament on Saturday after being approved by a committee. History The bill is expected to be considered by the full parliament next week.

Pentagon urges defense firms to speed up weapons production amid depleted stocks

International Desk

The Pentagon is urging US defense companies to accelerate weapons production to replenish its reduced stockpile of munitions, including weapons used during the ongoing war with Iran. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said Saturday that the department is actively working to increase munitions purchases to provide “the weapons our warfighters need at the pace the threat demands.” He confirmed that the Pentagon has taken steps over the past week to significantly speed up the process, but said the effort is part of a broader military modernization drive that began before the five-month-old conflict. Deputy Defense Secretary Steve Feinberg sent a memo to defense industry leaders on Wednesday giving them no more than 21 days to submit plans to “drive significantly faster, more aggressive delivery schedules and/or increased production for critical capabilities,” according to a memo obtained by The Washington Post. “Years-long development cycles are not acceptable,” Feinberg wrote. “We must dramatically accelerate our program schedules and expand our production capacity now.” The memo comes amid concerns that recent fighting with Iran has further depleted the US military’s already reduced stockpiles of advanced missile interceptors, potentially leaving American troops more vulnerable if hostilities resume, according to a new analysis. Reduced inventories of Patriot and THAAD interceptors could force the US and its Middle Eastern allies to take greater risks in conserving those air-defense systems,



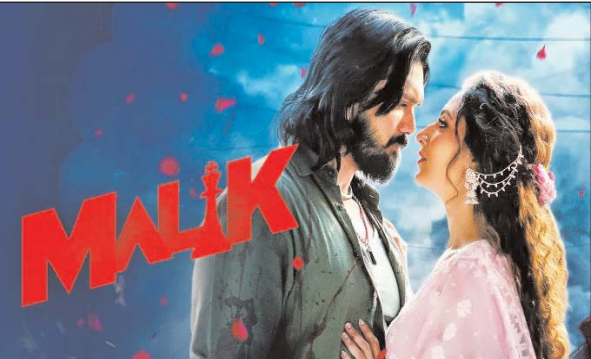
according to an analysis by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank. For instance, US forces could fire fewer interceptors at incoming Iranian drones and missiles, increasing the possibility that some could get through, the analysis said. President Donald Trump has in recent days pushed back against reports of a US munitions shortage. In a post on Truth Social on Thursday, he said the US has “massive amounts” of weapons and added that “large amounts are being manufactured and shipped to the U.S. as needed.” Parnell on Saturday confirmed that Feinberg’s memo calling for a rapid increase in weapons production is “real.” He said the initiative “will inform the fiscal year 2028 budget submitted to Congress for funding” and is fully in line with the Pentagon’s ongoing effort to rebuild the US defense industrial base. A defense spending bill remains stalled in Congress, where lawmakers have expressed anger over Trump’s military action against Iran and opposition to the White House request to sharply increase Pentagon spending to \$1.5 trillion, from about \$900 billion last year. The number of Patriot interceptors fell from 2,330 before the war to 1,030 when the April ceasefire took effect, according to a CSIS estimate released last month. Following the latest fighting, the stockpile is now estimated at between 759 and 827 interceptors, representing a decline of at least 65% from the level before the conflict began. The number of THAAD interceptors declined from 452 before the war to between 232 and 262 at the beginning of the April ceasefire, CSIS said.



Selena makes guest appearance in ‘Hannah Montana’

Entertainment Desk

Social media has been flooded with clips from the Hannah Montana 20th Anniversary Special, and one video that has gone incredibly viral is bringing a wave of nostalgia to fans. The moment in question features Selena Gomez making a special guest appearance on an episode. Both Selena and Miley dominated Disney in the early 2000s with their iconic shows, Wizards of Waverly Place and Hannah Montana, respectively. During the special episode, Miley and Selena bonded over the good old days, reminiscing about their time on Disney Channel and how their friendship grew during that period. "I love you, girl! You are the best," Gomez told Miley on the episode. Reflecting on their friendship, Miley said, "It's really sweet to know somebody for 20 years. That means I have known you for almost 20 years." Their reunion was marked by nostalgic conversations, warm smiles, and heartfelt hugs. In 2007, Gomez had a recurring role on the show as a pop star named Mikayla, who feuds with Hannah Montana.



‘Malik’ released on OTT

Entertainment Desk

Arifin Shuvoo and Bidya Sinha Mim-starrer "Malik" is now streaming on the OTT platform Utshob, while the film was released in theaters last Eid-ul-Azha. The film directed by Saif Chandan, became available on OTT platform Utshob from midnight on Thursday, August 6. The story of the film centers on rights, love, revenge and the conflict of power. In addition, Dipjol, Misha Sawdagar, Shipon Mitra, Elina Shammi, Don, Kazi Hayat, AJ Rana and many others have played important roles. Produced under the banner of Divine Multimedia, the producer of the movie "Malik" is Moazzem Hossain Shaon. Sanjid Affan served as the executive producer. The music of the film was composed by Adit Rahman. The story is all about love, revenge and the struggle for power. It's a story driven by a son's fight to defend his mother's dignity and claim her rights. The film had generated considerable audience interest following its theatrical release earlier this year. The movie also cast Dipjol, Misha Sawdagor, Shipon Mitra, Elina Shammi, Don, Kazi Hayat and AJ Rana, among others.

