



SSC, equivalent exam results published with 62.25 pc pass rate, 1,16,676 get GPA-5

Staff Correspondent

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations were published at 10 am yesterday. This year, the overall pass rate in the country's 11 education boards is 62.25 percent, while 1,16,676 students secured GPA-5. Last year, the pass rate was 68.45 percent.

Education and Primary and Mass

Education Minister Dr ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon officially published the results at a press conference at the Secretariat here. Following the announcement, the results were made available simultaneously on the websites of all education boards in the country, the respective educational institutions and through SMS from 10:00 am.

At the press conference, Prof Syed Akhtaruzzaman, president of the Inter-

Education Board Coordination Committee and chairman of Dhaka Education Board, presented the results in detail. According to the information presented at the press conference, a total of 18,29,485 candidates participated in the examinations this year under the country's nine general education boards, Madrasa Education Board and Technical Education Board, and of them, 11,38,877 passed.

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PM urges India to expedite Hasina's extradition, return Hadi's killers : Khalilur

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged India to expedite the extradition of convicted fugitive ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and the suspected killers of Shaheed Osman Hadi to Bangladesh. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman disclosed this while briefing journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at the Secretariat this morning.

"The issue of the return or extradition of convicted Hasina to Bangladesh came up, and we asked them to expedite the extradition process. We hope India will respond positively in this regard," Khalilur said.

The foreign minister said the issue of extraditing the suspected killers of Shaheed Hadi, who have been arrested in India, was also raised during the meeting.

"We have provided India

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Cabinet okays draft 'Bank Resolution (Amendment) Act, 2026

Staff Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday gave final and in principle approval to the draft Bank Resolution (Amendment) Act, 2026, the draft Visa Policy, 2026 and the draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026.

The approval was given in the 16th meeting of the Cabinet at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair. The Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025 was promulgated with a view to providing timely solutions to risks arising from capital shortfalls, liquidity crises, insolvency or any threat to the existence of scheduled banks, and ensuring financial stability.

With a view to transforming the ordinance into an Act, it was placed as a bill in the first session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad and subsequently referred to a parliamentary 'Special Committee' formed for detailed scrutiny. The committee recommended placing the ordinance in an amended form. In line with the recommendation, some provisions of the ordinance were separated for implementation through rules.

Besides, considering the government's financial liabilities, the interests of customers and the realities of the banking sector, a new Section 18A was incorporated into the law and the bill was placed before Parliament. The 'Bank Resolution Act, 2026' was subsequently passed in the form in which it was placed.



The provision was incorporated to introduce a market-based alternative mechanism alongside the existing resolution tools, keep banks under resolution operational while restructuring them, address capital shortfalls and liquidity crises, protect the interests of depositors and investors, and reduce the government's financial exposure.

As no individual or institution applied in compliance with all the conditions of Section 18A of the Bank Resolution Act, 2026, the draft Bank Resolution (Amendment) Act, 2026 was prepared with the objective of repealing the section.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet approved the draft Visa Policy, 2026 with a view to making the entry into and departure from Bangladesh by foreigners easier and more orderly; attracting foreign investment, businesses and skilled human resources; promoting the tourism and hospitality sectors; ensuring technology and knowledge transfer; maintaining national security and international diplomatic balance; managing international travel based on the principle of

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Mintoo calls for long-term financing to tackle climate impacts

Staff Correspondent

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo yesterday said Bangladesh contributes very little to climate change, yet remains one of the countries most severely affected by its adverse impacts.

He made the remarks when Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President (South, Central and West Asia) Yingming Yang paid a courtesy call on him at his ministry office here, according to a ministry press release.

Mintoo said the government is prioritising both adaptation and mitigation measures to protect the country's lives, livelihoods and natural resources. "Adequate, accessible and long-term financing from development partners is essential for the

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Fresh start needed to strengthen Bangladesh-India ties : Home Minister

Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday called for a "fresh start" in Bangladesh-India relations, saying differences between the two countries can be resolved through mutual cooperation and dialogue based on equality.

"Bangladesh and India are interdependent in many ways, including geographically, socially, politically and economically. Leaving the past behind, a fresh start is essential to

strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries," he said.

The home minister made the remarks when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on him at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

"There are some differences and issues between the two countries, but these can be resolved through mutual cooperation and dialogue. We must

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Cadet colleges achieve remarkable results in SSC exams

Staff Correspondent

Country's cadet colleges have achieved remarkable results in the 2026 SSC examinations. In this year's examinations, out of a total of 618 examinees from 12 cadet colleges, 607 secured GPA-5. The pass rate was 100 percent and the rate of achieving GPA-5 was 98.22 percent. The cadet colleges are residential educational institutions operating under the Ministry of Defence, under the direct supervision of the Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army and the President of the Cadet College Governing Body. The goal of these cadet colleges is not merely to achieve good results, but to mould cadets into competent and responsible citizens.

To this end, alongside academic studies, equal importance is given to character

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Gold worth 4.5 crore taka found in a car in the Shahjalal Airport area, driver absconding

Sayed Boshir Ahmmed, Staff Reporter

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department has recovered 1,812 grams of gold worth about 3.73 crore taka from a car in the roundabout area outside Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. At that time, the driver of the car abandoned the car and fled. According to Customs Intelligence sources, based on a secret

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Govt extends private hospital-clinic licence validity to two years

Staff Correspondent

The government has extended the validity of licences for private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, dental clinics and medical check-up centres from one year to two years.

The decision was disclosed through an office order signed today by Director of Hospitals and Clinics of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr Md Nurul Islam.

The office order said the decision was taken following a directive from the Private Health Management-1 Branch of the Health Services Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The new rule will come into effect from the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Several specific conditions have been set for obtaining and renewing

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Police Officer Found Hanging in Mirsarai Hotel Room, Wife Found Injured

Jewel Nag, Mirsarai, Chattogram

A police officer was found hanging inside a room at a residential hotel in Mirsarai, Chattogram, on Monday, while his wife was found injured and covered in blood in the same room, police said.

The deceased was identified as Aminul Islam, 32, an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police. He was the son of the late Abul Hossain of West Mayani village in Mayani Union of Mirsarai. His wife, Tahmina Akter, 27, was rescued from the hotel room in an injured condition.

According to police and family sources, Aminul and Tahmina had been married for two years and had a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. The couple had reportedly been experiencing marital problems for a long time. Several mediation meetings had also been held over the disputes, but the problems between them did not subside.

Aminul had recently returned from his workplace in Rangamati and visited his in-laws' house in the Joraganj area of Mirsarai. From there, he went to Relax Zone, a residential hotel at Bartakia Bazar in Mirsarai, at around 2:00pm on Sunday.

Police said the incident apparently took place sometime during the night. After receiving information, police went to the hotel at around 11:00am on Monday and recovered Aminul's body hanging inside the room. His wife Tahmina was also found injured in the



same room and was immediately taken to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex.

Dr Meher Nigar, the physician on duty at the emergency department of Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, said Tahmina Akter was brought to the hospital at around 12:30pm on Monday.

"She had swelling on her face, lips and tongue. Her nose was bleeding and her face appeared distorted. There were marks around her neck indicating that something had been tightly wrapped around it. Although she was conscious, she was unable to speak," the doctor said. As her condition was critical, she was given initial treatment and later referred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Dr Meher Nigar added. Aminul's elder brother, Md Abul Hasan,

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US is important partner in Bangladesh's economic progress : Swapon

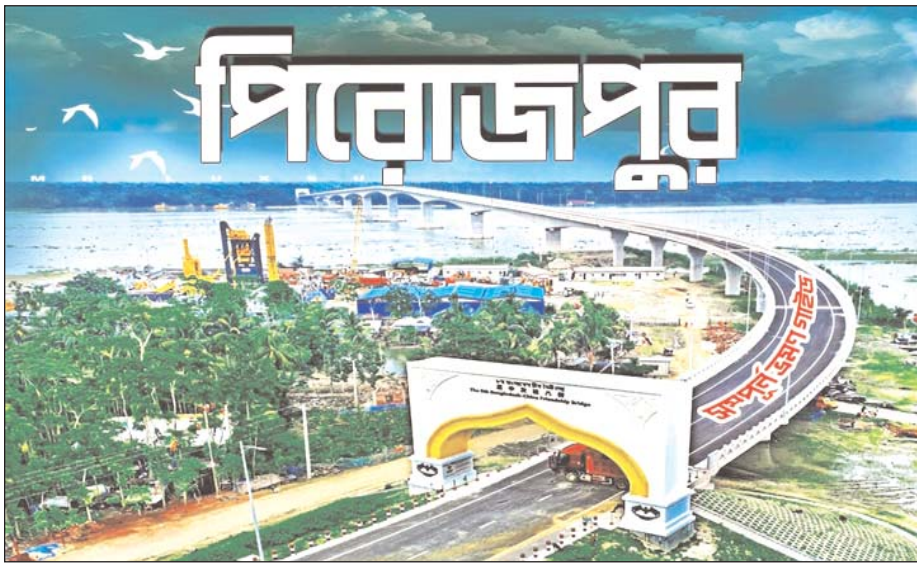
Staff Correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon yesterday said the United States is one of Bangladesh's closest and most important partners in the country's current economic progress.

"The partnership between the two countries plays a highly important role in economic prosperity, garment exports, expatriate remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI)," he told a views-exchange meeting with interfaith leaders at Gournadi Catholic Church here.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen addressed the event as the guest of honor. Swapon said the United States is the largest single export destination for Bangladesh export-oriented garment industry.

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100% students of 3 schools in the district passed Pirojpur tops Barisal division in SSC exam results

Pirojpur correspondent

Pirojpur district has achieved the top position in the pass rate of the 2026 SSC exam in Barisal division. The pass rate in Pirojpur is 70.72 percent. Whereas the total pass rate of Barisal division is 60.35 percent. This year, a total of 10,122 students from 254 schools in Pirojpur district registered, but 9,845 participated in the exam. Out of these, 4,437 boys and 5,538 girls participated in the exam. A total of 6,962 students passed the exam and 2,883 failed. A total of 346 students got GPA-5. Out of these, 120 are boys and 226 are girls. 100% of students from Sohagdal Ganaman Secondary School and Shaheed Smriti Secondary School in Nesarabad Upazila of the district and

Kalardowania Bazar Secondary School in Nazirpur Upazila have passed.

The results show that the success of girls in Pirojpur is higher than that of boys. In the overall results, Pirojpur's position in the departmental level pass rate has created satisfaction among the students, teachers and guardians of the district.

Professor Sharif Morshed Reza, the examination controller of the Barisal Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, confirmed the matter on Monday (August 10) morning. Professor Abdus Salam, the secretary of the education board, was present at the time. He said that this year, Pirojpur district is at the top of all in terms of average pass rate. The pass rate in this district is 70.72 percent.

Govt targets cutting migration cost to Tk 300,000 : Shama

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam yesterday said the government is working to reduce overseas migration costs to a maximum of Tk 300,000 to protect aspiring migrant workers from excessive recruitment fees. "The initiative, taken after the government assumed office, aims to curb current migration expenses," a foreign ministry statement quoted her as saying at an event related to migration. The junior minister said in many cases currently the migration costs ranged between Tk 1 million and Tk 1.4 million "due to syndicates and unscrupulous intermediaries".

The Bonik Barta newspaper and Singapore's Thakral Group jointly staged the event titled "Bangladesh Remittance Awards 2026" recognising expatriate Bangladeshis for their contribution through remittances. Shama expressed gratitude to expatriate workers calling them "pride and strength of Bangladesh"

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The high price of an unequal trade deal

THE rising cost of importing wheat from the United States lays bare one of the damaging consequences of the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade between Bangladesh and the United States. What was presented as a necessary arrangement to avoid punitive American tariffs is increasingly proving to be an agreement that compels Bangladesh to pay more for an essential food commodity than it would under competitive international procurement. Bangladesh imported 8 lakh tonnes of wheat from the United States in the last fiscal year under a government-to-government arrangement and is set to import the same quantity this year. Last year, the government paid between \$302 and \$312.25 per tonne for US wheat, while wheat procured through international open tender cost \$275 per tonne. The additional cost was \$37.25 per tonne. This year, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchases approved the import of 2.20 lakh tonnes of US wheat at \$332 per tonne, while wheat imported through open tender cost \$297.92 per tonne. Bangladesh may have to pay, as a food ministry official says, \$65–\$70 more per tonne for US wheat than for Russian wheat if imports are made under the current geopolitical situation. The explanation offered by the government is unconvincing. Officials argue that US wheat is of higher quality and that government-to-government procurement ensures transparency and timely delivery. What this explanation misses is that the issue is not about transparency but whether Bangladesh is being denied the flexibility to purchase wheat at the lowest available international price. Bangladesh has traditionally sourced wheat from India, Russia, Ukraine, Argentina and other suppliers depending on market conditions. The US arrangement replaces competitive procurement. The freight disadvantage alone illustrates the irrationality of the arrangement. Wheat from the United States takes about 55 days to reach Bangladesh, compared with about 15–20 days from other sources. Shipping costs are, therefore, significantly higher. For a country that imports most of its wheat and where wheat is the second most important cereal after rice, voluntarily locking itself into a higher-cost supply route is economically impractical. This is precisely why economists have described the arrangement as unequal. The broader trade agreement already grants extensive tariff concessions to US goods while offering Bangladesh only limited reciprocal benefits. The wheat procurement commitment demonstrates how such asymmetry translates into concrete fiscal losses for Bangladesh. All this once again points to the need to review the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade immediately. Bangladesh should retain the freedom to source wheat or other essential items from the most competitive international market, not be bound by an arrangement that forces taxpayers to pay more for a staple food. An unequal agreement that raises the country's food import bill should not be allowed to become permanent policy.

