

Shipbreaking industry needs real oversight

On Friday morning, workers went inside the hull of a decommissioned LNG tanker in a Sitakunda shipbreaking yard, as its management claimed, to investigate a strange smell. The vessel, the MT Rasi, had been under demolition for over a year without apparent incident. Its owner—Ferdous Steel Ship Recycling Industries—insists they followed the rules, while one regulator maintains the ship was inspected and cleared for toxic gas. Yet, nine workers died due to suspected exposure to toxic gas that remained traceable half a kilometre out into the Bay of Bengal, illustrating the gulf between compliance on paper and safety in practice.What’s puzzling is that, barely a month ago, the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments sued Ferdous Steel for failing to ensure occupational safety, following repeated warnings dating back to February. That the company still continued to operate unhindered reflects a regulatory system that fundamentally lacks teeth. Besides, the tragedy struck less than a year after the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships took effect, setting rigorous new global standards for the industry. But such treaties mean little without domestic enforcement. Nothing, evidently, prevented the Sitakunda yard’s management from directing workers into an unventilated tank to rush gas extraction, rather than adhering to the slower, safer venting procedures as prescribed by the convention.

Bangladesh built its position as a ship-recycling hub by undercutting competitors in Europe and the Gulf. Its lower costs were secured through weak environmental and safety enforcement, a reliance on casual, undertrained labour, and relentless pressure to keep yards running at full pace. The Chattogram coastline’s reliance on tidal beaching—running vessels aground to dismantle them largely by hand—is inherently more hazardous than the dry-dock alternatives used elsewhere. The result is, since 2014, 161 workers have died in Sitakunda’s shipbreaking yards, including a dozen this year.The operational failures at Friday’s accident site were quite dismal. According to witnesses, workers entered the gas-filled hold without basic masks or breathing apparatus. Even an assistant safety engineer, who died attempting to rescue workers he was hired to protect, lacked the necessary safety gear. While the court case against Ferdous Steel must proceed transparently, regulators must shift from paper audits prior to certification to active, operational verification. Bangladesh’s factory inspectorate must suspend a yard’s operating licence immediately when serious safety notices are ignored, rather than waiting months for court actions to unfold. Crucially, inspections must be unannounced and conducted during demolition work.Meanwhile, the Tk 10 lakh compensation per victim does nothing to explain why workers were sent into a hazardous environment wholly unprotected in the first place. What the state needs instead is a compensation system built on mandatory, risk-rated insurance funds that yards must carry as a condition of licensing, so redress doesn't depend on a disaster making the news. Accountability must also extend beyond Bangladesh. Global shipping lines choosing where to scrap end-of-life vessels, and the buyers purchasing the resulting steel, must practice genuine due diligence. A ship’s environmental and social footprint depends as much on how it is broken up as on how it was built. Finally, shipowners and yard operators cannot be left unpunished. Otherwise, human lives will continue to be treated as an acceptable cost of doing business.

PM calls for rebuilding

the foundation stone of the hospital on October 23, 2006. “With more modern facilities in response to the needs of the time, the hospital has now taken a larger form in terms of its size and capacity,” he said.The prime minister underscored the need to combine modern technology with humanity in medical services, saying, “Technology can identify a disease, but there is no alternative to a doctor’s humane behaviour in understanding a patient’s fear, anxiety and mental suffering and reassuring the patient.”

Teachers will no longer

teachers of private schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday received part of the funds deposited in two government funds after waiting for nearly four years since 2022. “The money from the Non-Government Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust and the Retirement Benefits Board has been sent directly to their accounts, bringing some relief to the long uncertainty in their lives,” he said.Strongly condemning the harassment faced by teachers in receiving their legitimate dues, Tarique Rahman said teachers, who educate millions of students about morality, ethics and ideals, should not be forced to pay bribes or visit offices repeatedly to get their own money.“If teachers have to pay bribes or suffer harassment by visiting offices to withdraw their money, it is not merely harassment of teachers; rather, it reflects our failure and disgrace as a nation,” he said. The Prime Minister said the government had succeeded in transferring the teachers’ dues directly to their bank accounts online without any hassle.

Referring to the difficulties in distributing the retirement benefits, Tarique Rahman said that the previous government had looted the two funds, as it had done in other sectors, including banking and insurance.