Jugal Hansraj reunites with Shekhar for Masoom: The next generation



Entertainment Desk

Jugal Hansraj is all set to revisit the classic film with Shekhar Kapur's upcoming Masoom: The Next Generation. It has been confirmed that the actor, who began his career as a child artist with the 1983 film, will once again share screen with the original stars Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi. In the original film, he played Rahul, the son of Naseeruddin Shah's character whose entry brings a dramatic change to the family's seemingly settled life. His performance was widely praised and established him as a young talent in the industry. According to Jugal, "When Shekhar called to tell me he wanted me to be a part of the new Masoom, it made me so happy. Masoom has been a part of my life, my identi-



On Monday, the OG cast of the popular Disney show reunited at the world premiere of Hannah Montana 20th Anniversary Special. Miley was all smiles as she posed for the shutterbugs. For the special night, she donned a sparkling silver gown with a white t-shirt that featured a picture of her Hannah Montana character, an ode to the iconic show and her journey. She was joined on the carpet by the show's original cast members, including Jason Earles, Moises Arias, Cody Linley, Anna Maria, Perez de Tagle and Shanica Knowles. Hannah Montana premiered in 2006 and ran across four seasons until 2011. The show received much love from the audience, becoming a fan favourite among the kids and teenagers. It even won four Emmy nominations for Outstanding Children's Programme. Hannah Montana followed the tale of Miley Stewart-a teenager from Malibu, California, who doubles as the famous pop singer Hannah Montana. The show even spawned a film, Hannah Montana: The Movie, which came out in theatres in April 2009.

Michelle Yeoh named Asian Film-maker of the Year at Busan film festival

Entertainment Desk

Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh will receive the Asian Film-maker of the Year award at the 31st Busan International Film Festival, organizers announced on Aug 6. Presented annually since 2003, the South Korean award recognizes film professionals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to Asian cinema. Past recipients include Iranian director Jafar Panahi (2025), Japanese film-maker Kiyoshi Kurosawa (2024) and Hong Kong stars Chow Yun Fat (2023) and Tony Leung Chiu Wai (2022). Yeoh rose to prominence in Hong Kong action cinema with Yes, Madam (1985), Police Story 3: Supercop (1992) and Wing Chun (1994) before crossing over to Hollywood in the James Bond film Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) and Taiwanese director Lee Ang's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000). Yeoh's more recent credits include Crazy Rich Asians (2018), Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings (2021) and Wicked (2024). The 64-year-old made Oscar history in 2023 when she won Best Actress for the film Everything Everywhere All At Once (2022), becoming the first Asian to win in the category. The role also brought her top honors at the Screen Actors Guild Awards and the Golden Globes that awards season. In February, she became the first Asian woman to receive the Honorary Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. Yeoh's ties to the Busan festival dated back to 2002, when she visited the city for the Pusan Promotion Plan, now known as the Asian Project Market.



ty, for as long as I can remember. Even after all these years, I'm still 'that Masoom boy.' It's been more than 40 years since the film released, but people still remember the film with so much affection. I constantly get stopped by people even here in New York, and I'm told with a warm smile that their kids or grandkids listen to 'lakdi ki kathi.'" Kapur called Hansraj's return special because "There is something profoundly beautiful about coming home, not to a place, but to a story that has stayed alive in people's hearts for decades. Jugal was just a young boy when we made Masoom, and , welcoming him back as an accomplished actor is both emotional and deeply fulfilling. Reuniting him with Naseer and Shabana is a reminder that some relationships transcend cinema. As we begin this new chapter, I hope audiences experience the same honesty, tenderness, and emotional truth that made Masoom so enduring." The original film starred Shah and Azmi and was loved for its sensitive portrayal of family relationships and its emotional storytelling. Music was composed by R.D. Burman with lyrics by Gulzar. The film's songs, such as Lakdi Ki Kathi, are still a fan favorite.

Amaal Mallik reveals how Arijit Singh returned to playback singing for Awarapan 2

Entertainment Desk

Music fans in India and around the world had recently assumed that Arijit Singh had stepped away from playback singing and was unlikely to return anytime soon. But his involvement in Awarapan 2 has changed that perception. Music composer Amaal Mallik has now explained how Arijit became part of the project, stressing that the singer's return was not driven by pressure from anyone. Amaal said the song Yeh Awarapan was not an old track that had been recorded earlier and was simply waiting for release. Instead, he had been singing the song himself for nearly a year before Arijit heard it. Speaking with Pinkvilla, Amaal said there was no pressure on Arijit and that the singer had made his own decision about returning to playback singing. He explained that he and Arijit often share music with each other. Amaal said he usually sends Arijit five or six songs, and if the singer likes one, they work on it together for a film. According to Amaal, Arijit was initially not convinced that he should record Yeh Awarapan. The singer felt that Amaal had already sung the song well and questioned why he needed to record his own version.



However, Amaal told him that he specifically wanted Arijit to sing the song. Arijit eventually agreed and recorded it a few months ago. Amaal said Arijit made a genuine effort while recording the song. He described the singer as a rare talent because of his ability, dedication and willingness to step away from film music when he chooses to. Amaal also said Arijit's return should not be viewed as a final appearance in playback singing. If Arijit likes another song in the future, he may decide to sing it, and Amaal said he would be happy to work with him again. He also noted that Arijit has not completely withdrawn from film music. Awarapan 2, starring Emraan Hashmi, Disha Patani and Shabana Azmi, is scheduled to release on August 14.