SSC, equivalent exam results

Among those who passed, 5,30,938 were boys and 6,07,939 were girls. This year, both the pass rate and the number of GPA-5 decreased compared to the previous year. Last year, 1,39,032 students got GPA-5. A total of 14,04,539 students participated in the examinations under nine general education boards. Of them, 8,99,610 passed with 64.05 percent pass rate. Among those who passed, 3,95, 814 were boys while 5,03,796 were girls. A total of 1,06,009 got GPA 5. A total of 1,64,797 candidates out of 2,96,982 passed the Dakhil examination under Madrasa Education Board. The pass rate in this board is 55.49 percent, while 6,716 got GPA-5. On the other hand, 74,470 candidates out of 1,27,964 passed the SSC and Dakhil (Vocational) examinations under the Technical Education Board, with a pass rate of 58.2 percent. According to statistics, Dhaka Education Board topped in board-wise pass rate with 71.63 percent. A total of 33,253 students got GPA-5. Among other boards, Rajshahi Board recorded a pass rate of 63.67 percent and 22,327 students got GPA-5, while the pass rate in Jashore Board is 66.27 percent and 11,478 got GPA-5. Sylhet Board recorded 58.33 percent pass rate and 3,836 students got GPA-5, while pass rate is 58.05 percent and 13,639 got GPA-5 in Dinajpur Board. The pass rate in Chattogram Board is 59.48 percent and 9,398 students got GPA-5. The pass rate in Barishal Board is 60.35 percent and 2,778 students got GPA-5. The pass rate in Mymensingh Board is 57.39 percent, and 5,700 students secured GPA-5. The pass rate in Cumilla Board is 65.42 percent, and 9,814 students got GPA-5. The group-wise results of the general education boards show that the most students passed in the science group. The total number of passed examinees in the science group is 4,57,188, with a pass rate of 80.64 percent. A total of 3,11,174 examinees passed from the humanities group with a pass rate of 48.74 percent. On the other hand, the total number of passed examinees in the business education group is 1,41,248 with a 64.29 percent pass rate. Prime Minister's Education Adviser Dr Mahdi Amin, Secondary and Higher Education Division Secretary Md Abdul Khaleque, and the chairmen of different education boards were present at the press conference.

PM urges India to expedite

with all the documents they had requested. This is an extremely sensitive matter for us, and we have asked them to extradite the killers to us as soon as possible," he said. Khalilur said the Prime Minister welcomed High Commissioner Trivedi to Bangladesh during the meeting. The Indian envoy shared with the Prime Minister his experiences in Bangladesh over the past few weeks and said he was very happy to be serving in the country. The foreign minister said the two sides also stressed the importance of creating an "enabling environment" conducive to taking Bangladesh-India relations forward. Responding to a question on the August 5 event in New Delhi involving Sheikh Hasina, Khalilur said Bangladesh had clearly conveyed its position to India and that the Indian authorities had taken Dhaka's concerns seriously. "They told me yesterday, and they also conveyed to the Prime Minister today, that they understood the matter," he said, adding that the Indian side had expressed regret over what had happened. Explaining Dhaka's position, the foreign minister said the issue went beyond an expression of regret as it concerned respect for Bangladesh's state institutions. "A state has three pillars, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. A competent court in Bangladesh tried Hasina and convicted her," he said. Khalilur said a convicted person should be taken into custody and, if they have anything to say in their defence, should make their case before the court. "What Hasina did on August 5 last amounted to showing contempt for Bangladesh's Judiciary, one of the pillars of the State, and the Government of India allowed that to happen," he said. The foreign minister said Bangladesh expects all countries to respect the country's entire state structure. "We hope the Indian government will understand our position. From my conversations with them, my impression is that they have understood the issue, and we hope they will not do anything in the future that undermines any pillar of our State," he said. Khalilur said he felt "somewhat reassured" following his discussions with the Indian side.

Two bills, one accountability trap

Md. Neyamul Hossain

BANGLADESH is considering two important human-rights bills at the same time. One concerns the National Human Rights Commission; the other deals with enforced disappearances. Both raise the same basic question: who investigates when a state agency itself is accused of abuse? Under the NHRC draft, the commission's power to investigate disciplined forces remains restricted. Under the disappearance draft, complaints against law enforcement agencies may still be investigated within the law enforcement system. Read together, the problem is clear: the institutions accused of abuse may remain too close to the process meant to hold them accountable. This does not mean victims have nowhere to go. Courts remain open, ordinary criminal procedures remain available and enforced-disappearance allegations are already before the International Crimes Tribunal. The government has also pointed to the tribunal as an avenue for accountability. But courts and a national human rights commission do different jobs. A tribunal prosecutes cases that fall within its jurisdiction after alleged abuses have occurred. A strong human rights commission should work independently of government, look for patterns of abuse, receive complaints, investigate public bodies, inspect detention sites and act before abuses become entrenched. That distinction matters now. The National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026 is still in draft form. On August 3, the cabinet approved the draft Prevention and Remedies for Enforced Disappearance Act, 2026. The real question is whether these reforms strengthen independent scrutiny or leave state institutions policing themselves. **The watchdog gap** THE current gap began when parliament allowed the 2025 National Human Rights Commission Ordinance to lapse in April. The commissioners appointed under it left office, and New Age reported their warning that the repeal had reopened an accountability gap. The issue is not simply how quickly a new chairperson and commissioners are appointed. The real question is what powers they will have. Bangladesh's NHRC is currently accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions as a B-status institution, meaning it is only partially compliant with the Paris Principles. Those principles require independence in law and practice, a broad mandate, adequate resources and the ability to act without executive control. The 2026 draft does little to solve the weaknesses that have kept Bangladesh at that level. As Transparency International Bangladesh has documented, Section 7 places the selection of commissioners in the hands of a committee that includes the Speaker, two ministers, a ruling-party member of parliament and the cabinet secretary. The explicit 2025 guarantee that the

commission would not fall under any ministry or division has disappeared. Up to 30 per cent of staff may come on deputation from the public service, while the budget remains dependent on government allocation. More importantly, Section 20 again limits the commission's power to independently investigate alleged abuses by members of disciplined forces. Instead of carrying out its own investigation, the commission is pushed back towards reports from the relevant authorities. That is not a minor technical problem. Police, RAB and intelligence agencies are among the institutions that have faced some of Bangladesh's gravest allegations of torture, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance. That creates a basic problem: the commission's independence becomes weakest when allegations involve the state agencies most in need of outside scrutiny. **The same design appears again** THAT might look like one flawed provision if the same problem did not appear in the cabinet-approved disappearance draft. The cabinet-approved draft contains important steps. It recognises enforced disappearance as a specific offence, provides severe penalties, sets timelines for investigation and trial, and provides compensation and other support for victims and their families. Those measures deserve recognition. **The problem lies in who investigates.** Under Section 14, the investigative process is placed within the law enforcement structure. Human rights organisation Odhikar has warned after the cabinet approval that complaints of enforced disappearance against law enforcement agencies may therefore be investigated by law enforcement agencies themselves. Bangladesh's own inquiry into past disappearances explains why that is dangerous. Of about 400 complaints examined at an early stage, 172 implicated RAB, 55 the Detective Branch, 37 the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, 26 the DGFI and 25 the police, according to figures reported by New Age. Later work by the Commission of Inquiry documented the systematic role of security agencies across a much larger body of complaints. The problem is built into the system. A family may accuse a state agency of secretly detaining a relative, denying custody and erasing the official trail. Yet the investigation can still return to the same law enforcement system to which the accused agency belongs. An individual police investigator may be honest. That is not the point. Independence is not about the character of one offi-

cer; it is a safeguard against conflicts built into the system. Can a sub-inspector freely demand records from a powerful security or intelligence body? Can that officer question a senior official, preserve evidence despite institutional resistance and follow a chain of command far above his or her own rank without pressure? A law on enforced disappearance must be designed for these hard cases, not the easy ones. **Section 21 raises the stakes** THE risk becomes sharper when Section 14 is read together with Section 21. Under Section 21, a complainant may face up to five years' rigorous imprisonment if a court ultimately finds the allegation false. The role of the court matters: the police do not themselves sentence the complainant, and criticism of the provision should not suggest otherwise. But what if the investigation itself is not independent of the force being accused? In that case, the threat of a five-year sentence may discourage families from filing complaints in the first place. The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances has raised the same concern following the cabinet's approval. This matters especially in Bangladesh because families of the disappeared have long struggled to create the very records later demanded as proof. For years, police stations were accused of refusing general diaries or discouraging complaints. A system should not first make documentation difficult and then use weak documentation against the complainant. Knowingly fabricated cases should, of course, be deterred. But the law can do that with a narrower rule requiring proof that a complaint was deliberately and maliciously fabricated. A family should not risk criminal punishment simply because a weak investigation fails to establish what happened behind a closed door. **A tribunal is not a watchdog** THE International Crimes Tribunal does not solve this institutional problem. It serves a different purpose. The ICT is already dealing with cases involving enforced disappearance and other alleged crimes against humanity. Its amended law also includes command responsibility for crimes within its jurisdiction. The tribunal is therefore an important route to criminal accountability. But prosecution is not a substitute for permanent, independent human-rights oversight. Bangladesh should not have to choose between a strong tribunal and a strong commission. It needs both. A functioning NHRC should be able to spot patterns across complaints, investigate public bodies, demand information, protect complainants and witnesses, and inspect places where people may be unlawfully held. Those functions matter even when a particular allegation never becomes an ICT case.

meet such a tragic fate," he said. Shariful Islam, a sub-inspector of Mirsarai Police Station who was present when the body was recovered, said police went to Relax Zone residential hotel after receiving information about the hanging body of the police officer. "We recovered Aminul Islam's hanging body from the hotel room. His wife, Tahmina Akter, was also rescued from the same room in an injured condition and taken to the Upazila Health Complex. Aminul's body is currently in police custody," he said. The sub-inspector said police initially suspected that the incident might have stemmed from marital disputes. "However, the entire matter is being investigated," he added. Police said further details would emerge after the investigation. **Mintoo calls for long-term** successful implementation of these initiatives. To this end, Bangladesh must first determine its own priorities," he said. He called for further expansion of ADB's cooperation in environmental conservation, pollution control and climate-resilient development. At the meeting, they discussed various aspects of longstanding development cooperation between Bangladesh and ADB, measures to address the adverse impacts of climate change and ways to strengthen environmentally sustainable development initiatives. The discussions focused on climate adaptation and mitigation, increased climate finance, conservation of forests and biodiversity, control of air and plastic pollution, expansion of renewable energy, and environmentally sustainable urban and infrastructure development. They also exchanged views on the possibility of increasing ADB's technical and financial assistance to strengthen the capacity of climate-vulnerable communities and build disaster-resilient infrastructure. Commanding Bangladesh's initiatives to address the impacts of climate change, Yingming Yang expressed ADB's interest in further strengthening its partnership with Bangladesh in environmental protection, climate-resilient infrastructure, clean energy and sustainable development. During the meeting, both sides reviewed ongoing areas of cooperation and agreed to explore the possibility of undertaking new projects and programmes of mutual interest. They expressed optimism that regular communication and coordination would further advance development cooperation between Bangladesh and ADB. Additional Secretary Navid Shafiullah and senior officials concerned from ADB were present at the meeting.

Fresh start needed to

move forward with our friendly relations through discussions based on equality. India must come forward with sincerity in this regard," he said. During the meeting, the two sides held fruitful and positive discussions on bilateral relations and various issues of mutual interest. The Indian high commissioner expressed his commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties, saying, "We do not only share geographical boundaries; we also share the dream of prosperity." He said challenges over different issues are normal in a democratic culture, adding that the existence of issues is part of the beauty of democracy. "There is no such complicated issue between the two countries that cannot be resolved through dialogue and diplomatic means," Trivedi said, expressing hope that bilateral relations would become stronger and brighter in the coming days. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Home Ministry and representatives of the Indian High Commission. **Cadet colleges achieve** building and co-curricular activities in the daily routines of the cadets. With the aim that cadets can keep pace with the modern era and reach honourable positions in the future, these institutions are continuously incorporating contemporary education and co-curricular programmes. Behind the consistent success of the cadets of these colleges are the institution's internal disciplined environment, the round-the-clock care and supervision of experienced faculty members, the cadets' perseverance, regular study habits, and sincere efforts. Furthermore, the proper guidance of the Cadet College Governing Body, the sincere efforts of the experienced and qualified principals, vice-principals, teachers, officers and all categories of staff working at the colleges, as well as the cooperation of the respected guardians, have made this successful outcome possible.