“The two funds were made insolvent by creating fake indexes, transferring teachers’ welfare fund money to weak banks for the purpose of looting and destroying their technological infrastructure,” he said adding that as a result, teachers had not received any money from the funds since 2022.The Prime Minister said the present BNP government, after assuming office, decided to pay the teachers despite financial constraint considering their hardship, and implemented the payment through special arrangements.Recalling former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman said the Non-Government Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust was established in 1991 and the Retirement Benefits Board in 2002 through her far-sighted initiatives.“She initially allocated Taka 14 crore and gradually built a fund of Taka 89 crore, laying a strong foundation for these funds,” he said.

Rizvi, Aman, Farhad Halim

the party’s National Standing Committee following his nomination as the party’s candidate for the presidential election. With the addition of the four new members, the number of members of the National Standing Committee now stands at 18.

Acting President stresses

cant contribution to the national economy and people’s livelihoods.The sector continues to play an important role in national development by meeting the protein and nutritional needs of the people, thereby helping build a healthy and skilled workforce, while also contributing to poverty alleviation, employment generation and foreign currency earnings, he added. The Acting President said the current democratic government is committed to the sustainable development of the fisheries

The fault lines that set the stage for August 15

Md. Neyamul Hossain

nence and eventually succeeded as the power centre. Civil-military relations were at the heart of Mujib’s assassination. His government’s handling of the armed forces and his way of navigating civilian supremacy and military power created tensions that ultimately exploded into the coup. Mujib believed in keeping the military under tight civilian control. He distrusted the army’s political ambitions, especially after seeing military dominance in Pakistan before 1971. His era is marked by a paradox. He strongly condemned corruption and nepotism, yet his government became associated

The question of whether Sheikh Mujib’s one-party rule (BAKSAL) was necessary is one of the most debated aspects of Bangladesh’s history. Mujib loyalists argue that it was introduced as a response to prevailing crises. But it was not inevitable. It was a political choice. Inevitability often drives tragedy—think of Oedipus, whose fate was sealed despite every attempt to avoid it. It was a political strategy born out of desperation to stabilise a fragile state, but it backfired. While he hoped BAKSAL would unify Bangladesh and accelerate development, it alienated the stakeholders instead.Mujib’s leadership evolved into authoritarianism, and in practice he behaved like a dictator in his final year. One may argue that his authoritarian turn was rooted in desperation to stabilise a war-ravaged, famine-stricken country rather than a lifelong ambition to rule absolutely. This distinction is why academia and politicians debate whether he was truly a dictator or a democratic leader who slid into authoritarianism under immense pressure. The question whether Mujib’s murder could have been avoided still remains. Alternatives like exile, house arrest, or negotiated reform could have removed him from power without.

with both. The combination of rhetoric without enforcement, favouritism towards family and loyalists, and widespread graft eroded trust in his leadership. This breakdown in governance and credibility was a key factor behind the military’s resentment.The rise of authoritarianism was a gradual process between January 1972 and August 1975, shaped by the challenges of governing a war-torn country, economic crises, and his desire to consolidate power. Even though Mujib began as a symbol of democracy and liberation, by 1975, his government shifted into a one-party authoritarian rule. This authoritarian turn was driven by crisis management, distrust in opposition, and desire for control.The 1974 famine was a turning point in Mujib’s relationship with the masses. It not only devastated livelihoods but also shattered his image as the “father of the nation” who had promised prosperity after independence. Mujib and his colleagues, in denial, ignored the severe food crisis and smelled conspiracy involving foreign hands, particularly the US government.The famine was more than a humanitarian disaster; it was a political disaster for Mujib. It

eroded his moral authority, alienated him from the people, and fuelled resentment within both society and the military. This breakdown of trust was a critical factor that set the stage for the coup. For the military, the famine was proof of the government’s incompetence and corruption, deepening their resentment towards Mujib’s leadership.The famine narrative became a political weapon for the coup leaders. By linking mass suffering directly to Mujib’s leadership, they justified his assassination as necessary for the nation’s survival. In reality, the famine was both a humanitarian tragedy and a political turning point, exploited by coup actors to gain public acceptance of their violent takeover.