Swara Bhasker hospitalized after testing positive for dengue

Entertainment Desk

Indian actress Swara Bhasker has been diagnosed with dengue and hospitalized. The Bollywood actress informed her fans and shared a photograph from the hospital bed. On her Instagram story, she wrote, "Well that escalated fast. Dengue-fied and hospitalised!" The Raanjhanaa actress did not reveal details about her symptoms or how long she has been in the hospital. On the work front, Swara Bhasker was last seen on the television reality show Pati Patni Aur Panga, where she appeared alongside her husband Fahad Ahmad. The actress is yet to announce her next project.

Shabnur speaks out on Salman Shah's death

Entertainment Desk

Dhallywood's iconic actor Salman Shah mysteriously passed away on September 6, 1996. Meanwhile, popular Dhallywood actress Shabnur, has spoken out in a lengthy social media post on Saturday about the death of Salman Shah, addressing recent statements made by Rizvi Ahmed alias Farhad regarding the case. Shabnur described Rizvi's statements as "inconsistent, misleading and untrue" and strongly denied the allegations made against her. Shabnur said she first heard Rizvi Ahmed's name after Salman Shah's death. According to her, Rizvi initially confessed to being involved in planning and carrying out Salman's murder and later became a witness in the case. She claimed that Rizvi subsequently changed his statement and described Salman's death as suicide. Shabnur said Rizvi has repeated the suicide claim in recent interviews and has also blamed Salman's mother, Neela Chowdhury, and Shabnur for his death. Rejecting the allegations, Shabnur said she had never had any contact with Rizvi. She also denied his claim that the two were married in 2016 and separated in

2018, calling the allegation completely false. Shabnur said she had been married long before the period mentioned by Rizvi and did not even know him. Taking a sarcastic swipe at his claim, she remarked that after hearing about the alleged marriage, it seemed there had been no real marriage at all, but perhaps a "dream marriage". She also strongly denied Rizvi's allegation that she had blackmailed Salman Shah. According to Shabnur, his statements about her relationship with Salman are baseless and defamatory. Shabnur said the truth behind Salman Shah's death must be uncovered. She described Salman not only as a popular hero but also as a beloved co-star and someone she regarded like an elder brother. "I want to make it clear, as always, that I had no connection whatsoever with Salman Shah's death or murder. I have no idea how he died," She continued. She added that Salman's untimely death still pains her and expressed hope that a complete investigation would reveal the truth and that anyone found responsible would face exemplary punishment.

Priyanka Chopra teams up with Russell Crowe

Entertainment Desk

Oscar winner Russell Crowe and global star Priyanka Chopra have been cast in the upcoming sci-fi action thriller Bluefly. The project marks another exciting step in Priyanka's expanding career in global cinema, as she continues to take on diverse roles and collaborate with acclaimed international talent. With Bluefly, she is set to enter the world of military action and science fiction in what promises to be an intense new cinematic experience. Set against the backdrop of a dangerous mission in Congo, Bluefly follows a team tasked with recovering an aircraft under perilous circumstances. While plot details surrounding Priyanka's character are currently under wraps, her casting alongside Russell Crowe has already generated interest around the project. The project will be directed by Nimród Antal, who previously helmed Predators (2010). The screenplay has been penned by David Frigerio alongside William Eubank and Carlyle Eubank. The trio earlier collaborated on the sci-fi film The Signal (2014). The narrative revolves around a United Nations translator who is recruited into a high-stakes black-ops mission to recover a fallen aircraft. During the operation, the team uncovers deeper secrets hidden within the crash



site. Highland Film Group CEO Arianne Fraser commended the lead actors, noting that Crowe and Chopra Jonas will bring remarkable depth to the action thriller. Company COO Delphine Perrier highlighted that Bluefly offers an intense narrative with unexpected plot twists under Antal's direction. Oscar-winner Russell Crowe recently appeared in Nuremberg and is slated to star in upcoming ventures, including Netflix's Unabomber and the reboot of Highlander. Meanwhile, Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently led and produced The Bluff and starred in Heads of State. Her upcoming slate also includes S.S. Rajamouli's project Varanasi and the survival thriller Reset opposite Orlando Bloom.



Morocco, Algeria reach WAFCON semi-finals and World Cup

Sports Desk

A triumphant night for north Africa ended on Saturday with hosts Morocco and Algeria reaching the Women's Africa of Nations (WAFCON) semi-finals and the 2027 World Cup in Brazil. They took contrasting paths to quarter-finals success as Morocco built a two-goal lead, then defended resolutely against South Africa for a 2-1 victory in Rabat. Algeria fell behind against the Ivory Coast in Casablanca, then took advantage of their opponents having a player sent off to score twice and emerge 2-1 winners. In the semi-finals on Wednesday, Morocco will face defending champions Nigeria or Cameroon while Algeria tackle Ghana or giant killers

Malawi. No north African nation has won the marquee African women's football tournament, which has been dominated by Nigeria with 10 titles. The only other countries to become WAFCON champions since its debut in 1998 were Equatorial Guinea twice and South Africa once. Morocco, runners-up to South Africa four years ago, led after 31 minutes thanks to a second goal of the tournament from Sakina Ouzraoui. Hanane Ait El Haj increased the lead six minutes into the second half by converting a penalty. South African star Thembi Kgatlang then netted on 67 minutes to set up a tense finish. In Casablanca, Ines Konan put the Ivorians ahead on 29 minutes, but they were reduced to 10 players before half-time when teenager

N'Sira Ouedraogo was sent off. Algeria struck twice within six minutes just before and after the hour mark through substitute Ines Khiri and Amira Braham to turn the match in their favour. Between the Algerian goals, Ivory Coast squandered a chance to regain the lead when Rebecca Elloh struck the post from a penalty. The red-carding of 18-year-old Ouedraogo, for kicking Algeria goalkeeper Chloe N'Gazi in the face, proved pivotal as her team lost the ascendancy they established during the opening half. After barely threatening to score during the first 45 minutes, Algeria took control after the break and created enough chances to have won more decisively.