Hefazat calls sculptures at July Museum 'Mockery of Islamic Shariah'

Staff Correspondent

Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh leaders on Monday protested the installation of sculptures depicting the organisation's leaders and activists, along with other sculptures, at the July Museum, describing the move as a grave violation of Islamic Shariah and a mockery of the sacrifices made by Islamic scholars. Hefazat amir Shah Muhibbullah Babunagari and secretary general Sheikh Sajidur Rahman, in a joint statement sent to the media, demanded the immediate removal of the sculptures from the museum. The Hefazat leaders said constructing sculptures of human beings was completely prohibited and unlawful under Islamic Shariah. No one, they said, had the right to disregard Shariah, regardless of a person's stature, political identity or contribution. Expressing deep concern, they said those who had played a memorable role throughout their lives in protecting Islamic faith, beliefs and values could not be com-



memorated by creating sculptures that violated Islamic injunctions. "The scholars who in the past gave their lives and endured imprisonment while campaigning against sculptures and idol culture are now being 'insulted' by having sculptures made in their likeness in a

preserved and displayed at the museum to disseminate an accurate and objective history of the movement. They also demanded that the sacrifices of Islamic scholars and pious Muslims for Islam, including what they described as the mass

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DSCC administrator urges citizens to consider Dhaka city as their own

Staff Correspondent

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) administrator Md Abdus Salam yesterday called upon the Dhaka citizens to consider the capital as their own city otherwise they will not develop a sense of responsibility and affection toward it. The DSCC administrator came up with the appeal at an exchange of views with the newly elected leaders of the Greater Dhaka Journalists' Forum at Nagar Bhaban here, said a press release. Organization's President Nuruddin Ahmed, General Secretary Mohammad Momin Hossain, Vice Presidents A.B.M. Rafiqueur Rahman and Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary Anjan Rahman, Culture and Publications Secretary Sumon Islam, Office Secretary Atiqul Islam, Public Welfare Secretary Nurunnabi Rabbi, and members Galman Shafi, Lutfur Rahman, Delwar Hossain Badal, and Kushar Yasir also spoke. "We want the City Corporation to become

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19-year low SSC pass rate : Why this disaster?

Staff Correspondent

The secondary education sector has witnessed a massive debacle as the pass rate for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams have dropped as low as 62.25 per cent this year - lowest in 19 years. Out of 18,29,485 examinees under 11 education boards, 11,38,877 passed, while nearly 6.91 lakh (6,90,608) failed. The overall pass rate fell by 6.20 per centage points compared to last year's 68.45 per cent. The number of GPA-5 achievers also dropped by 22,356 to 1,16,676. Official statistics show this is the worst result since 2007, when the pass rate was 58.36 per cent. Educationists and board officials attribute the sudden drop to poor performance in Mathematics and English, particularly among Humanities students, alongside strict evaluation of answer scripts and exams conducted on a full syllabus. The number of institutions with a 100 per cent pass rate plummeted from 2,968 last year to 669. Conversely, the number of zero-pass schools surged to 312. Board-wise and Demographic Performance Among the nine general education boards, the average pass rate stood at 64.05 per cent.

Girls outperformed boys across all metrics. A total of 7,41,876 female students appeared under the general boards, with 5,03,796 passing (67.91 per cent pass rate). In contrast, 3,95,814 out of 6,62,663 male students passed (59.73 per cent pass rate). Girls also secured 58,705 GPA-5s, compared to 47,304 achieved by boys. Dhaka Board topped the general education boards with a 71.63 per cent pass rate, followed by Barishal (66.27pc), Cumilla (65.42pc), Rajshahi (63.67pc), Barishal (60.35pc), Chittagong (59.48pc), Sylhet (58.33pc), and Dinajpur (58.05pc). Mymensingh Board sat at the bottom with 57.39 per cent. The Madrasa Education Board recorded a pass rate of 55.49 per cent with 6,716 GPA-5 achievers, while the Technical Education Board posted a 58.20 per cent pass rate with 3,951 GPA-5s. 19-Year Historical Trend The GPA system was introduced in 2001, replacing the division system. The pass rate was 35.22 per cent in 2001, 62.22 per cent in 2006, and dropped to 58.36 per cent in 2007. Between 2011 and 2017, the pass rate consistently stayed above 80 per cent, peaking at 91.34 per cent in 2014. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, subject mapping pushed the pass

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S M Sultan was an artist of the soil and its people : Nitai Roy



Narail Correspondent

Cultural Affairs Minister Advocate Nitai Roy Chowdhury today said that the renowned painter S M Sultan was an artist of the soil and its people and an extraordinary painter whose work transcended the boundaries of Narail and the country. "He was not only an artist of Narail or Bangladesh, he was an extraordinary artist of the world. He showcased Bangladesh to the

world through his paintings. Through his patriotism and artworks, the great artist enhanced the image of the country," he said. The minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion and Sultan Sammanona-2026 awarding ceremony marking the 103rd birth anniversary of renowned painter at the Narail District Shilpakala Academy here.

Nitai Roy Chowdhury said the present government is opening avenues for the evaluation and support of the artists, poets, writers and cultural activists. "Steps have been taken to introduce folk theatre and other cultural activities based on life and society to resist the spread of subculture," he said. The Culture Ministry will patronize quality rural jatrappala, theatre, folk songs, kobigan and other cultural activities, he said adding that comprehensive

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We will move forward together, regardless of SSC results : Mahadi Amin

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser and spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office Dr Mahadi Amin has said the government will stand by all students and move forward with them regardless of whether they achieve good, poor, expected or unexpected results in the SSC and equivalent examinations. "We will move forward together with everyone, regardless of whether the results are good or bad, expected or unexpected," he said at a programme marking the publication of the SSC and equivalent examination results at the Secretariat on Monday (August 10). Mahadi Amin said students had been assessed according to their performance in the examinations and urged everyone to congratulate those who had achieved good results. "Those who have done well have earned recognition for their hard work. Their families are proud of them, and we are proud of them too," he said. At the same time, he said students who had failed to achieve their desired results should not consider it the end of their lives. "The government will stand by them in the same way and help them move forward," he said. The adviser said the government would take a constructive approach towards

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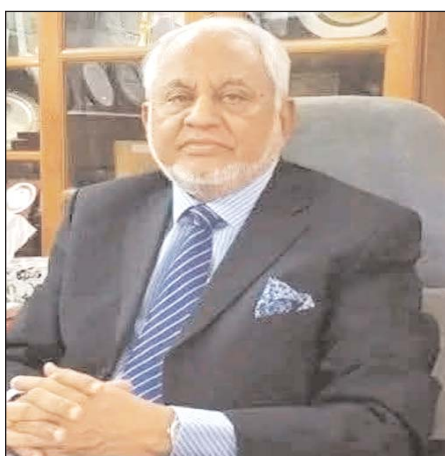
Feni Girls' Cadet College Maintains Academic Excellence in SSC Exams; 55 out of 56 Achieve GPA-5

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Feni Girls' Cadet College has once again demonstrated its academic supremacy in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations. In the 2026 SSC results, 55 out of 56 examinees from the institution achieved the highest grade, GPA-5. Along with a 100% pass rate, this remarkable feat adds a new milestone to the college's

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Mr. M.A. Kashem has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Southeast Bank PLC.



A.M.N.Nurul Amin. Chhagalnaiya, Fani

Mr. M.A. Kashem has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Southeast Bank PLC. He was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Bank in its 796th

Board Meeting held on 9th August 2026. Mr. M.A. Kashem is the Founder Chairman and Sponsor Director of Southeast Bank PLC. Mr. Kashem is a Member & Former Chairman of Board of Trustees, North South University and a Founder Life Member of NSU Trust Foundation. He has served as its four times chairman and was also Chairman of NSU Foundation's Endowment Committee several times. He is the Chairman of Rose Corner (Pvt.) Limited. Mr. Kashem is the former President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex body of all the business communities of Bangladesh. He was the Chairman of Arbitration Tribunal of FBCCI. He is the past Chairman of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) which represented all Private Universities of the country. Mr. Kashem was a member of the Board of

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Providing assistance to families affected by fire in Fakirhat

SA Kalam, Fokirhat Bagerhat

The upazila administration and upazila project implementation officer's office provided assistance to two families affected by the fire in Hochla village of Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat. Upazila project implementation officer Imrul Kayes gave 4 buns, 4 packets of dry food and 12,000 taka to the two affected families on Sunday afternoon. It has been reported that a fire broke out in the residence of Soumbit Mondal, son of deceased Subhash Mondal and Dola Mondal, wife of Krishnapada Mandal, of Hochla village of the upazila on Sunday morning.

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Clash between Jamaat workers and Jubo League-Jubo Dal activists leaves 11 injured

Staff Correspondent

A clash broke out between workers of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jubo League activists in Chakchil, Noakhali. At least 11 people were injured in clashes between the two sides. The incident took place on Sunday afternoon in Hatpukuria Union of the upazila. In the first round of the incident, former coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Jamaat-e-Islami worker Samir Hossain, 25, was beaten. He alleged that they came under attack while returning after filing a complaint with the police station. Jamaat leaders blamed local activists of Jubo League, Jubo Dal, and Chhatra Dal for the attacks. According to sources familiar with the incident, Jamaat-e-Islami worker Samir Hossain had been involved in a long-standing dispute with some Jubo League activists over

various issues. Against this backdrop, he was allegedly assaulted at around 5 p.m. on Sunday in front of Hatpukuria School. In the attack, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists Samir Hossain, Robiul Hossain, 34, Shahin Alam, 26, Md. Sujon, 30, and Ripat Islam, 23, were injured. When leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir protested the incident, an argument broke out between them and activists of Jubo League, Jubo Dal, and Chhatra Dal. Mohiuddin Hasan, amir of the upazila Jamaat-e-Islami, alleged that Samir was beaten in the first incident under the leadership of local Jubo League activists Md. Sohag and Hachhan Patwari. Later, they went to the police station with other party activists to file a complaint. He said that while returning from the police

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7 Accused Arrested and Looted Goods Recovered in 32-Hour Breathtaking Operation by Jorarganj Police in Robbery Case

Jwel Nag Mirsarai correspondent

Jorarganj Police Station, Chattogram On 09/08/2026 between 02:00 AM and 02:45 AM a gang of 10-15 robbers broke into the under-construction factory of Bangladesh Auto Industries Limited at Mirsarai

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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

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

সিরিয়ালের জন্য যোগাযোগ :
01675-271725
01815-092341

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

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

Hefazat calls sculptures at July killings at Shapla Chattar in 2013 and during the anti-Modi protests in 2021, as well as what they called the true history of the 2024 uprising, be incorporated into national textbooks. The Hefazat leaders also said the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had no sculptures, yet their ideals continued to inspire people around the world. They urged the authorities concerned to remove the sculptures from the July Museum immediately, warning that otherwise the ulema community would not remain silent in defending its principles and beliefs.

DSCC administrator urges citizens stronger and more closely connected with the people. We are working to transform Dhaka into a modern, clean and livable city," said the administrator.

He sought constructive suggestions and cooperation of media in implementing this master plan. "When civic problems are highlighted through your reporting, it becomes easier for us to take prompt administrative action. Therefore, we consider the media one of the key partners in development," he told the journalists. He further said, "As you know, our beloved Dhaka began its journey as the capital of Subah Bangla in 1610 and has now entered its 416th year. To celebrate this long journey of her-itage and glory, the DSCC has organized a special festival titled 'Hridoye Dhaka' (Dhaka in Our Hearts)."

"We expect the current civic problems and future challenges of this 416-year-old city to be presented objectively through your reporting," he added. Greater Dhaka Journalists' Forum President Nuruddin Ahmed welcomed the initiative of the Dhaka South City Corporation to organize the 'Hridoye Dhaka' festival to mark Dhaka's 416th anniversary. He said that the organization would stand by the City Corporation in any Dhaka-based initiative. General Secretary Mohammad Momin Hossain said, "We seek your cooperation in protecting the rights of Dhaka-based journalists and maintaining an environment conducive to objective journalism. At the same time, we request that free flow of information be ensured regarding any development-oriented or public welfare activities of Nagar Bhaban." He added, "We hope that under your leadership as an efficient administrator, the Dhaka South City Corporation will set an outstanding example in providing civic services."

19-year low SSC pass rate rate to a record 93.58 per cent in 2021. However, with full-syllabus examinations returning post-pandemic, pass rates began sliding - 87.44 per cent in 2022, 80.39 per cent in 2023, 83.04 per cent in 2024, and 68.45 per cent in 2025.

This year's 62.25 per cent marks the lowest point since 2007. Why Did Students Fail? Board officials highlighted that Humanities and Business Studies students failed heavily in Mathematics and English. Ashraf Uddin, a senior mathematics teacher at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, noted that students are spending excessive time on mobile phones rather than focusing on tough subjects. "Humanities students traditionally fear Math and English. This year, distraction and fear led to a major disaster," he said.

Maruf Billah, a guardian from Motijheel, blamed the lack of qualified teachers in schools. "My son missed GPA-5 due to lower marks in English, Math, and Economics. His school lacked sufficient teachers, forcing him to rely on home study and private coaching," he stated. Former Director of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) at Dhaka University, Prof. Dr. Siddiqur Rahman Khan, called the high failure rate unacceptable. "Teachers lack proper training to teach according to the curriculum. Furthermore, poor salaries demotivate schoolteachers from delivering quality lessons in classrooms," he said. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pro-Vice Chancellor of National University, emphasized that the results reflect long-standing systemic flaws, digital distractions, and post-political transition adjustments. He called for remedial coaching and specialized teacher training to tackle weaknesses in Math and English, alongside a complete restructuring of technical education.

Minister and Board Responses Refuting claims of a "result debacle," Education Minister Dr. ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milan defended the outcome, stating, "I do not see a bad result; I see a clean and fair outcome. Students received marks based strictly on what they wrote." Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee President and Dhaka Board Chairman Prof. Dr. Syed Akteruzzaman said the board will investigate the exact reasons behind the mass failure in Math and English. "We will identify weaknesses in Humanities and Madrasa streams and recommend measures against institutions with poor results," he added. Dissatisfied examinees can apply for answer script re-scrutiny or re-evaluation from August 11 to August 17, 2026.