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debate whether he was truly a dictator or a democratic leader who slid into authoritarianism under immense pressure. The question whether Mujib’s murder could have been avoided still remains. Alternatives like exile, house arrest, or negotiated reform could have removed him from power without bloodshed. But the coup leaders—driven by resentment, fear of Mujib’s enduring influence, and a desire for total control—chose assassination as the most decisive option. While the coup was carried out by mid-ranking officers, conspiracy theories highlight Mostaq’s betrayal, possible US foreknowledge, Pakistani influence, and Gen Zia’s conspicuous silence. These theories underscore that Mujib’s assassination was not just a military mutiny but part of a broader web of political and geopolitical intrigue. There is, however, no definitive documented evidence implicating top military officials of the time. What exists are circumstantial indications, testimonies, and political actions that suggest complicity or tacit approval of some, but researchers still debate the extent of their involvement.

the concerned authorities in this regard. They demanded that the legality of the factories, environmental clearances, land ownership and issues related to their operation be investigated impartially and necessary legal action be taken. However, Md. Mosharraf Hossain's statement could not be obtained.

NU to form part-time teacher

2013-14 to 2017-18 academic sessions a special opportunity to sit for the examinations again.It also approved the inclusion of freelancing courses-graphics design, video editing and web design-as well as culinary science (chef) and human resource management in the university’s skill-based PGD programme.The council approved a four-credit Applied ICT course for second-year students of degree (pass) and honours programmes and a Functional English course for first-year students. The meeting discussed recognising certificates of three-year degree (pass) and one-year master’s preliminary programmes as equivalent to four-year degree certificates.

A high-level committee will contact the relevant government authorities for final approval.The council also considered a proposal to allow students with CGPAs below 2.25 to sit for improvement examinations on special consideration. It approved regulations for four-year LLB (Honours) programmes at affiliated colleges.The VC said the university’s academic decisions were aimed at securing students’ future by equipping them with practical skills alongside academic

Fraudster allegedly pays Tk

said Bablu Kazi and his associates had long been defrauding people by posing as officials of the Ministry of Land.The gang allegedly entered into agreements with job seekers, promising them government jobs without any examination. They would tell the victims that they could pay the money even after joining the job, he said.

Recently, the gang allegedly took Tk 13 lakh from Md Sabuj Sarker, a resident of Nagarkanda in Faridpur, promising him a government job. The money was taken from him at different times between June 25 and July 26.Police said the gang used forged government seals and the signature of a deputy secretary to prepare fake appointment letters and gazettes. They would then take job seekers to government offices and have them sign fake attendance registers.The gang allegedly paid the victims Tk 30,000 per month from its own funds for the first three months so that the fraud would not be detected easily. After taking a large amount of money, the members would cut off communication and go into hiding.Police recovered fake appointment orders, joining letters and gazettes bearing forged government seals and signatures, as well as a fake attendance register, from Bablu Kazi.During the investigation, DB found that the gang targeted government offices where large numbers of people gathered. One member would pose as a senior government official, while others would act as his driver or office assistant and move freely around government offices.A regular case has been filed with Pallabi Police Station in connection with the incident. The DB is continuing its drive to arrest other members of the gang, police said.

77 Pieces of Yaba Tablets Seized

In discussions with people of various ages from Rajoir village, it was learned that Al-Amin is now in jail.

The locals also said that if police arrest other drug dealers including Elias Munshi, the “Yaba King” of Sarankhola Government Honors College intersection, and “Gaza” Nassir, then the residents will be able to live with peace and dignity.

sector. To fulfil its electoral pledges, the government has undertaken various programmes across the country for the excavation, re-excavation and conservation of rivers, canals and water bodies, he said, adding that these initiatives have created significant opportunities to increase overall fish production. He said various programmes, including policy support, have also been undertaken to improve the livelihoods and ensure the economic security of people in coastal areas, haor-baor regions and riverine communities.Fishers have also been included in the government’s landmark ‘Farmer Card’ distribution programme, while the ‘Those who own the nets, own the water bodies (Jaal Jar, Jola Tar)’ policy is being implemented, he said.Alongside developing improved fish varieties and expanding the production of quality feed and processing industries, various plans are being adopted and implemented to increase fish exports, the Acting President said. He expressed hope that the successful implementation of these initiatives would play an important role in ensuring the sustainable development of the country’s fisheries resources. The Acting President stressed that there is no alternative to improving the socioeconomic conditions of marginal fishers, ensuring fair prices for fish farmers and marginal farmers, and strengthening research, investment and new initiatives in the sector.He called upon all concerned to work collectively with the government to achieve the desired development of the fisheries sector.The Acting President extended his sincere greetings and congratulations to all fish farmers, fishers, traders, entrepreneurs, fisheries researchers, scientists and others associated with the sector on the occasion. He wished overall success to all programmes undertaken on the occasion.