Travis Head embraces opening role after Ashes success

Sports Desk

Travis Head is open to continuing as an opening batter for Australia after making a successful move to the top of the order during the Ashes. Head had been a middle-order regular in Test cricket until Usman Khawaja's injury in the first Ashes Test in Perth forced a change. Head had experience opening in white-ball cricket and had also done the job in Tests against India and Sri Lanka, scoring 321 runs at an average of 45.85. He made an immediate impact in Perth, scoring 123 off 83 balls on a difficult surface. He added two more centuries during the series and finished with 629 runs, the most by any batter. Still, Head does not regard himself as a traditional Test opener. "I might have opened in 10, 12 of them," Head told ESPNcricinfo. "I think it would suggest that I'm not an opening batter, a true opening batter, in terms of what Australian cricket is known for." The Australian batter said his game was suited to the role but acknowledged that opening brought different demands, particularly against the new ball. "I know that I've still got to work continuously hard at the new ball. I know I'm going to make mistakes. I'm very comfortable with where my game is at," he added. Khawaja's retirement has left Australia with an opening spot to fill, and Head's Ashes performance has made him a strong candidate. He is also Australia's leading run-scorer in the current World Test Championship cycle, with 853 runs at an average of 53.31. But Head said his focus is less on his own numbers than on helping Australia win. "I'd love to score hundreds, I'd love to be in the runs column all the time, but at the end of the day I'd just love to contribute to winning Test matches," he said. Australia, who lead the WTC standings, will begin a two-Test series against Bangladesh in Darwin on August 13. Their schedule also includes tours of South Africa and India, a home series against New Zealand and next year's Ashes in England. History

Malaysia coach Whatmore happy to play in Bangladesh and get a tough opponent

Sports Desk

It is going to be two decades since Dave Whatmore left Bangladesh. But there is still increased interest in the hero behind a glorious chapter in the country's cricket. Media personnel are very curious to talk to him. This coach, who has come to his old address with the responsibility of Malaysia, has fulfilled that demand. The Australian coach is excited to get the opportunity to visit Bangladesh. Malaysia is not a big name on the world cricket map at all. However, their presence in the world of T20 is regular. They are 25th in the ICC T20 rankings. They have not yet had the opportunity to play against the main team of any Test-playing country. Although they played against

Govt want to build drug-free society through sports: Aminul Haque

Sports Desk

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque said the government is working to build a drug-free and healthy society through sports. "We want to build a healthy nation and a drug-free society through sports. We want to restore our ethics, moral values and social values through sports," he said. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the prize-giving ceremony of the final match of the Jhenaidah District Council Gold Cup Football Tournament-2026 at Bir Shreshtha Hamidur Rahman Stadium here this afternoon. "Sports should be established not only as a means of entertainment but also as a profession. This would help keep the young generation away from drugs and various forms of social degradation," he said. He called upon all to work together, irrespective of political affiliation, to achieve this goal. Highlighting the plan to develop players from the grass-roots level, the state minister said initiatives are under-way to establish sports as a profession and identify the talents of adolescents. He added that activities have begun with a target of building one playground in each of the country's 4,599 unions. Aminul Haque said an initiative has been taken to construct international standard sports villages in 10 districts across the country in this current fiscal year. He said, one of them is planned to be built in Jhenaidah and the existing stadium in the district will be transformed into a modern stadium with a full-fledged gallery. He also added that there are currently 22 swimming pools in 22 districts of the country and the govt is planning to construct a swimming pool in each of the 64 districts in phases. Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman, Prime Minister's Political Assistant Md Rashed Khan and Jhenaidah District BNP General Secretary Md Zahiduzzaman Mona also spoke at the programme. Jhenaidah District Council Administrator and District BNP President Md Abdul Majid presided over the programme.



Bangladesh in the 2023 Asian Games, it was not a national team. They have not yet had the opportunity to play against other top cricket countries. Even the opportunity to play against the Hyper Performance (HP) or 'A' teams of these countries is rare. And they have a rare opportunity to tour Bangladesh. They played a match, a T20I against the BCB HP team, and another on Monday. Then they will play a three-match ODI series against the Bangladesh Under-23 team. Whatmore expressed his gratitude to the BCB while addressing the media in Mirpur on Sunday. "They have done a really great job of hosting us and giving us some important practice sessions. Because we have a very important tournament later this month."

FIFA defends Infantino over allegations linked to his UEFA tenure

Sports Desk

FIFA has defended its president, Gianni Infantino, against what it described as a "concerted and ongoing effort" to undermine his leadership of the world football governing body. FIFA issued the statement Saturday, a day after British newspaper The Daily Telegraph reported questions surrounding an exit payment made by UEFA to a female staff member who worked with Infantino when he was secretary general of European football's governing body. UEFA confirmed that a "departure payment" had been made to the employee and said it was "in line" with the regulations in place at the time. Infantino spent 16 years working at UEFA before being elected FIFA president. In its Saturday statement, FIFA accused Infantino's critics of seeking to weaken his authority and remove him from office without following due process. "It is increasingly evident that there is a concerted and ongoing effort by some to undermine FIFA and its president," FIFA said. It added that those who lack the support of FIFA's member associations should not try to achieve through allegations, insinuations or misinformation what they cannot accomplish through the organization's established democratic processes. FIFA also said some reports had included "unsubstanti-