Providing assistance to families In this, three rooms including TV, fridge, laptop, all goods and furniture were burnt to ashes. On receiving the information, a fire service team arrived at the spot and doused the last part of the fire. The victims said that there was a loss of ten lakh rupees in the incident of this terrible fire.

BGB recovers 2.46 lakh yaba Members of Ghumdhum Border Outpost received information that smugglers would bring a large consignment of yaba tablets, firearms and ammunition into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

Acting on the information, a BGB team led by Battalion Deputy Commander Major Mehedi Hasan Ashiq conducted a special operation in the border area around 11pm. At around 12:15am yesterday, the team spotted a group of smugglers approaching Naya Para near Border Pillar No. 31 and challenged them. The smugglers fled the scene, leaving behind the pistol, ammunition and 246,000 Burmese yaba tablets worth around Taka 12.50 crore. Legal procedures are underway in this connection, the release said. Cox's Bazar Battalion Commander Lt Col SM Khairul Alam said regular operations are being conducted to curb such activities and strengthen security and public confidence in border areas. "Such operations to ensure border security and prevent drug trafficking will continue in the future," he added.

We will move forward together institutions and students, encouraging educational institutions that performed well while identifying shortcomings in others and working collectively to address them. "We want to identify the problems wherever they exist, find ways to resolve them and improve the quality of education through coordinated initiatives," he said. Mahadi Amin said the education sector had suffered extensive damage during the previous 16 years and that the government was undertaking reforms in the sector. "We are making changes, additions, removals and reforms to the education system. However, it is not possible to implement all the changes in the academic curriculum in a single academic year," he said.

He said several changes would be introduced in the curriculum in the upcoming academic year, including the addition of four new textbooks. He also highlighted a number of initiatives aimed at engaging students beyond traditional classroom learning. According to him, around 2.2 million students participated in various activities, including football tournaments, while educational institutions across the country took part in innovation and startup competitions. He said tree plantation programmes had also been carried out at educational institutions from the primary to higher levels. The government was also working to expand teacher training and improve facilities for teachers, he said. "Under the leadership and direction of the Education Minister, we are working on how sports and cultural activities can be integrated into education and how technology can be better integrated into the education system," Mahadi Amin said. He acknowledged that it would not be possible to transform the country's institutional structure within a few months after what he described as 16 years of deterioration. "An institutional structure that has deteriorated over 16 years cannot be transformed completely within five or six months. But we have the utmost sincerity, and we have everyone's cooperation," he said. He expressed optimism that the desired changes would be achieved through dialogue, consultation and broader engagement in the coming days. Mahadi Amin also urged the media to highlight students' achievements and recognize educational institutions that performed well. "Highlight our students. Encourage those who have achieved good results and recognise the institutions that have performed well. At the same time, let us identify the problems together and work together to resolve them," he said.

S M Sultan was an artist of the support would also be given for traditional rural sports such as boat races and lathi khela. The minister also called for encouraging children and teenagers to take an interest in drawing alongside their studies. "Quality painting and cultural activities will help the children and teenagers to develop and flourish their mentality," he said. At the programme, the Culture Affairs Minister handed over the 'Sultan Sammanona-2026 to eminent artist of the country Dr Md Abdus Sattar. Earlier, the minister visited Shishuswarg, the Sultan Memorial Museum and the Art Gallery.

The 103rd birth anniversary programme of S M Sultan was presided over by Dr Mohammad Abdul Salam, President of the S M Sultan Memorial Museum and Narail Deputy Commissioner. Narail-1 lawmaker Bishwas Jahangir Alam, Narail-2 lawmaker Ataur Rahman Bachchu and Culture Ministry Secretary Kaniz Mowla spoke as special guests. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Rezauddin Stalin spoke as the guest of honour at the programme. Professor Reza Asad Al Huda Anupam of the Department of Fine Arts at Dhaka University delivered the keynote speech at the discussion titled "S M Sultan: An Artist Close to Life and Social Reality." Director of the Fine Arts Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Abdul Halim Chanchal delivered the welcome address.

Narail District Council Administrator and freedom fighter Mostafizur Rahman Alok was also present at the event. A tribute and doa programme was also held at the artist's grave. District Council Chief Executive Officer Md Asaduzzaman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md Ahsan Mahmud Rasel, Narail Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer T.M. Rahsin Kabir, former member-secretary of the Sultan Foundation Advocate Md Iqbal Hossain Sikder, Narail Press Club Vice-President Sultan Mahmud, S M Sultan Memorial Museum curator Tandra Mukherjee, officials of the administration and admirers of Sultan were present. Under the patronage of the Culture Ministry, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the district administration and the S M Sultan Memorial Museum organised daylong programmes marking the birth anniversary. The programmes included - Quran Khatam at the S M Sultan Memorial Museum at 6am, a tribute and doa at the artist's grave at 9am, inauguration of a drawing competition and exhibition for children and teenagers at 9:30am and inauguration of an art camp at 10am. Prize distribution and a cultural programme were also held later. Painter S M Sultan received the Ekushey Padak in 1982, recognition as a Resident Artist by the Bangladesh government in 1984, the Charushilpi Sangsad Award in 1986 and the Independence Award in 1993. The painter, known for his humanistic and non-communal outlook, died on October 10, 1994, at the Combined Military Hospital in Jashore. He was buried in the courtyard of his ancestral home here. The S M Sultan Memorial Museum was established at his ancestral home to preserve the painter's memory and legacy.

Feni Girls' Cadet College long-standing academic tradition. The information was confirmed in a press release issued by the college administration on Monday morning (August 10). The college management expressed immense delight at this stellar achievement by the students of its 18th intake. Continuing the trend of previous years, the cadets have proved their academic excellence once again. According to available data, 51 out of 52 candidates secured GPA-5 in the 2025 SSC examinations as well.

?Extending warm congratulations to the students, teachers, and parents, the college Principal, SM Foysal, PSC, attributed this accomplishment to collective effort. "This glorious achievement has been made possible through the proper guidance of the Army Headquarters, effective initiatives by the college administration, dedicated teaching by faculty members, and the hard work and perseverance of the cadets," he stated. ?The Principal further noted that the disciplined environment, strict adherence to rules, and modern teaching methodologies at Feni Girls' Cadet College play a pivotal role in nurturing students' talents. Since its inception, the institution has consistently maintained its position as one of the finest under the Comilla Education Board. He expressed confidence that with continued dedication and discipline, the cadets will maintain this winning streak at the national level in the coming years.

Clash between Jamaat workers station at around 9:00 PM they were attacked again in front of the police station by Jubo League activists. Some activists of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal were also seen among the attackers. However, an unnamed source from the Jubo League claimed that six of its activists were injured in an attack by Jamaat activists. The source identified Sohag and Hachhan Patwari among the injured but said the names and addresses of the others were not known. The injured individuals from both sides were admitted to Chatkhil Upazila Health Complex and several private hospitals. No statement could be obtained from any Jubo Dal leader or activist regarding the incident. When contacted, Farid Ahmed, joint convener of the upazila BNP, said he was in a meeting and would comment later. Mohiuddin Hasan, the upazila amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, said that a written complaint had been submitted to the police station on behalf of his party.

Chatkhil Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Monnaf said that two complaints had been submitted on behalf of Jubo Dal and BNP, but they later withdrew the complaints.

7 Accused Arrested and Looted Economic Zone under Jorarganj Police Station. They robbed 3 mobile phones of the guards on duty at the factory and valuable items including an estimated 250 meters of electric cable. In connection with this incident, Jorarganj Police Station Case No. 9, dated 09/08/2026, Sections 395/397 of the Penal Code was registered. The investigation of the case was assigned to SI (Armed) Abdullah Al Masud, Immediately after receiving news of the incident, under the overall direction of Mr. Md. Masud Alam, BPM, Superintendent of Police, Chattogram and under the supervision of Mr. Nadim Haider Chowdhury, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mirsarai Circle an operation was conducted in the Mirsarai Economic Zone and surrounding areas by the case's Investigating Officer SI (Armed) Abdullah Al Masud along with accompanying officers and forces, led by Officer-in-Charge of Jorarganj Police Station, Mr. Mohammad Abdul Halim After a 32-hour breathtaking operation, 7 robbers were arrested from the Mirsarai Economic Zone area. Based on information provided by arrested robbers Mehedi Hasan (23), Md. Rakib (21) and Emdadul Haque Emran (28), the looted electric cable was recovered at around Out of the 7 arrested robbers, 1 robber has been taken to the Honorable Court for recording a confessional statement. The other 6 robbers have been sent to the Honorable Court under proper police escort. Names and Addresses of the Arrested Robbers, Mehedi Hasan (23)Son of Late Nurul Afsar, Mother: Jarina Begum. Permanent Address: East Hinguli Mehedinagar, Ward No. 3, Begu Saudagar Bari, Ward No. 8, 02 No. Hinguli Union. Md. Rakib (21) Son of Harun Or Rashid, Mother: Kulsum Akhter. Permanent Address: Khilmurari (Hossain Driver Bari), Ward No. 5, 03 No. Jorarganj UP. Sujaaul Haque alias Suja Ullah (24)Son of Md. Siraj Mia, Mother: Bilkis Begum. Permanent Address: Mehedinagar (Jidu Mia Bari), Ward No. 7, 02 No. Hinguli UP. Emdadul Haque alias Emran (28), Son of Late Obaidul Haque, Mother: Firoza Begum. Permanent Address: Mehedinagar (Obaidul Haque Bari), Ward No. 7, 02 No. Hinguli UP. Mizan Uddin (32)*, Son of Abdul Mannan, Mother: Halima Khatun. Permanent Address: Ghoramara (Kalapani), Ward No. 6 (Forest Office), Abdul Mannan Bari, Ward No. 5, 01 No. Korherhat UP. Md. Sakhawat Hossain alias Nahid (24),Son of Harun Or Rashid, Mother: Khaleda Akhter. Permanent Address: East Hinguli, Dubai Harun Bari, Ward No. 8, 02 No. Hinguli UP. All Police Station- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram. Yusuf (26) Son of Abul Kashem, Mother, Salima Begum. Village Mehedinagar (Jalil Mistri Bari), Ward No. 6, 02 No. Hinguli UP, Police Station- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram. Accused who gave Confessional Statement, Yusuf (26) Son of Abul Kashem, Mother: Salima Begum, Village: Mehedinagar (Jalil Mistri Bari), Ward No. 6, 02 No. Hinguli UP, Police Station- Jorarganj, District- Chattogram.

Mr. M.A. Kashem has been Trustees of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Bangladesh, one of the leading manufacturers of herbal medicines in the subcontinent, for a long time. He was the President of SAHIC Trust (Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children), the only voluntary organization rendering health care assistance of the ear, nose and throat services to destitute and poor patients. He is the life member of SAHIC. Mr. Kashem is an eminent industrialist, renowned patron of education, distinguished philanthropist and an active social worker. He was the winner of "President Export Trophy Award" for the year 1982- 83 and 1983-84 for excellent export performance. Mr. Kashem also got "C.R. Das Gold" Medal for excellent contribution in Industrial sector in the year 1995. He was awarded the "Highest Tax Payer-2011" and also in 2016-2017 by National Board of Revenue (NBR). Recently, he has been awarded Abu Rushd Memorial Award for promoting higher Education.

Mr. Kashem was the leader of 20-member FBCCI Trade delegation to Far Eastern Countries in the year 1986. He was also the leader of 5-member Govt. delegations to the U.K., the U.S.A. and Canada sponsored by the UNDP in 1987 and leader of 12 members Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Govt. of Bangladesh delegations to EEC countries in 1985. As an industrialist he travelled almost all major cities of the world many times on his own business, led FBCCI trade delegations and also North South University. He has established a Trust named M. Kashem Trust to foster education to the primary and midlevel students of Schools in his locality. Moreover, a general Hospital of 20 Beds in the name of "Tareque Memorial-Ibrahim General Hospital" has been established by the Trust in his Upazilla Chhagalnaiya, Feni. It is a nonprofit organization. The Trust also awarded stipends and scholarships to the meritorious students during the last couple of years. As a philanthropist, Mr. Kashem set up Kashem Complex at Darogarhat, Chhagalnaiya which contents Madrashsa, Masjid, Eidgah, Public Graveyard and other training Centers and erected free dwelling houses for the poor and destitute people of his locality. Mr. Kashem is a member of the Kurmitola Golf Club, Baridhara Cosmopolitan Club Limited, Gulshan Club Limited, Rotary Club of Dhaka West, National Shooting Club, Bangladesh Diabetic Association, Life member of Anjuman Mufidul Islam, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Shishu Hospital, Chittagong.