Muktadir for harnessing Sylhet

room of Hotel Metro in Sylhet city yesterday, said a ministry press release.

Muktadir said a significant amount of fallow and single-crop land still remains in Sylhet region. Due to the geographical characteristics of the region, water remains stagnant in haor and low-lying areas during a certain period of the year. “If arrangements can be made to drain water from these areas, a large amount of land can be brought under cultivation,” he said.

Similarly, he said, ensuring irrigation facilities in lands that remain uncultivated during a particular period due to lack of irrigation could turn single-crop land into double-crop and double-crop land into triple-crop land. He identified canal excavation as an effective solution for both draining stagnant water during the wet season and ensuring irrigation water during the dry season.

Referring to the successful cultivation of watermelon in Sylhet, the minister said it was an example of the potential of new and non-traditional agricultural products in the region. “Through early watermelon production, farmers in Sylhet are gaining a special advantage in the country’s market,” he said.Muktadir suggested exploring the potential for beet cultivation in cold-prone areas, including Moulvibazar and Sreemangal. As beet can be produced within a short period, he said, farmers can also cultivate other crops on the same land.He called for pilot projects to assess the potential of such agricultural products.

The minister said an initiative would be taken to organise a special programme in Sylhet next week involving the Director General (DG) of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Agriculture Secretary and other relevant officials to discuss the future potential of agriculture and livestock in the Sylhet division, area-based projects, farmers’ training, supply of agricultural inputs and government support. He said that alongside industrial and infrastructure develop-

ment, a major part of employment and economic activities in rural areas of the country depends on agriculture.

“Therefore, we must ensure the optimum use of every piece of agricultural land and secure the highest possible production and return,” he said.

“If productivity can be increased, the country’s overall food production could rise manifold,” he said, adding that Bangladesh has the opportunity to become a stronger producer and exporter of food, particularly rice, in the future. The minister further said farmers who take risks to cultivate new crops are showing the way towards new opportunities in agriculture.

“Those who have taken risks in cultivating new crops such as watermelon and onion are courageous farmers. We have to take Sylhet’s agriculture forward by following the path they have shown,” he said.

He called for harnessing Sylhet’s agricultural potential through farmers’ training, expansion of modern technologies, supply of agricultural inputs and area-based planning.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Md Mashiur Rahman presided over the workshop.Additional Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension Dr Md Mosharraf Hossain, Chairman of Sylhet Development Authority Rezaul Hasan Koyes Lodi, Sylhet Zila Parishad Administrator Abul Kaher Chowdhury Shamim, Sylhet Red Crescent Society Vice Chairman Badruzzaman Selim, Sylhet Metropolitan BNP General Secretary Emdad Hossain Chowdhury and Project Director Md Rakib Uddin, among others, attended the workshop.Agriculture officials from different levels of Sylhet division, farmers and media representatives were also present.

70,000 teachers to receive

ance of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, around Taka 2,100 crore has been allocated to provide these benefits to a large number of teachers and employees across the country.

Citing statistics, the minister said, “Yesterday, the retirement benefits of 70,019 teachers and the welfare benefits of 53,000 teachers are being transferred directly to their accounts simultaneously across the country. Yesterday’s initiative will remain an important chapter in the administrative history of the education sector.”Referring to the achievements of the government during its first 180 days, Dr Milon said, “During the first 180 days of the present government, the Education Ministry has taken several significant initiatives. Due to the short time available, some plans could not be fully completed, and those will be implemented gradually in the days ahead.”

Senior officials of the Private Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust and the Retirement Benefits Board, educationists and teacher representatives from across the country attended the programme.