ated assertions and demonstrably false claims" that should not be presented as facts. "Change inevitably challenges established interests, but disagreement with that change cannot justify efforts to undermine the democratic mandate of FIFA's president or the institution he was elected to lead," the statement said. Infantino has faced strong criticism after details emerged of his plan to sell World Cup profits to private equity firms. UEFA and two other continental confederations — North America's CONCACAF and the Asian Football Confederation — rejected the proposal. Infantino received support from FIFA's management board last Wednesday following a meeting in Morocco, and he apologized over the process. However, UEFA's threat to

have its 55 member associations boycott FIFA competitions until the plan was dropped remained in place. UEFA said Thursday that the announcement "changes nothing." Regarding the departure payment, UEFA said it "was in line with the regulations that existed for departing staff at the time." The organization added that the rules have since been tightened and now "reflect those found in a modern, high-profile organization."



Messi absent after father's death as Miami lose in Leagues Cup

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi was absent following the death of his father as Inter Miami lost 2-1 to visiting Monterrey on Saturday in a Leagues Cup match. Teams observed a minute of silence before the match for Jorge Messi, who died at age 68 in Argentina, where the Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi arrived on Saturday night. "Our hearts are with our captain, Leo, and the entire Messi family," Inter Miami said in a statement. Argentine midfielder Rodrigo De Paul scored in the 32nd minute to give Miami a 1-0 half-time lead in the group match against the Mexican side. De Paul took off his number seven shirt to show a number 10 underneath, in a gesture of support to Messi. Belgian striker Hugo Cuypers leveled in the 47th minute before Uruguayan striker Diego Rossi scored a 90th-minute winner. Major League Soccer champions Miami have won their first group match 4-2 against Atletico San Luis and next face Leon on Wednesday.

Sports Desk

Jorge Messi, the father and agent of Lionel Messi, has died aged 68, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner's childhood club Newell's Old Boys announced on Saturday. Argentine media reported Jorge Messi had passed away on Friday in a hospital in Rosario. "His constant companionship and behind-the-scenes leadership were essential in backing every step of Lionel," Newell's Old Boys said in a social media post. The 39-year-old Argentine star arrived in his home country on Saturday alongside his partner, Antonella Rocuzzo, and their children, with most dressed in black, an AFP journalist reported from the airport. Messi's family asked the media for "humanity" during the recent World Cup amid persistent rumours over Jorge's health. The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) sent their "condolences" to the Messi family. "On behalf of Spanish football, we wish to convey all our love and affection to Lionel and his loved ones during this time of deep sorrow," the RFEF said in a statement. A former metal factory worker, Jorge Messi was his son's first coach in Argentina and his sole companion when he first moved to Barcelona as a child, before later becoming his agent. "My father helped me enormously. He is very critical of me. That made me always want to push myself further," Lionel Messi told DirectTV Sports in 2022. In 2000, Jorge left behind a stable job in Argentina, his wife and three other children to move to Spain with his 13-year-old son.

'Age doesn't matter', Brett Lee impressed by Suryavanshi's batting

The Australian pace bowling great has praised India's prodigy

Sports Desk

Along with his batting, Suryavanshi's age is also being discussed a lot in the cricket world. However, age is not important to Brett Lee. The fearless batting of the 15-year-old Indian batsman has won the heart of the Australian pace bowling great.Suryavanshi caught the attention of the cricket world with an explosive century in the 2025 IPL. And in this year's IPL, he was even more mature. He scored 776 runs in 16 innings for Rajasthan Royals, scoring a century and five fifties. The teenager won several awards in the tournament.Suryavanshi, who has set records after records for age-based cricket, IPL, India's emerging team and the 'A' team, has already tasted international cricket. The left-handed opener, who got a chance in the national team after much discussion, did not have a good start. He scored only 42 runs in three T20Is during the England tour.He turned around during the Zimbabwe tour. There, he scored 151 runs with two fifties in three matches. He also won the Man of the Series award. Brett Lee, while talking to the 'Bearbiceps' YouTube channel, expressed his admiration for Suryavanshi."He is incredible. Everyone outside India asks if he is really 15 or not. Is he 15, that is probably the biggest debate in the world. How old he is, it does not matter to me. If he is 15, great. But if he is 17 or 18, it does not matter. This boy can play cricket. He is a great discovery for India, he will achieve bigger and better things in the future."The way Suryavanshi played against world-class pacers like Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc in the IPL impressed Brett Lee the most."He has shone in the IPL in a very short time. On the way to a 97-run innings against Sunrisers Hyderabad, he faced the Australian bowlers. They were bowling at a high pace, and he was hooking them from the tip of his nose.He is playing proper cricketing shots and seems to be getting his strength from somewhere. There will be no problem with his form or batting; he just needs to keep his mentality right. He is still a teenager. Let him be a teenager and don't put too much pressure on him."

Lionel Messi's father Jorge dies aged 68

"When we arrived in Barcelona, I used to lock myself in my room to cry alone, and my father did the same -- either without me seeing him or thinking I didn't see him. We pretended we were both fine, but we were struggling," Messi later said. "When things were tough, my father even asked me what I wanted to do, whether I wanted to keep going or go back home. I wanted to continue, so he stayed with me."