Jamaat slams move to return teacher hiring power to managing committees

Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Mia Golam Parwar on Monday condemned the Education Ministry's initiative to hand over the authority to recruit entry-level teachers at private schools, colleges and madrasas to the managing committees of the respective institutions. In a statement, he said the ministry had taken the initiative following a meeting held on August 3 at the ministry's conference room to discuss the overall activities of the Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority. Golam Porwar said implementation of the decision could revive the old cycle of corruption, nepotism, political influence and bribery in teacher recruitment at private MPO-listed educational institutions. 'Recruiting qualified, meritorious and skilled teachers is one of the key conditions for ensuring quality education. If the responsibility for recruitment is handed over to managing committees, it will create opportunities for political and local influence and financial transactions in the recruitment process,' he said. He said the existing system, under which the NTRCA recommends candidates for recruitment at private MPO-listed educational institutions, gives greater importance to merit, qualifications and competitive examinations. The system has enabled candidates to secure teaching positions based on their own merit while largely ensuring transparency and accountability in the recruitment process. It has also enhanced the professional dignity of teachers, he said. 'Instead of addressing the limitations and complexities of the

existing recruitment system and making it more transparent, effective and practical, if the authority to recruit teachers is once again handed over to managing committees, it will create opportunities for irregularities and corruption in teacher recruitment as in the past,' he added. He called for the existing NTRCA recruitment system to be made more transparent, impartial, accountable and effective. If necessary, teacher recruitment at private MPO-listed educational institutions could be arranged through an independent and neutral constitutional or institutional framework similar to the Public Service Commission, he said.

Islami Bank accuses ex-president Shahabuddin of Tk 500cr loan irregularities

Staff Correspondent Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC has filed a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Commission against 38 people, including former ex-president Mohammed Shahabuddin and S Alam Group chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam, alleging irregularities in the approval and disbursement of a Tk 500 crore loan. Mohammed Yasin Ali, assistant vice-president of the bank's Foreign Exchange Corporate Branch, submitted the complaint to the ACC on behalf of the bank on July 29. Mohammed Yasin Ali told New Age, 'We submitted the allegations to the ACC along with supporting documents.'

The complaint was filed over alleged irregularities involving around Tk 500 crore in the approval and disbursement of the loan, he added. According to the complaint, after S Alam Group took control of Islami Bank in 2017, the loan limit of Suprov Composite Knit Ltd—an associate company of AnnonTex Group—was increased from Tk 100 crore to Tk 500 crore without properly assessing its financial capacity and repayment ability. The bank alleged that the funds were subsequently withdrawn and embezzled. The bank alleged that S Alam played a role in facilitating the loan allocation. It added that Shahabuddin, who was the bank's vice-chairman and a board member at the time, alongside three former managing directors—Monirul Mawla, Abdul Hamid Mia, and Mahbub Ul Alam—played roles in approving the loan. The complaint further alleged that the individuals involved financially benefited from these irregularities. Four audit firms appointed to investigate the matter identified various irregularities in increasing the limit, approving, and disbursing the funds. Islami Bank requested the ACC to investigate the alleged irregularities and determine whether the loan proceeds were subsequently used in a manner detrimental to the bank's interests.

Govt forms 22-member task force for business deregulation

Staff Correspondent The government has formed a 22-member national task force, chaired by the finance and planning minister, to deregulate operations and ease doing business across sectors. According to a gazette notification issued by the Cabinet Division on Sunday (August 9), the high-level committee will identify administrative hurdles, unnecessary approvals, and regulatory complexities to streamline business and investment. The task force includes the ministers for environment, forest and climate change; industries and commerce; and law, justice and parliamentary affairs, alongside advisers to the ministries of finance and planning, posts and telecommunications, and science and technology. Other members include the executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, the prime minister's special assistant for investment and capital markets, the cabinet secretary, the Bangladesh Bank governor, and senior ministry officials. Private sector leadership is also represented through the presidents of the FBCCI, DCCI, MCCI, BGMEA, and BKMEA. An additional secretary from the Finance Division (Macroeconomics and TDM) will act as member secretary, with the division providing overall secretarial support. The task force is tasked with approving sector-specific reform roadmaps, monitoring their implementation, and simplifying requirements for licenses, clearances, taxes, customs, banking, capital markets, construction, and local services. It will also guide policy for single-window systems, service-level agreements (SLAs), automatic approvals, and online tracking systems, while resolving inter-ministerial bottlenecks and recommending legal amendments. Additionally, a dedicated website will be developed to track investor complaints and delays through a grievance redress mechanism, bringing critical issues directly before the task force. The committee will meet as required and conduct progress reviews every three months, with the provision to co-opt new members as needed.

Ex-CJ Khairul Haque secures bail in all nine cases

Staff Correspondent Former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque on Monday secured bail in all nine cases filed against him, clearing the way for his release from jail. The High Court on Monday granted him bail in the latest case, filed over allegations that he injured a July uprising protester during the movement on August 4, 2024. His senior lawyer Md Munsurul Haque Chowdhury confirmed the development to The bench of Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher granted the bail, the lawyer said. Khairul Haque has now secured bail in all nine cases pending against him. The development came a day after the Appellate Division observed that the former chief justice cannot leave the country without the court's permission and cannot speak to the media. A four-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, made the observation on Sunday while disposing of a government petition challenging a High Court order concerning Khairul Haque. The High Court had directed the authorities not to show Khairul Haque arrested in any case unless there was a specific case against him. It had also directed the police not to harass him. The Appellate Division upheld those directions. The other members of the bench were Justice Md Rezaul Haque, Justice SM Emdadul Hoque and Justice Farah Mahbub. The Appellate Division also clarified that the High Court order was applicable only to Khairul Haque. It would not automatically apply to other accused in other cases, Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hasan told reporters. The court also asked Khairul Haque's lawyers to have the High Court rule heard. The High Court issued the rule on May 17, asking the government to explain why repeatedly showing a person arrested in new cases after he had secured bail should not be declared illegal as an act of harassment, humiliation or persecution. Khairul Haque was arrested from his home on July 24, 2025.



Turkey parliament debates conditional amnesty for thousands of PKK members

International Desk

Turkey's parliament began debating a draft law on Monday that would provide conditional legal relief to thousands of Kurdish militants as part of the government's efforts to advance a peace process with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The proposed 12-article law sets out procedures for the PKK to disarm and disband, as well as measures to help reintegrate thousands of its members. The PKK ended its decades-long armed campaign against the Turkish state last year and announced plans to disarm and dissolve the organisation after a call from its imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan. The group later held a symbolic disarmament ceremony in northern Iraq, where it has long maintained bases, and said it was withdrawing fighters from key positions in Turkey to Iraq. Under the proposed law, some prison sentences for convicted PKK members would be suspended, while ongoing investigations and trials could be delayed for five or 10 years, depending on the seriousness of the alleged offences. Cases would be dropped if those receiving the legal relief committed no terrorism-related offences during the specified period. However, the proposed measures would not apply to PKK members convicted of intentional killings or those sentenced to life imprisonment before 2005. Ocalan and other senior PKK figures would therefore be excluded. The draft law would also create ministerial and parliamentary committees to oversee the disarmament



Tropical Storm Dolphin brings flooding to eastern China

International Desk

Tropical Storm Dolphin brought heavy rain to parts of eastern China on Monday, triggering flooding in some areas after the storm made landfall as a typhoon a day earlier. Authorities warned of possible severe flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas. Dolphin had maximum sustained winds of 65 kph (40 mph) on Monday morning and was weakening, Taiwan's Central Weather Administration said. China's Meteorological Administration said the storm was moving northwest at 15 to 20 kph (9 to 12 mph) and was expected to weaken further before disappearing. Dolphin made landfall Sunday evening in Taizhou in Zhejiang province with winds of up to 151 kph (93 mph). Before reaching China, it brought heavy rain to northern Taiwan over the weekend. China's state broadcaster CCTV reported that authorities in Yueqing, a city in Zhejiang, searched flooded homes for people who might be trapped and cleared fallen branches from roads. Ahead of the storm, more than 300,000 people were moved to safer areas as a precaution. Shanghai's two airports also canceled more than 1,300 flights. **Death toll rises in the Philippines** Although Dolphin did not make landfall in the Philippines, it strengthened seasonal monsoon rains that caused flooding and landslides across northern Luzon. A landslide buried three houses in the northern mountain city of Baguio on Sunday night, killing five people, while at least five others remained missing, officials said. Rescue teams continued searching for the missing on Monday despite intermittent rain. Three people were rescued alive and taken to hospital, according to Baguio authorities. The latest deaths raised the toll from nearly a week of heavy rain, flooding and a tropical storm in northern Luzon to 15, the government's Office of Civil Defense said. More than 1 million people have been affected by the heavy monsoon rains and flooding, including around 98,000 who were forced to leave their homes. About 58,000 displaced people were staying at around 642 government-run emergency shelters, said Laurence Mina of the Office of Civil Defense. **Another storm heads toward Japan** Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Chan-hom was moving toward Japan's Pacific coast. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 83 kph (51 mph) on Monday morning and was expected to strengthen slightly before making landfall between Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

process. The measures would take effect only after Turkey's National Security Council confirms that the PKK has disbanded and handed over all its weapons. Those eligible for the provisions would have six months to apply after the council's decision is published in the country's Official Gazette. Media reports said PKK members living in exile and those based in Iraq and Syria are among those expected to benefit. The bill is expected to pass with support from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party, its nationalist allies and the pro-Kurdish DEM Party. The DEM Party has also called for Ocalan, who has been imprisoned since 1999, to be formally allowed to help coordinate the peace process, potentially paving the way for his release. The current draft, however, does not address Ocalan's legal status or provide for his release. Media reports have suggested that his detention conditions on an island prison near Istanbul could be eased, including allowing more visits and communication with the outside world. The PKK launched its armed insurgency against Turkey in 1984. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and spread into neighbouring Iraq and Syria. Turkey, the United States and the European Union have designated the PKK as a terrorist organisation. The group initially fought for an independent Kurdish state but later shifted its demands toward greater autonomy and expanded rights for Kurds in Turkey. Several previous peace efforts between Turkey and the PKK have failed, most recently in 2015.

Chinese court resolves Strait of Hormuz collision dispute between foreign vessels

International Desk

A Chinese maritime court has successfully mediated a dispute that had arisen from a collision between two foreign vessels near the Strait of Hormuz, China's Supreme People's Court (SPC) said on Monday. The case, involving claims reaching 180 million yuan (about 26.5 million U.S. dollars), was handled by the Guangzhou Maritime Court (GMC) in south China's Guangdong Province under the guidance of the SPC. It involved the Antigua-and-Barbuda-flagged "Adalynn" and the Liberia-flagged "Front Eagle," both owned and operated by foreign enterprises, according to an SPC statement. The two ships collided in June 2025, in waters near the Strait of Hormuz. While "Front Eagle" was undergoing repairs in Guangdong's Shenzhen, the owner of "Adalynn" applied to the GMC for an order to arrest the vessel. Both foreign parties agreed to have the GMC hear the case and selected Chinese law as the governing law for resolving the substantive issues in dispute. The GMC organized four pretrial meetings between October 2025 and July 2026 and held a public hearing on July 14, 2026, the statement said, adding that it also introduced maritime technical investigators to help ascertain facts regarding the collision, as no official authority had conducted an investigation into the accident and no official conclusions were available. Through the fact-finding process, the court reconstructed the course of the collision, which helped clearly determine the parties' respective liabilities, according to Wu Guining, the presiding judge of the case. Through the court's mediation, the relevant parties reached a settlement, and the court organized the liability fund distribution in late July. Bilov Viacheslav, representative of the shipowner of the "Adalynn," said the company decided to submit the dispute to a Chinese court because of their trust in the impartiality and fairness of the country's legal and judicial systems, a choice that was ultimately proven right. He also said that he was impressed by the efficiency of the Chinese court and professionalism of Chinese maritime experts.



Count Biface takes aim at Parliament in Britain's wackiest by-election

International Desk

A British comedian wearing a rubbish bin on his head is hoping to turn political satire into votes in what could be one of Britain's most unusual parliamentary elections. Count Biface, who describes himself as an intergalactic space warrior, is among nearly three dozen candidates contesting a special election in Clacton-on-Sea in south-eastern England on Thursday. The contest was already being described as unusual after Reform UK leader Nigel Farage resigned from Parliament and announced that he would seek re-election to address allegations over his finances. Biface quickly announced his candidacy, challenging Farage with his trademark humour. "Game on, Nige," he said after Farage accused the political establishment of targeting him. The major political parties have criticized Farage's decision and decided not to contest the election, leaving Biface with a prominent position as one of his most colorful challengers. Since then, he has been busy giving interviews and promoting his campaign. "I'm the only fresh thing on the menu," Biface told The Associated Press. "You're all sick of these politicians ... but you need something different." Even senior politicians have joined in the jokes. Rachel Reeves, then Britain's Treasury secretary, quipped after accepting Farage's resignation: "If he wants to spend the summer arguing with a bin, I won't stop him." Comedian behind the mask Behind the black cape, rubbish bin and science-fiction-style protective gear is Jon Harvey, a middle-aged comedian who prefers to keep his identity separate from his political character. Harvey never appears in public as Biface without the costume and refuses to reveal what is beneath the helmet. Asked by a BBC presenter to remove the headgear, he referred to the "Star Wars" character Darth Vader and joked that nobody would want to see what was underneath. Harvey is a married father of two who grew up in London and studied classics at Oxford University. He has worked as a writer for political comedy programmes including "The Thick of It" and "Have I Got News for You." He has also written books, including Biface's fictional political memoir, "What on Earth? An Alien's Guide to Fixing Britain."