Various allegations surrounding

lawsuits are also being discussed in the area. However, the local residents could not present any written or documented evidence in support of these allegations.

It was learned from talking to the locals on the spot that the factory has been operating for a long time. There have been various discussions in the area about its activities for a long time. Some residents, on condition of anonymity, said that they are afraid to complain publicly.

The locals alleged that the smoke and other waste emitted during the burning of lime is having an adverse effect on the surrounding environment. They also raised questions about the legality of operating such factories in populated areas.

The local residents have drawn the attention of the Sonargaon Upazila Administration, the Department of Environment and



Ensuring access to justice is state's responsibility: Asaduzzaman

Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman yesterday said ensuring access to justice is an integral part of protecting human rights and it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that citizens can exercise their inherent and universal rights. "Access to justice is not limited to dispute resolution or mediation; rather, its core objective is to preserve, protect and ensure the human rights of every citizen. Even a

person accused of a serious crime has the right to defend themselves and the state must ensure that right," he said. The law minister made the remarks while inaugurating a two-day coordination meeting on the "Accelerating Digital Legal Aid Services in Bangladesh" project at BRAC-CDM in Rajendrapur, Gazipur this morning. Judges, legal aid officers and other relevant stakeholders are taking part in the meeting. Md Asaduzzaman said judges should not confine themselves to the "black letters of the law" but interpret laws in light of

the facts of each case, the social context and the objectives of justice. The law minister directed the Director General of the Directorate of Bangladesh Legal Aid to take necessary steps to recognise eight "Best Legal Aid Officers"—one from each of the country's eight divisions—for outstanding and exemplary performance in providing legal aid services. He also called for initiatives to recognise 20 judicial officers nationwide for their outstanding and exemplary performance in the judiciary. He further said such

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Bangladesh stands on Begum Zia's uncompromising leadership: Amir Khosru

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) National Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said that Bangladesh stands only because of the uncompromising leadership of former Prime Minister Desh Netri Begum Khaleda Zia. "Begum Khaleda Zia had to lead the struggles for the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh, independence and sovereignty, improvement of the living standards of people from all walks of life, and political and democratic rights (of the country)," he said. Khosru, also finance and planning minister, made the remark while speaking at a milad and doa mahfil at the BNP's Nayapaltn central office in the capital, marking the 82nd birthday of former Prime Minister and late BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, dubbed as 'Gonotantir Maa' (Mother of Democracy). Noting that difficult times come in politics, he said those who can overcome such difficult times, withstand pressure and sur

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Bangladesh, Kosovo reaffirm strong opposition to all forms of transnational crimes

Staff correspondent

Recognising their common commitment to peace, stability, and international security, Bangladesh and Kosovo have reaffirmed their strong opposition to terrorism, violent extremism, and all forms of transnational crimes. South Asians & Diaspora They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect, shared values, common interests, and the principles of international law. The issues of mutual interest were discussed at the second Foreign Office Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of the Republic of Kosovo held in Prishtina recently. The Bangladeshi delegation was led by Dr. M. Nazrul Islam, Secretary (Bilateral—East & West) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the Kosovar delegation was led by Ilir Muçaj, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora. The two sides acknowledged the significant untapped potential for expanding bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade,

investment, education, agriculture, information and communication technology, tourism, labour mobility, and people-to-people exchanges. They agreed to continue working closely to fully utilise the complementarities of their respective economies for mutual benefit. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the steady progress achieved since the establishment of diplomatic relations, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides welcomed the bilateral instruments concluded thus far and emphasized their importance in strengthening institutional cooperation. They agreed that bilateral relations would be further enhanced through the early conclusion of the agreements currently under negotiation, particularly those related to economic cooperation, the avoidance of double taxation, and other mutually beneficial areas. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation at both the bilateral and multilateral levels and agreed to continue close coordination and consultation in regional and international organizations on issues of mutual interest. The Kosovo side highly appreciated Bangladesh's

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After digging the canal, the UNO of Amtoli returned 3.7 million taka. The Prime Minister's encouragement for his good work