Subsequently, Jorge finalized his son's first contract with Barcelona, becoming his agent and sole representative with the Spanish club and later at Paris Saint-Germain and in Miami. A private man, Jorge Messi rarely gave interviews, but on the few occasions he spoke publicly of his unbreakable bond with his son, now aged 39. "The day Leo stops playing, I think a dream will shatter for me, and I won't watch football anymore," he told German magazine Kicker in 2013. However, his life was not without controversy. In 2013, Spanish authorities accused both father and son of using a network of companies across the UK, Switzerland, Belize, and Uruguay between 2007 and 2009 to collect the footballer's image rights and evade Spanish taxes. The case was resolved in 2017 following multi-million-euro fines. In 2019, Jorge and Lionel -- along with the Leo Messi Foundation -- faced new allegations in Spain involving suspected tax offenses, fraud, and money laundering. This second case was dismissed in 2021.



Discussion Meeting Held in Brahmanbaria for Overall Improvement of Education



M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria)

A discussion meeting was held with principals, headmasters, and teachers of various educational institutions in the district, with the aim of improving the overall quality of education in Brahmanbaria district, enhancing the quality of education, and developing students as skilled and competent human resources. The meeting was held

at Brahmanbaria Municipal Community Center. Principals, headmasters, and teachers from all secondary schools, madrasas, and technical educational institutions in the district participated. District Commissioner of Brahmanbaria, Md. Abu Saeed, attended the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting included a detailed discussion on the current state of the education system in Brahmanbaria district and various aspects of improving the quality of education. At the same time, emphasis was placed on ensuring a beautiful, disciplined, and education-friendly environment in educational institutions, increasing regular student attendance, improving the quality of teaching, and taking effective measures for the development of students' merit and talent. Speakers at the meeting said that quality education is one of the main foundations for the development and progress of a country. To prepare students to keep pace with the modern world, acquiring knowledge only from textbooks is not enough. Alongside this, they must be developed with morality, human values, discipline, creativity, technological knowledge, and a sense of social responsibility. During this time, importance was also given to creating awareness among students about drugs, juvenile delinquency, eve-teasing, and various

forms of social degradation, while maintaining a proper educational environment in institutions. The expansion of technical and practical education was also discussed to prepare students for their future lives and careers. In the discussion meeting, teachers presented their opinions on various problems, prospects, and challenges of the district's education system. Discussions were

also held on the infrastructural development of educational institutions, strengthening the relationship between teachers and students, improving the teaching environment, and measures to prevent student dropout. In his speech as chief guest, District Commissioner Md. Abu Saeed said that the role of the teaching community is extremely important in developing students as worthy citizens of the future. To improve the quality of education in educational institutions, as well as to develop students with moral and human values, teachers, guardians, and the administration must work together. He further said that opportunities must be created for the development of students' talents and they must be engaged with modern technology and relevant knowledge. At the same time, he emphasized ensuring discipline, cleanliness, and a beautiful learning environment in every educational institution. The District Commissioner called upon all heads and teachers of educational institutions in the district to work with sincerity, responsibility, and dedication to improve the quality of education. He said that it is possible to further advance the education system of Brahmanbaria through collective efforts. Relevant officials from the district's education department, principals, headmasters, and teachers from secondary schools, madrasas, and technical educational institutions were present at the meeting. Through the discussion meeting, the expectation of more effective coordination and cooperation among all concerned was expressed for the development of the district's education system, improving the quality of education, and building the next generation as skilled, competent, and patriotic citizens.

Van driver killed in Khulna road accident, 2 held

Khulna Correspondent

A van driver was killed when a pickup truck hit his vehicle in the Teligati area of Khulna city this morning. The deceased was identified as Bishay Mallo, 67, of Sonatala Ghat area under Siddhipasha Union in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore district.

The accident occurred around 8am on the Teligati Bypass Road near Kathmandu Restaurant, police said.

Police arrested pickup driver Md Anisul Haque, 27, and a deliveryman Hridoy, 29, in connection with the accident. The pickup, bearing registration number Dhaka Metro-A-113765, was also seized from the spot.

According to local people, police said Mallo was heading towards Afil Gate carrying fish from the Aranghata Bypass fish market. "At the meantime, a pickup truck of RFL Company was travelling towards Morrelganj in Bagerhat after loading goods from Pathar Bazar Depot," the sources said, adding that both the vehicles collided head-on in the aforesaid area, leaving the van driver dead on the spot. Anisul is a resident of Kishoreganj upazila in Nilphamari district while Hridoy hails from Shaikupa upazila of Jhenaidah district. Sub-Inspector (SI) Sanjib Biswas, duty officer of Aranghata Police Station, said the body was sent to the Khulna Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy after completing the inquest. "Preparations are underway to file a case in this connection," he added.

Protest rally by locals in Ashuganj demanding halt to illegal sand extraction from the Meghna

Taslima Khandaker Nusrat, Sarail Upazila Correspondent

Brahmanbaria Local residents held a protest and rally in Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria against the long-standing illegal sand extraction from

the Meghna River using dredgers. Angered by the unplanned and illegal sand extraction from the river, locals fear river erosion and damage to croplands and homes.

The protest rally was organized by local residents at the field of Jamia Islamia Darul Ulum Madrasa adjacent to Sohagpur Chakbazar in the upazila.