From Buckethead to Biface Harvey's political career began nearly a decade ago when he ran for Parliament under the name Lord Buckethead against then-Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May. The character became popular, but a copyright dispute over the name forced Harvey to create a new identity. **Thus, Count Biface was born** Since then, he has challenged former Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak, as well as London



Indonesia steps up efforts to contain spreading wildfires

International Desk

Indonesia has stepped up efforts to contain a growing number of wildfires across the country, deploying helicopters, hundreds of firefighters and disaster response personnel as fires spread through East Java's popular Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park and peatlands on Sumatra amid an unusually dry season. The largest blaze is burning in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park, where around 743 hectares (1,836 acres) have been scorched, according to East Java authorities. Indonesia's Forestry Ministry said Sunday that dry weather and strengthening El Nino conditions have increased the risk of forest and land fires during the peak dry season. The fire has destroyed extensive areas of dry grassland and vegetation, including protected edelweiss flowers, and spread toward Penanjakan, a popular viewpoint for visitors to Mount Bromo, one of Indonesia's major tourist attractions. No injuries or evacuations have been reported. Hundreds of firefighters, soldiers, police, park rangers and volunteers are working to contain the blaze. Authorities have closed the national park to visitors until further notice. At least three helicopters were deployed Monday to conduct water-bombing operations over hotspots inaccessible by ground crews. Firefighters are also carrying out manual suppression, cooling operations, patrols and

Mayor Sadiq Khan. Khan defeated Biface twice and joked after his 2024 victory that he was the first politician to beat him in consecutive elections. Biface also contested a parliamentary special election in June but lost to Andy Burnham. Britain has a long tradition of unusual political candidates, and the Clacton ballot includes three candidates from the Monster Raving Loony Party, including Nick the Incredible Flying Brick and Baron von Thunderclap. Tax cuts, hand dryers and unicycles Biface's campaign platform mixes serious-sounding promises with deliberately absurd ideas. Among his proposals are cutting voters' taxes while rais-



ing taxes for everyone else, building an affordable home and nationalizing singer Adele. He also wants to move a hand dryer in the men's bathroom of a pub in Uxbridge, arguing that its current position is too close to the urinals. His campaign takes several indirect jabs at Farage, including a promise that he would not accept multimillion-pound gifts from cryptocurrency billionaires. Biface also wants MPs who resign during their terms to be barred from contesting the immediate by-election that follows. He has promised to spend more time in Clacton than in Washington, a reference to Farage's frequent trips to the United States and his close ties with President Donald Trump.

A 'galactic union' with US Biface said he has little interest in dealing directly with Trump, describing the US president as "awful." However, he said he would like to strengthen the relationship between Britain and the United States through what he jokingly called a "galactic union." Despite his campaign, Biface admits he does not expect to win. If he does pull off a surprise victory, however, he may have to leave his famous costume outside the House of Commons because parliamentary rules require MPs to dress appropriately and prohibit costumes. Biface said some MPs have discussed making an exception for him. His manifesto also includes proposals such as price controls on croissants and forcing cyclists who break traffic rules to ride unicycles. For now, Count Biface appears less interested in becoming Britain's next major political figure than in adding a dose of humour to an already unusual election.

Sri Lanka prison unrest causes nearly \$300,000 in property damage

International Desk

A riot at a prison in Sri Lanka's western region last month caused property damage worth more than 100 million Sri Lankan rupees, or about \$299,000, according to the Department of Prisons. The unrest broke out at Negombo Prison on July 5 when clashes erupted between two groups of inmates. The violence caused extensive damage to prison facilities and inmate registration records, officials said. A total of 32 people were killed and more than 100 others injured during the unrest. Several other prison riots were reported across Sri Lanka in the weeks that followed the Negombo incident.

building firebreaks to stop the flames from spreading. Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni, who visited the park Sunday, said authorities were coordinating efforts to tackle and prevent forest and land fires. He urged people to avoid activities that could trigger new fires, including throwing away cigarette butts and burning land for clearance.

The Bromo fire is among several wildfires reported across Indonesia during the current dry spell. More than 50 hectares (124 acres) of peatland have burned in Jambi province on Sumatra, causing thick haze and concerns over deteriorating air quality. The largest fire, in Sungai Gelam village in Muaro Jambi district, has destroyed dozens of hectares of local residents' oil palm plantations and has been burning since Wednesday. Around 300 firefighters and disaster personnel have been deployed there. Deep peat, limited water supplies, difficult terrain and strong winds have hampered firefighting efforts, despite three helicopters conducting aerial operations. Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency said August and September are expected to be the most critical months, as dry vegetation and strong winds could help fires spread rapidly. Wildfires frequently occur on Sumatra and Borneo during dry periods. Many are illegally started by plantation owners or traditional farmers to clear land for cultivation, with the resulting fires periodically causing hazardous haze across parts of Southeast Asia.



‘The Odyssey’ crosses \$1b

Sports Desk

Christopher Nolan’s ‘The Odyssey’ has taken the box office by storm, crossing the \$1 billion mark. The film, based on the epic poem by Greek poet Homer, was released on July 17. In just three weeks, The Odyssey has grossed over \$1 billion, grossing \$429.65 million in North America and

\$578.8 million internationally. This is Nolan’s first film to cross the \$1 billion mark since 2012’s ‘The Dark Knight Rises.’ ‘The Odyssey’ is set to break all of Nolan’s previous records and become the highest-grossing film of his career in a short period of time, surpassing ‘The Dark Knight’ and ‘The Dark Knight Rises.’ ‘The Odyssey’ has yet to be released

in China, one of Hollywood’s biggest markets. It will be released in thousands of theaters in China, including about 800 IMAX screens, on August 14. This is expected to significantly increase the film’s revenue. In the story of ‘The Odyssey’, King Odysseus sets out on a long sea voyage to return to his kingdom Ithaca after winning the Trojan War.

Mim’s glamour in backless gown

Sports Desk

A dark blue silk backless gown, wavy hair, and a confident look; this new bold avatar of actress Bidya Sinha Mim is instantly trending on social media. The actress posted a bunch of new photos on her Facebook page on Sunday afternoon. She wrote in the caption, “Own the look, own the moment.” She wanted to convey that she is making the look and the moment her own. In the pictures, Mim is seen in a new look. She is shining brightly in the studio’s dim light. The thin straps of her backless design dress are eye-catching; which gives her a completely Hollywood-style look. Mim’s makeup also has a touch of elegance. Smokey eyes, pinkish-nude lipstick, and slightly curly hair swept to one side make her look even more attractive. Sometimes sitting on luggage and staring directly at the camera, sometimes posing from behind in a backless dress, and sometimes a mysterious look in close-up-she exudes glamour in every frame. Everyone is impressed by Mim’s bold look. Within moments, the picture has been flooded with reactions and comments. Looking at the reactions of the fans, it is clear that they are enjoying such a glamorous look of their favourite star.



Swara Bhasker hospitalized after testing positive for dengue

Sports Desk

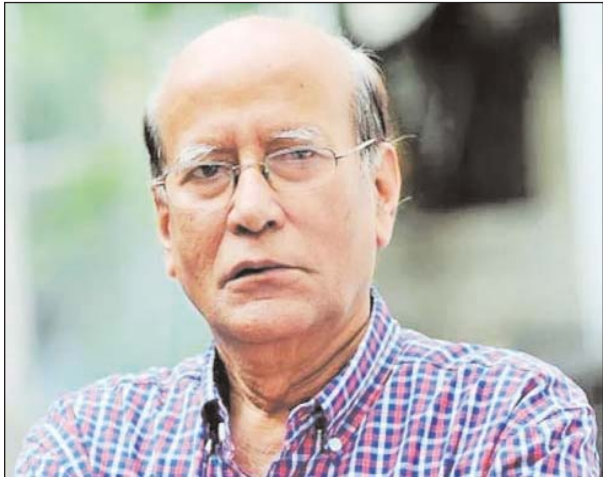
Indian actress Swara Bhasker has been diagnosed with dengue and hospitalized. The Bollywood actress informed her fans and shared a photograph from the hospital bed. On her Instagram story, she wrote, “Well that escalated fast. Dengue-fied and hospitalised!” The Raanjhanaa actress did not reveal details 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.



Artist Club unveils ‘Iconic Tuesday’ with Khurshid Alam

Sports Desk

Artist Club, which officially began its journey in May this year, has announced a new weekly programme titled ‘Iconic Tuesday’, bringing together renowned artists and cultural figures from across the country. Since its launch, the club has regularly organised weekly musical programmes alongside poetry evenings and discussions on literature and culture. The new series will take place every Tuesday at



Artist Club in Banani, Dhaka, with veteran singer Khurshid Alam set to appear as the guest of the inaugural edition. Artist Club President Sujit Mostafa in a Facebook post, said, “The first edition will feature Khurshid Alam. The programme has been organised to celebrate his 81st birthday and will take place at the Artist Club Lounge at 7:30pm on Tuesday, August 11. Tickets have been priced at Tk1,000.”

Akshaye Khanna-Dimple Kapadia romance remains a standout theme in ‘Dil Chahta Hai’

Sports Desk

Twenty-five years after its release, Farhan Akhtar’s Dil Chahta Hai continues to attract attention for its fresh take on friendship, relationships and the challenges of growing up. The 2001 film, which marked Akhtar’s debut as a filmmaker, is remembered for its portrayal of close friendship, road trips, changing relationships and the uncertainties of young adulthood. But one of its most notable themes was the unconventional romance between Siddharth, played by Akshaye Khanna, and Tara Jaiswal, portrayed by Dimple Kapadia. Siddharth is shown as a quiet, thoughtful painter who develops feelings for Tara, a divorced, middle-aged interior designer who lives alone. Their relationship challenged the usual idea of what an acceptable romantic pairing should look like in mainstream Hindi cinema. Rather than focusing on a conventional love story, the film explored how emotional connection can develop between two people from different generations. Siddharth’s relationship with Tara grows through their conversations about art, books and life. His approach to love is also different from that of his two close friends, Akash, played by Aamir Khan, and Sameer, played by Saif Ali Khan. When Siddharth’s mother and friends object to his feelings for Tara, he refuses to hide them or apologize for falling in love. His relationship with Akash becomes strained after Akash makes fun of his feelings. His mother also questions his decision, reflecting the social pressure surrounding relationships that do not fit traditional expectations. Tara herself initially rejects Siddharth’s feelings. She tells him that his emotions are unrealistic and insists that she never encouraged him or gave him false hope. Her reac-

tion reflects the same social concerns that trouble those around Siddharth. But Siddharth remains firm about his feelings. For him, love is not something that can always be explained through age, social expectations or conventional ideas. The film therefore raises a broader question about why people fall in love and whether love can always be judged through logic.



The story also follows the friendship of Siddharth, Akash and Sameer as they navigate personal changes, relationships and self-discovery. Set partly against the scenic backdrop of Goa, the film combines humour and friendship with more serious questions about love and life. Tara’s struggle with alcohol eventually leads to her death, marking a major turning point for Siddharth. Her death leaves him with a deeper understanding of life and forces him to move forward while holding on to the feelings he had for her. The film’s treatment of Siddharth and Tara’s relationship was considered unusual for mainstream Hindi cinema at the time. Instead of presenting their age difference as the sole focus, Akhtar placed greater emphasis on their emotional connection. That approach helped Dil Chahta Hai challenge some traditional ideas about romance and relationships. The film’s music also played an important role in expressing Siddharth’s feelings. The song Kaisi Hai Yeh Rut, composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, captured the quiet and unspoken side of his affection for Tara. Twenty-five years later, Dil Chahta Hai remains relevant not only for its memorable friendship and youthful energy but also for the way it explored relationships that did not fit conventional expectations. Its enduring appeal may lie in that very imperfection — characters who make mistakes, relationships that do not always work out and emotions that cannot always be explained logically.

Manoj Bajpayee’s ‘Governor’: Flop in theatres, hit on OTT

Sports Desk

Manoj Bajpayee’s new economic thriller ‘Governor: The Silent Savior’ flopped at the box office after its release. However, after coming to OTT, all the calculations have changed. Governor has occupied the top spot in the list of Prime Video’s overall ‘most trending’ movies in India. This news was reported by the media outlet Bollywood Hungama. Chinmoy Mandlekar’s film ‘Governor’ was released on the big screen on June 12. The film is inspired by the real-life story of the 1991 Indian financial crisis and the then Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, S Venkataraman. However, due to its complex political and administrative content, it did not resonate well with the general audience. As a result, the film was a flop, earning only Rs 7.5 crore at the box office.



Sonu Nigam sings during surgery, video goes viral

Sports Desk

Popular Indian singer Sonu Nigam, who loves music, did not stop singing even during surgery. He played the popular songs of the late legendary singer Mohammad Rafi to the doctors and medical staff during the surgery. A video of that moment has gone viral on social media. Usually, patients experience anxiety before or during surgery. However, Sonu has been seen in a different role. Despite the physical discomfort, he not only kept himself normal by singing songs, but also entertained the doctors and medical staff. Sharing the video released from the hospital on social media, Sonu wrote, “Singing even in pain.” Sonu’s positive attitude and mental fortitude have been praised by his fans.