Amtoli (Barguna) Representative

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman took up the canal digging work program for the employment of the extremely poor people. After digging the two canals of this project, Amtoli Upazila Nirbahi Officer Muhammad Zafar Arif Chowdhury deposited 3.7 million 50

thousand 540 taka in the government treasury. For his brave initiative, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called him on Saturday and after a courtesy call, gave him fake praise and encouragement for his good work. At the same time, the Prime Minister gave various directions for the development of the upazila. Amtoli

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Main work of Teesta Master Plan to visibly start next year: Dulu

Staff correspondent

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu has said that the main work of the Teesta Master Plan (TMP) will visibly start from next year after completing the necessary technical tests and inspections. "The government is moving ahead in a planned manner to ensure long-term and sustainable development around Teesta River," he said. He said this in

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Foreign investors should be attracted for the development of the country

— Shama Obaid

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter:

For the last 17 years, there was a government without vote in this country, there was a dictatorial government, who only exploited from our people but did not do anything to improve their quality of life, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid Islam said that during the tenure of power, the fascist government carried out torture all over Bangladesh. In protest of these tortures, thousands of leaders and workers of BNP carried out the July Revolution. As a result, the killers fled the country. They are coming again. He said this while laying the foundation stone of the building-cum-flood shelter center on the premises of Mazhardia Government Primary School in Saltha Upazila of Faridpur on Friday afternoon.

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National Grid Disruption: Gas Crisis Hits Feni Again, Public Life Paralyzed



Staff Reporter

A sudden halt in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply to the national grid has plunged Feni into a severe gas crisis once again. Marking the second disruption within just a week, the deficit has brought the district's social and economic activities to a near standstill.

?Since Wednesday afternoon, the shortage has hit the transport sector hard, halted indus-

trial production, and left thousands of household burners unlit, causing immense suffering to residents. ?Supply Drops to Half of Demand

?According to sources at the Feni office of Bakhra Gas Distribution Company Limited (BGDCL), the daily gas demand for the Feni, Noakhali, and

Lakshmipur regions is approximately 28 million cubic feet (MMCFD). However, the region is currently receiving only 12 to 14 MMCFD from the national grid—less than half of what is required. ?The crisis has directly impacted nearly 25,000 residential consumers across the district, including 19,000 in Feni town alone, leaving many households unable to cook. Additionally, operations at 12 CNG filling stations, 29

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No one in BNP will be spared if gets involved in crime: Habibur Rashid

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Road Transport and Bridges and Railways Habibur Rashid Habib yesterday said that no one in the BNP would be spared if he or she gets involved in crimes and warned that organizational action would be taken against party leaders and activists who shelter or patronize criminals. "Any activity that harms people or the area will not be tolerated. Even if it is politically damaging, there would be no compromise with the criminals," he said. The state minister made the remarks at a tree

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Unmanaged Waste Plagues Borojyarhat Municipality: Lack of Dumping Station Sparks Public Distress

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

?Environmental pollution has reached an alarming level in Borojyarhat Municipality—one of Chattogram's key commercial hubs—due to the absence of a designated dumping station and a permanent waste management framework.

?Indiscriminate dumping of garbage along key points of the municipality, on footpaths, and adjacent to the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway is subjecting local residents, commuters, and traders to severe daily hardship.

?A spot visit revealed heaps of household waste, plastic bottles, and rotting food dumped along the Borojyarhat stretch of the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, as well as main market entrances and pedestrian walkways. Lacking a permanent waste facility, the municipality and market authorities frequently discard garbage in open public spaces and along roadsides. The decaying waste emits an unbearable stench, creating



significant health hazards for pedestrians, local business owners, and transit passengers. ?Local traders and daily commuters expressed intense frustration, noting that thousands of people navigate the market area and highway daily. The lack of a structured, planned cleanliness drive has rendered footpaths virtually impassable. Beyond the environmental degradation, open dumping along a national highway severely damages the aesthetic image and civic profile of the municipality.

?Residents and civic activists have called on municipal authorities to urgently designate a permanent

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Plaster Falls from Dimla Police Station Ceiling, ASI Injured, Computer Damaged

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) was injured after a portion of the ceiling plaster fell in the duty officer's room at Dimla Police Station in Nilphamari. A computer used in the duty officer's room was also damaged in the incident. The accident occurred at around 11:00 pm on Friday (August 14).