About 500 to 600 people from different classes and professions joined the rally. The rally was presided over by Haji Mohammad Musa Mia. Speakers included former President of Ashuganj Upazila BNP Zahirul Islam Jaru Mia, former Organizing Secretary Khalilur Rahman, Alkas Mia, Mohiuddin Khan Shyamal, Haji Mohammad Helal Shikder, Shamsul Alam and other local leaders. The speakers said that for a long time, sand has been illegally extracted by installing dredgers at various points of the Meghna River. This has not only disrupted the river's natural flow and bed balance, but has also put riverside settlements, croplands, roads and various structures at serious risk of erosion. They also said that frustration and concern have been prevailing among locals for a long time due to the illegal sand extraction.

Hajimul takes Bangladeshi bamboo craft beyond borders

Nilphamari Correspondent

Once struggling to make ends meet by installing bamboo ceilings in houses, Hajimul Islam has transformed his life through perseverance and craftsmanship, emerging as a successful entrepreneur producing bamboo handicrafts for both domestic and international markets.

At his workshop in Uttor Sonakhuli Dangapara village under Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari, Hajimul now produces a wide range of aesthetically designed bamboo products. His environmentally friendly goods have crossed local market boundaries and are being exported abroad through various buyers.

His entrepreneurial journey, however, began with hardship. Working as a craftsman making bamboo ceilings for tin-shed houses, Hajimul earned only a modest income to support his family. Looking for a way to make better use of his experience in bamboo craftsmanship, he set up a small workshop at his home.

The initial days were difficult, as he faced problems in securing raw materials and finding markets for his products. But he did not give up. Gradually, promotional efforts through different channels and growing confidence among local customers helped expand his business.

his workshop is bustling with activity from morning. Around 20 local men and women work there, turning ordinary bamboo into attractive household and decorative items through skilled craftsmanship and creative designs. Hajimul himself remains busy developing new designs and overseeing production.

Hajimul said his workshop currently produces around 120 types of bamboo products, including baskets, trays, table-lamp stands, soap dishes, pen holders, flower vases, tissue boxes, sofa sets, ektaras, magazine and file holders and various home-decor items.

Although some products are sold in local markets, a portion is exported abroad through different buyers.

According to Hajimul, the workshop currently employs around 20 local workers. For raw materials, he collects 'Bhutum' variety bamboo, which is long and thick, from Tetulia in Panchagarh district. Including transportation costs, each bamboo costs him around Taka 700.

Hajimul said the high price and uncertain supply of raw materials are among the major challenges facing his business. Lack of sufficient capital and modern machinery is also preventing him

At the rally, the speakers strongly demanded an immediate halt to the illegal sand extraction from the Meghna River using dredgers. They also called for identifying those involved in illegal sand extraction and taking



legal action against them.

The speakers further said that the administration must take quick and effective measures to protect the river and riverside communities. Otherwise, many families could lose their homes and croplands to river erosion, and the local economy and environment could be severely damaged.

From the rally, the local administration was urged to launch an urgent operation to stop illegal sand extraction, remove the dredgers used for sand extraction, and take strict legal action against those involved.

Six awarded for drawing pictures highlighting importance of breast milk

Rajshahi Correspondent

Rajshahi students showcase breastfeeding benefits through drawings as World Breastfeeding Week promotes maternal and child nutrition awareness. Photo : BSS RAJSHAHI, Aug 9, 2026 (BSS)- Students from various educational institutions participated in a drawing competition organised in Rajshahi to spread the message that mother's milk is the first and most

important source of nutrition in a child's life. Their drawings portrayed the importance of breast milk for the healthy growth of children and various images of the intimate bond between mother and child.

Among them, six winning students were awarded prizes this afternoon in a competition organised by the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN).

The chief guest at the closing and award distribution ceremony of World Breastfeeding Week held at the conference room of the Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Office was the Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi, Dr. SIM Razul Karim. He said mother's milk is the safest and most nutritious food at the beginning of a child's life, which plays an important role in the physical and mental development of the child. Awareness needs to be raised in families and society about breastfeeding the child immediately after birth and giving only breast milk until the age of six months.

Along with mothers, other family members also need to be aware of the benefits of breastfeeding.

Various programmes of World Breastfeeding Week are playing an important role in creating public awareness on this issue.

Through joint initiatives, such activities must continue in the future to ensure the nutrition and health of mothers and children.



Six restaurants fined Tk 2.75 lakh in Bhairab for storing rotten food

Kishoreganj Correspondent

Six restaurants in Bhairab of the district have been fined a total of Taka 2.75 lakh for storing and selling rotten, stale and artificially colored food.

The fines were imposed during a mobile court drive conducted at the Food Zone of Nadi Bangla Center Point on Baradia Road in Bhairab municipality on Sunday afternoon.

According to the mobile court authorities, inspectors found rotten and stale food from the previous day, mixed with artificial coloring, stored in the refrigerators of several restaurants during the raid. The establishments were subsequently fined under the Food Safety Act for storing and selling food considered unsafe for public consumption. Of the six restaurants, US Bangla Restaurant was fined Taka 25,000, while Ocean Bite, Chhoto Mama, Narsingdi Food Zone, Crespi and Narsingdi Kabab were each fined Taka 50,000. Bhairab Executive Magistrate and Assistant Commissioner (Land) A.H.M. Azimul Haque said storing or selling food that poses a risk to public health would not be tolerated.

He added that such drives against establishments involved in unsafe food practices would continue.

Three held, stolen gold of Tk 15 lakh recovered in Ctg

Chattogram Correspondent

Chattogram Akbar Shah Thana Police have recovered Taka 14 lakh 88 thousand 800 after the sale of stolen gold and a digital weighing scale used to weigh gold during a special operation conducted.