Popy after 3 decades

Sports Desk

Sadika Parvin Popy is a renowned and popular actress in Bangladeshi cinema. Although she has not been acting in movies for the past few years. But she still has millions of fans at home and abroad. Popy is now at the top of the list of Bangladeshi heroines in terms of what is meant by a glamorous and beautiful heroine in Bangladeshi cinema. Journey of Popy, who hailed from Khulna, in the media began in 1995, when she became the champion of the ‘Lux-Anand Bichitra Photo Beauty’ contest. Then she acted for the first time opposite film star Ilias Kanchan in the package drama titled ‘Nayok’ directed by late Shahidul Haque Khan. Then Popy first started working in late renowned director Sohanur Rahman Sohan’s film ‘Amar Ghor Amar Behest’ opposite film actor Shakil Khan. However, before this, Popy-starred and Montazur Rahman Akbar directed movie ‘Coolie’ was released on May 16, 1997. That’s why Popy’s first released movie is named ‘Coolie’. Popy’s second released film, ‘Dorodi Sontan’, opposite Ilias Kanchan, was released on June 20 of that year, under Shawkat Jamil’s direction. The film ‘Amar Ghor Amar Behest’ was released on November 3, 1997, as Popy’s third film. In 1998, Popy-starred and Mustafizur Rahman Babu



directed ‘Ei Mon Tomeke Dilam’, Motaheb Hossain directed ‘Bhalobashar Ghor’ and several other films were released. After that, Popy never looked back. The commercially successful and notable films released starring Popy are: ‘Charidike Shotru’, ‘Bidroho Charidike’, ‘Ke Amar Baba’, ‘Lal Badshah’, ‘Dujon Dujonar’, ‘Praner Priyotoma’, ‘Khyapa Basu’, ‘Bidrohi Padma’, ‘Rani Kuthir Baki Itihash’, ‘Megher Koley Rod’, ‘Karagar’, ‘Ki Jadu Korila’, ‘Gangajatra’, ‘Bostir Rani Suriya’, etc. Regarding her film career, Popy told this correspondent, “In my long career in film, I have earned the love of millions of movie-loving viewers in this country. I have been blessed with the affection and love of senior artists while working in films. Besides, the entire film family loved me. Everything I am yesterday’s Popy is from movies, from the love of the audience. That is why I will always have immense respect and love for the cinema of this country.” Popy won the National Film Award for Best Actress for her performance in ‘Karagar,’ directed by Kalam Kaiser. She was later honoured with the same award again for acting in films ‘Megher Koley Rod’ and ‘Gangajatra’. Popy has also received awards for excellence from various events, including BACHSAS, BABISAS, TRAB Awards, and more.



Cameroon surprise Nigeria and reach WAFCON semi-finals

Sports Desk

Myriam Nyadjou scored from a free-kick to give Cameroon a surprise 1-0 quarter-final victory over Women's Africa Cup of Nations defending champions Nigeria in Casablanca on Sunday.

The 19-year-old struck after 19 minutes, slamming a rising shot past the outstretched hands of goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie and into the corner of the net.

It was the first goal of the tournament for Nyadjou, and it earned Cameroon a semi-final showdown on Wednesday against hosts

Morocco in Rabat, and a ticket to the 2027 World Cup in Brazil.

Record 10-time WAFCON champions Nigeria pressed for an equaliser in the closing stages only to be constantly defied by acrobatic saves from Michaela Bihina.

The closest the Super Falcons came to equalising was in the third minute of added time when Esther Okoronkwo won a race for possession with Bihina, but her shot trickled wide of the far post.

Just before the miss, Nigeria introduced six-time African Women's Footballer of the Year Asisat

Oshoala, who was not sufficiently fit to start.

But the Saudi-based striker was unable to make an impact and Cameroon comfortably survived the last few minutes for only their second victory over Nigeria in 14 WAFCON meetings.

As the Namibian referee signalled full-time, the Cameroon substitutes and coaches raced on to the pitch and hugged the Indomitable Lionesses.

Later in Rabat, debutants and giant killers Malawi take on three-time runners-up Ghana and the winners will meet Algeria in the other semi-final.

The hole story behind Jacy's leap of faith

Sports Desk

Footballers have never exactly enjoyed a healthy relationship with advertising hoardings.

Some slide through them. Some climb on top of them. Others launch themselves over them in the name of celebration. And, more often than not, the hoardings have the last laugh, producing a blooper that lives forever in football's funniest-video compilations.

The latest victim was Coritiba defender and captain Jacy Maranhao Oliveira, who discovered on Sunday that it is probably worth checking what lies on the other side before throwing yourself over an advertising board.

The 29-year-old went into a frenzy after finding the net against Chapecoense in the Brazilian top flight, convinced he had put Coritiba 2-0 up.

Given Jacy had scored only nine goals in his nine-year career, one could understand the excitement. He found the net from a set-piece, raced towards the home supporters and then decided a spectacular leap over an advertising board would complete the moment. But the advertising hoarding, it seems, had other plans.

Behind the board was a tunnel, with a staircase leading down into it. So, immediately after what looked like a perfect leap of faith, the defender disappeared from sight.

Even the security guard standing next to the tunnel appeared unable to process what he had just witnessed and could only stand there with both hands on his head before sprinting down the tunnel to check on the airborne goalscorer.

And because football apparently enjoys adding insult to injury, that was not even the end of it.



Moments later, in perhaps the most anticlimactic fashion imaginable, Jacy's goal was disallowed by VAR.

Jacy was treated by Coritiba's medical staff and remained on the pitch, but was substituted at half-time.

According to Cazé TV, the fall during his celebration was the reason for his withdrawal. He was later seen on the bench applying ice to his ankle.

At least Coritiba eventually gave him something to celebrate. They doubled their lead in the 82nd minute and held on for a 2-1 victory.

But perhaps the strangest part of the whole episode is that Jacy was not even the first Coritiba player to discover the tunnel the hard way.

In 2014, Coritiba striker Diederick Joel Tagueu celebrated a goal against Sao Paulo by making the exact same leap over the advertising board and fell into the exact same hole.

Joel scored one of Coritiba goals in the victory but was also injured after taking the same ill-fated route.

Twelve years later, Jacy apparently decided to recreate the experience.

At this point, perhaps Coritiba should just put up a sign.

U-20 coach Jones claims unpaid salary, BFF calls it 'unfortunate'

Sports Desk

Bangladesh U-20 head coach Gerard Jones has claimed he is yet to receive his salary and is struggling to support his family, while Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Tabith Awal has termed the British coach's social media post "unfortunate".

Jones, who has been preparing the Bangladesh U-20 team for the upcoming AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers at the Shamsul Huda Football Academy in Jashore since last month, raised the issue in a Facebook post on Monday.

The British coach said he was dealing with "miscommunication or surprises" and was worried about his family and his safety.

"Low. Sad. Worried for my family and for my safety. Constantly dealing with miscommunication or surprises and yesterday was another hard pill to swallow,"

Jones wrote.

"Waiting for my salary. I have no money and I can't transfer funds out to feed my wife and children."

Jones also wrote: "I'm fearful for my life and scared."

Tabith said he had seen the post but described Jones' account of the situation as misleading.

"I saw. It's unfortunate but I will have to respect freedom of speech. It's unfortunate because the entire situation is misrepresented by him. Anyways, it's resolving soon," Tabith told The Daily Star through a text message.

It's unfortunate but I will have to respect freedom of speech. It's unfortunate because the entire situation is misrepresented by him.

Asked whether the BFF would look into Jones' concerns over his safety, Tabith said the federation would not respond to the social media post.

Jisan's 19-ball fifty lifts Bangladesh HP to 7-wicket win over Malaysia

Sports Desk

Opener Jisan Alam smashed a blistering 19-ball fifty as Bangladesh High Performance (HP) team thrashed Malaysia by seven wickets in the second T20 at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mipur, completing a 2-0 series sweep.

Malaysia won the toss and opted to bat first but struggled to build momentum as they managed to put up just 105-4 in their allotted 20 overs.

After losing both openers early, Syed Aziz and Ahmed Akil steadied the innings with a 58-run partnership for the third wicket.

Aziz top-scored with 40 off 52 balls, while Akil made 30 off 33 before both were dismissed by Abu Haider.

Rybakina survives scare as Gauff, Osaka race into Toronto quarters

Sports Desk

World number two Elena Rybakina survived a huge scare to battle into the Canadian Open quarter-finals on Sunday in Toronto, while fourth-ranked Coco Gauff cruised through.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina recovered from 0-3 and two breaks down in the final set to beat Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 before American Gauff swept aside another Russian, teenage qualifier Alina Korneeva, 6-3, 6-1 in Toronto.

Rybakina will face a quarter-final against four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka, who eliminated home hero Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-4.

Gauff reached the last eight in Canada for the first time since 2023 and will come up against either Swiss 12th seed Belinda Bencic or Alexandra Eala, the rapidly rising 21-year-old Filipina who won her first WTA title last Monday in Washington.

"My main focus yesterday was let me try and close it out," said Gauff, who has not dropped a set in Canada.



"Probably not the way I should be thinking but it worked yesterday.

"I'm proud of how the last three matches have gone and just knowing if I have to go the distance I'm ready but obviously would prefer to cut it short if I can."

Osaka broke in the seventh game of each set to advance in 82 minutes.

"It was all pretty good for me," the 13th-ranked Osaka said. "She has a great attitude. She's consistent and she will fight. She's kind of like a bull-dog."

The Japanese star, who has never faced Rybakina, said sound groundstrokes were key.

"When I feel comfortable or at least confident in myself knowing I can run things down, I loosen up a lot," Osaka said.

"I was catching my service toss a couple times. Hopefully in the next match I don't do that as often.

"I need to be confident in myself, execute what I can and at the end of the day just try my best and whatever happens happens."



Embattled Infantino target of letter from three confederations

Sports Desk

FIFA president Gianni Infantino came under renewed fire on Monday as a joint letter from three confederations -- UEFA, CONCACAF and AFC -- declared football "belongs to no individual".

Infantino has been the butt of scathing criticism ever since launching, and then withdrawing within days, a plan to bring in private investment into FIFA competitions, including the World Cups.

FIFA had hit back on Saturday at "a concerted and ongoing effort by some to undermine" football's governing body and Infantino.

However, Monday's letter from the governing bodies of European football (UEFA), North and Central America (CONCACAF) and Asia (AFC), showed his critics were unbowed.

"Leadership in football is not a possession. It is not about holding -- or demanding -- power to be held," they wrote.

"When trust is broken through deception, when an individual places himself above the collective that entrusted him with authority, that duty has been abandoned," the confederations added.

Sports Desk

Defending champion Ben Shelton kept a clean slate at the ATP Montreal Masters on Sunday, holding off a challenge from Joao Fonseca to power 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) into the quarter-finals.

World number 10 Shelton has not dropped a set in reaching the last eight.

The 23-year-old American left-hander will play for a semi-final berth against 13th-seeded Czech Jakub Mensik, who beat Botic Van De Zandschulp 6-4, 7-5, claiming victory on a winning lob.

Van De Zandschulp served for the second set but was broken, with Mensik seizing the momentum as he won 12 of the final 14 points.

Brazilian teenager Fonseca, billed as one of the faces for the future of the sport, might have compromised his own chances when he landed badly on his ankle after missing a smash while leading 3-1, 40-30 in the second set.

The youngster was plagued by 32 unforced errors as his opponent mastered an annoying evening wind to earn the victory.

"It was tough yesterday, not easy conditions," Shelton said. "With the wind I struggled to find footing on a lot of balls.

"It all came down to grit. The tennis was not clean. Beating a high-quality player like that is huge for me."

Shelton secured his ninth straight victory in Canada on the second of four match points as Fonseca hit the net with a return after leading in both sets.

Daniel Merida smothered Tallon Griekspoor 6-3, 6-1 as the Spaniard continued his rapid adjustment to hardcourt tennis in Canada.



The world number 63 joins compatriot Rafael Jararilla in the Canada quarter-finals and will break through to a career-best spot inside the top 50 as a result of his fourth-round victory.

Prior to making his Montreal debut, clay-courtier Merida had never won a tour-level match on hardcourt.

He will try to extend his streak of cement success to five in a row when he plays a first Masters quarter-final against US 12th seed Learner Tien, who wore down Argentine Thiago Tirante 6-4, 6-4.

Tien saved the first eight break points he faced in the second set in a battle of big

hitters and secured victory in his fifth match point, with his opponent handing over the final game with four unforced errors.

"Yesterday was humid, conditions are always tough," Tien said. "I'm happy with how the match worked out.

"This was one of those days where I was making good contact with the ball. I was seeing the ball well and returning well."

Against Griekspoor, Merida was deadly with his backhand, leaving the Dutchman flat-footed in the 69-minute triumph.

Spain's title-winner last month on clay in Umag has now claimed 16 victories this breakthrough season.

"This is a dream come true. I'm feeling really great," Merida said. "I'm happy with the level during all the week. "I was playing great for the last year and the beginning of this year so I just starting to believe more in



Fishing to resume in Kaptai Lake from midnight today



Rangamati Correspondent

Fishing in Kaptai Lake here will resume from midnight Monday, Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Nazma Ashrafi confirmed. According to a directive signed by the deputy commissioner at 10.30 am yesterday, the fishing ban in Kaptai Lake has been withdrawn in line with the decision taken at a meeting of the committee on lifting the fishing ban held on July 27. The lake will be reopened for fishing, marketing and transportation of fish from 6.00 am Tuesday, subject to seven conditions set by the district administration in the public interest. However, the district administration has reserved the authority to cancel or withdraw the order at any time if required for any state or government purpose. Under the directive, fishing will begin in Kaptai Lake from 12.00 midnight yesterday, while the supply and transportation of fish will be allowed from 6.00 am yesterday.

The ban on fishing, marketing and transportation of all types of fish was imposed on April 20 to facilitate the natural breeding of carp species, reproduction and balanced growth of fish fry. According to sources at the Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC), fishermen will be able to resume fishing in the lake after a 105-day ban.