According to police sources, a portion of the ceiling plaster suddenly came loose and fell on the shoulder of ASI Md. Moslim Uddin, who was

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

এম.বি.বি.এস (সি.ইউ)
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এমপিএইচ (এপিডেমিওলজি)
সি.সি.ডি (বারডেম)
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক ও বিভাগীয় প্রধান
বিজিসি ট্রান্স মেডিকেল কলেজ
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সীতাকুণ্ড বাজার, চট্টগ্রাম।

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

A humanitarian doctor usually provides free treatment and medicine to poor, helpless, and destitute patients



Two People, Including a Child, Die of Snakebites in Kishoreganj

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Two people, including a child, have died after being bitten by snakes in separate incidents in Kishoreganj upazila of Nilphamari. They died while undergoing treatment at the Upazila Health Complex and Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The deceased were Luna, 10, daughter of Abdur Rahim of Nayan Khal Baidya Para in Bahagili Union, and Bijoy Roy, 20, son of Bipul Roy of Jurabandha Malipara in Borabhita Union. According to locals, Bijoy Roy used to perform snake shows. On the night of August 7, he went to a local house where a Hindu religious event featuring Manasa songs was being held. While performing a snake show for the audience, a snake bit him on the hand. His relatives took him to Kishoreganj Upazila Health Complex. After receiving initial treatment, he was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment. He died there while undergoing treatment on Thursday night. Meanwhile, on Thursday night, 10-year-old Luna was sleeping with her parents at their home in Nayan Khal Baidya Para. At midnight, a snake entered the room and bit her on the right hand. Her relatives took her to Kishoreganj Upazila Health Complex, where the attending physician declared her dead on Friday morning while she was undergoing treatment. Kishoreganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdur Gafur confirmed the incident and said, “Two people, including a child, have died from snakebites. It is a very sad and tragic incident.



Rubel sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in Madrasa student abduction case in Nagarkanda

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The court sentenced a young man named Rubel Khandkar (20) to five years rigorous imprisonment in the case of abduction and ransom demand of a madrasa student in Nagarkanda, Faridpur. At the same time, he has been ordered to pay a fine of 20,000 taka, and in default of payment, another three months imprisonment. However, the other accused in the case, Sohail Mollah, was acquitted as the crime was not proved. Judge (District and Sessions Judge) Shamima Parveen of Faridpur Women and Child Torture Prevention Tribunal announced this verdict on Wednesday afternoon. Convicted Rubel Khandkar is currently absconding. According to the details of the case, Hedayet Ullah, a 10-year-old student of a residential madrasa in Nagarkanda, went missing on January 14, 2016. The next day on January 15, the abductors demanded a ransom of Tk 5 lakh from the child's father on a mobile phone or threatened to kill him. In this incident, the child's father said. Kamal Khandkar filed a case at Nagarkanda police station. After the investigation, the police filed a charge sheet against Rubel Khandkar and Sohail Molla in the court. The court gave this verdict after a long judicial process and taking evidence. Counsel for the State (PP) Advocate Golam Rabbani confirmed the verdict and said that the court sentenced Rubel to rigorous imprisonment and fine as the charge of child abduction was proved and he was acquitted as there was no charge against the other accused.

Tragic Death of Elderly Woman in Boat Accident at Khrampur Mazar Sharif in Akhaura

M Badal Khandakar District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria

An elderly woman named Tajel Bibi (75) tragically died in a boat accident while coming to attend the annual Urs of Hazrat Khrampur Kella Shahid (R.) at the Mazar Sharif in Akhaura, Brahmanbaria. The accident occurred around 5:00 PM on Friday (August 14) near the concrete jetty at the railway bridge adjacent to Khrampur Mazar. The deceased, Tajel Bibi, was the wife of the late Suruj Ali from Changhat village, Ward No. 1 of Changhat Union, Bahubal Upazila, Habiganj District. According to local sources and eyewitnesses, thousands of devotees, followers and visitors from different parts of the country gathered at Khrampur Mazar Sharif on the occasion of the annual Urs of Hazrat Khrampur Kella Shahid (R.). On Friday afternoon, Tajel Bibi was also coming to the jetty near the mazar by boat along with other devotees. While the boat was docking at the jetty, it either lost control or was hit unexpectedly, causing Tajel Bibi to fall into the water from the boat. People nearby immediately tried to rescue her. She was later rescued and taken for treatment, but she ultimately died. News of the incident cast a pall of grief over the devotees and followers who had come to the mazar area. Deep mourning has also descended upon her native village of Changhat in Bahubal Upazila, Habiganj. Every year, a huge number of devotees and visitors from across the country gather at the annual Urs of Hazrat Khrampur Kella Shahid (R.). Due to the massive gathering in the mazar area during the Urs, river transport also increases. The death of an elderly woman in a boat accident during such a religious event has cast a shadow of sorrow among those present. Following the incident, locals have demanded stronger safety measures on water vessels, caution during passenger boarding and disembarking, and adequate security at the jetty area.