Three people-- Setu Das, 43, Mohammad Ali, 43, and Debabrata Banik alias Balai Banik, 37-- have been arrested in connection with the incident, Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Assistant Commissioner Aminur Rashid confirmed.

The alleged accused Setu Das alias Salauddin is from the Bara Uthan area under Karnaphuli Police Station in Chattogram while Mohammad Ali from Daudkandi upazila of Cumilla and Debabrata Banik alias Balai Banik is from Muradnagar upazila of Cumilla district.

Debabrata currently lives as a tenant on the fourth floor of Bania Bhaban No. 32 in Hazarigali area of Chattogram city.

A case has been filed with Akbar Shah Police Station in this connection and the arrested persons have been sent to court for further legal action, the police official added.



Al-Hatim Hajj Group Celebrates 7th Anniversary in Feni

Staff Reporter

Commitment to ensuring comprehensive services for pilgrims based on authentic Aqeedah and Sunnah was reiterated at the 7th anniversary celebration of Al-Hatim Hajj Group. On this occasion, a discussion and exchange-of-views meeting was organized in honor of Islamic scholars and dignitaries of Feni. The event was held on Saturday night (August 8) at a local restaurant in Feni city, presided over by S. M. Masum Billah, Managing Director of the group. Prominent religious figures and representatives of civil society in Feni attended the program.

Speaking at the event, guests emphasized that Hajj is not merely a physical journey, but a sacred act of worship to gain the pleasure of Almighty Allah. They stated that the primary responsibility of Hajj agencies should be serving pilgrims with honesty and trustworthiness, rising above commercial interests. The core objective of these agencies must be facilitating worship by providing proper religious guidance and training.

Distinguished guests who addressed the meeting included: Maulana Nur Mohammad: Khatib, Tamijia Jame Mosque Maulana Saiful Islam Mujaddedi: Khatib, Daroga Bari Jame Mosque Maulana Hafez Zakir Hossain: President, Feni District Hafez Parishad, Maulana Taiyab Sultani: Khatib, Mohipal Central Mosque, Advocate Aminul Haq Bhutto: Lawyer, Feni Judge Court

?The speakers highly praised Al-Hatim Hajj Group for its service over the past seven years and offered constructive suggestions to further enhance service quality in the future.

In his presidential address, S. M. Masum Billah said, "Our primary goal is to treat the service of pilgrims as a sacred trust. Al-Hatim Group remains committed to ensuring that pilgrims can perform their rituals in a safe and peaceful environment while staying in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah."

The event concluded with a special prayer (Doa and Munajat) seeking peace, prosperity, and well-being for the nation and the global Muslim Ummah.

'Tree planting crucial in combating adverse effects of climate change'

Rangpur Correspondent

Speakers at a programme have said that tree plantation is very important in maintaining environmental balance, increasing greening and combating the adverse effects of climate change. They said this at the programme organized on Sunday to mark the inauguration of a tree planting on both sides of the road from Shabbaz Amtala to Mojir Gate in Balapara union of Kawnia upazila of the district.

Kawnia Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Papia Sultana inaugurated the programme by planting tree saplings on both sides of the road as part of the government's 250 million tree plantation programme in five years across the country.

Balapara Union Parishad Chairman Md Ansar Ali, Jamaat-e-Islami Balapara Union President Md Abdur Rahim, Upazila NCP Chief Coordinator Md Saidul Islam and Balapara Union NCP President Md Habibur Rahman addressed the event

Top Drug Dealer Arrested with Warrants in Chhagalnaiya; 20 Bottles of Phensedyl, 25 Bottles of Escuf Recovered

Staff Reporter

Police in Chhagalnaiya, Feni, have arrested a top drug dealer named Shakil Mia (32) along with 20 bottles of Phensedyl and 25 bottles of Escuf syrup during a special drive.

The arrestee, Shakil, is the son of Yunus Mia from Champknagar village under Chhagalnaiya upazila. He is an accused in a total of nine cases, including several pending arrest warrants.

According to police sources, acting on a tip-off, a team led by Sub-Inspectors (SI) Shahinur Rahman, SI Shah Alam, and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Md. Altaf Hossain conducted a raid at Kamrul's house in Jaipur under Subhapur union at around 3:40 PM on Saturday (August 8). During the search, officers recovered 20 bottles of illicit Phensedyl and 25 bottles of Escuf syrup from his possession and apprehended him red-handed.

Police further revealed after checking the Crime Data Management System (CDMS) that Shakil faces seven drug-related cases, one extortion case, and an outstanding GR arrest warrant. Among these, five drug cases are registered at Chhagalnaiya Police Station in Feni, while two drug cases and one case involving extortion and assault on police are filed at Zoranganj Police Station in Chattogram.

Confirming the incident, Mohammad Abu Taher, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, stated that the arrestee is a notorious local drug peddler. Process is underway to file a new case against him under the Narcotics Control Act, and he is being produced before the court alongside executing his previous pending arrest warrants. The overall law and order situation in the area remains completely stable.



The speakers said that tree planting programmes are an effective way to increase greening and enhance public participation in protecting the environment from the adverse effects of climate change.

They said that planned tree planting and its maintenance must continue to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, reduce the pressure of urbanization, and ensure a green environment for future generations.

In her speech, UNO Papia Sultana said that as part of the 250 million tree plantation program across the country in five years, tree plantation programs will be implemented in various upazilas in phases.

"In addition to planting trees, proper care and conservation of the planted saplings must be ensured," she said and called on all concerned to play a responsible role to make the tree plantation programme a success in the upazila.