Following the announcement, activities have increased at various landing stations and BFDC fish landing centres across the district. Rangamati Fish Traders Association leader Md Abdur Shukkur told that fishermen would start casting their nets in Kaptai Lake from midnight. “We, the fish traders and fishermen, are very happy. We have completed all preparations for fishing and related activities. We hope to catch a good quantity of fish from Kaptai Lake this year and that the government will also earn the expected revenue,” he said. Meanwhile, fishermen have been busy making final preparations, including repairing fishing nets, preparing boats, collecting fuel and stocking ice ahead of the resumption of fishing. After the 105-day ban, the return of fishermen to Kaptai Lake with their boats and nets is expected to restore fishing activities as well as related trade and commerce to normalcy.



Jashore board records 66.27pc pass rate in SSC results

Khulna Correspondent

The average pass rate in this year’s Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under the Jashore Education Board (JEB) stood at 66.27 percent, while 11,478 students secured GPA-5. Both the pass rate and the number of GPA-5 achievers declined compared to last year. At the same time, the number of educational institutions with no successful candidates increased. Jashore Education Board Secretary Prof Abdul Matin said the answer scripts had been evaluated properly and that the board had moved away from unhealthy competition. “The pass rate declined mainly due to students’ weaknesses in English and mathematics. However, the overall result is satisfactory,” he said. He added that investigation committees would be formed against institutions where no student passed, and departmental action would be taken based on the findings. A total of 132,940 students appeared in the SSC examinations under the board this year, of whom 88,097 passed. Meanwhile, 11 educational institutions recorded zero passes this year, compared to only two such institutions last year. On the other hand, all students passed from 36 educational institutions under the Jashore Education Board this year

Allegations of Irregularities in Family Card Census Recruitment in Jaintapur, Students and Public Hold Protest Rally

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur (Sylhet)

Leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organizations in Fatehpur Union of Jaintapur, Sylhet, held a protest meeting, procession and street rally on Saturday night, alleging irregularities in the recruitment of enumerators and supervisors for the Family Card Census-2026. They demanded cancellation of the announced recruitment and a fresh, fair and impartial recruitment process. They also issued a 24-hour ultimatum, warning that they would block the Tamabil Highway if their demands were not met. The protest meeting was held around 9:00 pm on Saturday (August 8) at the Fatehpur Union office premises. It was chaired by Abdul Haque Member, president of the Fatehpur Union BNP, while the meeting was moderated by Engineer Ilias Ali, general secretary of the union BNP. Following the meeting, the protesters brought out a procession along the Tamabil Highway near Haripur Bazar. A street rally was later held there. Among those who addressed the rally were Advocate Nizam Uddin, joint organizing secretary of the Sylhet District Jubo Dal and member secretary of the Sylhet District Muktiyoddha Projonmo Dal; Faizul Islam, joint convener of the Jaintapur Upazila Jubo Dal; Jamil Ahmed; Suhel Ahmed; Nasir Uddin, member secretary of the Upazila Fishermen’s Dal; Fakhru Islam, president of the Fatehpur Union Krishak Dal; Miesbah Uddin, general secretary; Suheb Ahmed, president of the union Chhatra Dal; and Jamal Ahmed Sabuj, general secretary, along with other leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organizations. The speakers alleged that a total of 457 applications had been submitted for the Family



Card Census-2026 in Jaintapur Upazila, including 377 applications for enumerator positions and 80 for supervisor positions. They said practical and oral examinations of the applicants were held on Thursday (August 6) at six centers, including the Upazila auditorium. According to the protesters, irregularities became apparent in the recruitment process after the results were announced the following day. They alleged that preferred candidates were appointed with the involvement of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sunanda Roy and other concerned officials. They also alleged that some candidates were appointed by using political influence and connections. The speakers further alleged that instead of recruiting candidates based on merit across the six unions, a “staged and nominal” examination was conducted to appoint preferred individuals. They demanded that the announced recruitment be cancelled and that the entire process be conducted again through a free, fair and impartial procedure. The protesters also called for intervention by Sylhet-4 constituency lawmaker and minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to resolve the allegations surrounding the Family Card Census-2026 recruitment. At the rally, the speakers also alleged various irregularities and corruption against Jaintapur UNO Sunanda Roy, including illegal sand extraction and alleged collection of extortion money from an illegal cattle market. The leaders announced that if the allegedly irregular recruitment was not cancelled and a fresh recruitment process was not initiated within 24 hours, they would announce tougher programmes, including blocking the Tamabil Highway.

Bakery fined Tk 10,000 for operating without BSTI approval in Rajshahi

Rajshahi Correspondent

A mobile court yesterday fined a bakery Tk 10,000 for producing and selling ‘Decorated Cake (Birthday Cake)’ without obtaining a quality certificate from the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), officials said. The mobile court, conducted in Rajshahi city at the initiative of the BSTI Divisional Office, fined Roza Bakery, located in the BSCIC Industrial Estate area. The bakery was also found operating in a unhygienic environment and using non-food-grade ingredients, officials said. Executive Magistrate Farhana Hossain led the mobile court, while Engineer Junaid Ahmed, an officer of the Certification Marks Wing of the BSTI Divisional Office, served as the prosecutor. Members of the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police were present during the drive. BSTI officials said such drives will continue regularly in the public interest to prevent food adulteration and ensure the supply of quality food products.

Allegations of Weight Tampering with Ship-Breaking Iron in Sitakunda, 4 Detained.

Special Correspondent.

Four people have been accused of embezzling money by tampering with the weight measurement of ship-breaking iron at Mac Corporation Shipyard in Kumira, Sitakunda, Chattogram. In connection with the incident, the shipyard’s manager and three others have been handed over to police. Police said they were later shown arrested and sent to court. The four accused are Nurul Islam, Manager of Mac Corporation; Monir Ahmed Munna, Weigher; Omar Faruk Sohel, Accountant; and Rokon Uddin, representative of an iron-buying businessman. However, statements from the accused could not be obtained immediately. Master Abul Kashem, Chairman of the Shipyard, alleged that as they were long-time trusted officers and employees, he never suspected them. Instead, they had been given various facilities. Recently, after inconsistencies were found regarding the weight of ship iron, an investigation revealed one irregularity after another. Master Abul Kashem said there were instructions to keep the sale and delivery of goods from the yard closed for a few days, including Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. However, an iron-laden truck was taken out of the yard without his permission. When he contacted those concerned to find out about it, he alleged that even the truck’s number was given incorrectly. According to his claim, when he asked those concerned for the truck number, they told him Dhaka Metro-T 16-8557. Later, upon checking, it was found that the actual number of the truck was Dhaka Metro-T 16-8757. That is, the owner of the yard alleged that wrong information was given by changing the middle two digits of the vehicle number. Later, the yard owner received news that a truck was stuck in mud on the Kumira



Ghatghar road. When asked, the truck driver said it had come out of Mac Corporation. The truck was then weighed at another yard’s weighing machine and found to be 14 tons. Later, it was also found to be 14 tons on Mac Corporation’s own weighing machine. But the yard owner claims that in the accountant’s ledger, the amount of iron on that truck was shown as 12 tons. This revealed a discrepancy of 2 tons of iron. Master Abul Kashem alleged that it was not just this one truck. For a long time, 2 to 5 tons of iron per truck may have been shown as less in weight on various trucks to embezzle money. He claims that if the accounts of the last three years are reviewed, irregularities worth crores of taka could come to light. He said, after confirming the matter, the four people were handed over to police at around 2:00 AM on 7 August. A case has been filed regarding this incident. He hopes that if they are interrogated for the sake of investigation, the actual information about the long-term irregularities and embezzlement will come out. Regarding this, Mohinul Islam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Police Station, said a case has been filed against four employees on charges of stealing goods from the shipyard. After the case, they were shown arrested and sent to court. He also said the matter is being investigated.

Assistant Judge dies in Jamalpur road accident

Jamalpur Correspondent

An Assistant Judge of the Jamalpur District and Sessions Judge Court was killed in a road accident in the Lahirikanda Bazaar area of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila early yesterday. The deceased was identified as AKM Samiul Haque, 27. Jamalpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Najmus Sakib said the judge was travelling to Jamalpur town by a private car. When the car reached the Lahirikanda Bazaar area around 4am, it crashed into the rear of a stationary truck loaded with iron rods beside the road. Following the collision, the judge and the car driver were rushed to Jamalpur General Hospital,

Pesticides Worth Tk 20 Million Vanish from Sealed Warehouse in Saidpur

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Some 99 metric tonnes of banned pesticides worth an estimated Tk 20 million have gone missing from a sealed warehouse at the BSCIC Industrial Estate in Saidpur, Nilphamari. The disappearance came to light last Wednesday when Executive Magistrate Mahmudul Hasan visited the warehouse to oversee the destruction of the seized pesticides by burning them, following a court order. However, none of the officials and individuals responsible for the warehouse could explain how the seized pesticides disappeared. According to sources, the administration raided the warehouse at the BSCIC Industrial Estate on June 25, 2024, and seized 99 metric tonnes of illegal pesticide identified as “Bifar-5G.” The warehouse was subsequently sealed, while custody of the seized goods was handed over to the Upazila Agriculture Officer. The Industrial Estate Officer and the police administration were assigned to monitor the warehouse. A case was filed against the owner of the pesticides. The case has been pending before the Nilphamari Special Court for nearly two years. After receiving a recent court directive, Executive Magistrate Mahmudul Hasan went to the warehouse last Wednesday. Upon arrival, he found that none of the seized pesticides remained there. Industrial Estate Officer Mashiur Rahman said he regularly checked the warehouse gate.



“I regularly check the gate of the warehouse. Although the entire industrial estate is under my supervision, responsibility for the warehouse or factory primarily rests with the concerned owner,” he said. He added, “However, I noticed signs of fresh plastering on a section of the wall inside the warehouse. Perhaps the owner of the goods or the warehouse owner removed the pesticides.” Upazila Agriculture Officer Dhiman Bhushan said, “I know nothing about this matter.” Monowar Hossain Sarker, proprietor of Messrs Monowar Traders on Rangpur Road in Saidpur town and the owner of the seized pesticides, also denied having any knowledge of the disappearance. “I know nothing about this matter. After the incident, the police instructed me not to go there. So, I have never visited the warehouse. I am waiting for justice from the court,” he said. The disappearance of such a large quantity of seized pesticides from a sealed warehouse has raised questions about the security and supervision of the seized goods while the case remains pending in court.

Police to work above political affiliations: Khulna Range DIG

Meherpur Correspondent

Khulna Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Md Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said police would discharge their duties impartially, rising above all political affiliations and without being influenced by any particular group. “Police will work impartially, above all political affiliations. At the state level, too, the police are not under any pressure,” he said. The DIG made the remarks while exchanging views with journalists at the conference room of the Meherpur Superintendent of Police (SP) office. The meeting discussed the district’s law-and-order situation, drug control, online gambling, harassment of women, police-media relations and ensuring the supply of accurate information to



Severe traffic congestion on Brahmanbaria Biswa Road disrupts public life

Taslima Khandaker Nusrat, Sarail Upazila

Passengers and drivers are suffering immensely due to severe traffic congestion in the Brahmanbaria Biswa Road area on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. As the work to upgrade the highway to four lanes is ongoing, traffic jams persist here for nearly 24 hours, from morning until late at night. During an on-site visit Monday morning, a several-kilometer-long line of vehicles was seen stretching from Biswa Road to Cumilla and Ashuganj. Hundreds of cargo covered vans, trucks, passenger buses, and CNG auto-rickshaws are stuck. In the intense heat and sun, passengers have to sit on the road for hours. A CNG driver, describing his ordeal, said, “I left at 8 AM, and I still haven’t been able to cross Biswa Road. It’s impossible to sit inside the vehicle in this heat. The passengers are also fed up.” A passenger traveling from Dhaka to Sylhet said, “I am taking a patient to the hospital. But with this jam, I doubt we will be able to reach on time.” Officials from the Roads and Highways Department said that work is underway to upgrade the Dhaka-Sylhet highway to four lanes. The road has become narrow due to the work, which is causing the traffic jam. Efforts are underway to complete the work quickly.

Plantation of trees on both banks of Satbaria Canal at Fakirhat

SA Kalam, Fokirhat Bagerhat

The upazila administration has started planting saplings of different types of trees on both banks of Satbaria canal in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Roknuz Zaman planted saplings of different types of trees on Monday (August 10) at 12 noon as part of more than 500 tree plantations on both banks of the canal. Upazila Engineer Shobhan Sarkar, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Imrul Kayes, Assistant Programmer Md. Alamgir Hossain and other local people from various professions were present. It is known that more than 500 different types of tree saplings will be planted on both sides of the Satbaria canal. On this day, tree plantation has been started by planting 5 trees.



Robbery at Mirsarai Economic Zone, 7 arrested

Chattogram Correspondent

Jorargonj Police Station has arrested seven people in connection with a robbery at an under construction factory in the Mirsarai Economic Zone. They were arrested following a 32-hour-long operation. Based on information provided by the arrestees, police recovered around 250 metres of electric cable later that had been looted during the robbery. Chattogram district police disclosed this information this afternoon. The arrested persons are— Mehedi Hasan (23), Md. Rakib (21), Sujaul Haque alias Suja Ullah (24), Emdadul Haque alias Emran (28), Mizan Uddin (32), Md. Sakhawat Hossain alias Nahid (24) and Yousuf (26).