Trivedi stresses stronger

tivity to security and healthcare.“Let us also continue to nurture the exceptional bonds of friendship between India and Bangladesh, working hand in hand toward shared prosperity,” he said.Reflecting on the foundations of bilateral relations, the envoy said the bond between the two countries is deeply intertwined with their shared history.

9 Killed by Toxic Gas at

Shipbreaking Yard, owned by Md. Ferdous Wahid, located along the sea coast near Bhatiyari Station Road. Among the deceased are Sani Jaldash (18), son of Pradip Jaldash of Shani Thakurpara; Palash Jaldash (35), son of Sidam Jaldash; Mansur Ali (45) and Nasir Uddin (42), sons of Sekander of Moulavipara in Bhatiyari. Idris of Jamalpur, shift-in-charge Sujon, Habib and Rana were also reported to have died. According to local residents and workers, a worker was attempting to remove a plate from the tank of an old LPG carrier vessel when accumulated gas or toxic fumes inside the tank suddenly spread. Workers present at the site were affected within moments. Several people, including a journalist who rushed to help with the rescue operation, also became ill. Co-workers, local residents, Fire Service personnel and police later joined the rescue operation. The injured were quickly taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for treatment. It is initially suspected that the accident may have been caused by accumulated gas or toxic fumes inside the tank of the old vessel. However, the exact cause cannot be confirmed until the investigation is completed. Tension Over Closed Gate, Vandalism Reported Following the accident, local people gathered at the yard gate to assist with the rescue operation. It was alleged that the authorities kept the gate closed. Relatives of the victims claimed that more lives might have been saved if the gate had been opened quickly and the injured workers had been taken to hospital without delay.

Petrobangla supplies

874 mmcfd, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) 477 mmcfd, Sylhet GAS Fields Limited (SGFL) 139 mmcfd, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) 96 mmcfd and Tullow 29 mmcfd.The Petrobangla chairman said that Excelerate energy's FSRU would have to shutdown to bring it in full scale operation.The imported LNG supply to the national gas grid increased to 751 million cubic feet per day today as both floating LNG terminals operated by Excelerate Energy and Summit Group resumed operations following recent disruptions. However, the official said Summit was likely supplying around 450 mmcfd, with the remaining volume coming from Excelerate Energy's terminal at Moheshkhali.

Plaster Falls from Dimla

on duty as the duty officer at the time. He sustained minor injuries but narrowly escaped a more serious accident. Injured ASI Md. Moslim Uddin said, “I was performing my duties as the duty officer when a portion of the ceiling plaster suddenly came loose and fell on my shoulder, causing an injury.” Dimla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shawkat Ali Sarker confirmed the incident and said, “The matter has been reported to the Superintendent of Police. The previous OCs who served here had already submitted a demand for a new building.

National Grid Disruption: Gas

industrial units, and 7 captive power plants have been severely disrupted. SectorCurrent Impact Residential Consumers (25,000)Unlit stoves have halted cooking; residents are forced to buy LPG cylinders at high prices. Public Transport & CNG (12 Stations)Vehicles wait in long queues for hours with no gas; public transport on roads has dropped significantly. Industrial Units (29) & Power PlantsLow gas pressure has caused a major slump in manufacturing and operations. Commuters and Households Face Hardships ?Visits to several key points in the town, including the Nojir Ahmed and Star Line filling stations, revealed long queues of CNG-run auto-rickshaws and public transport waiting endlessly, only to return empty-handed. ?Bipul Sharma, Manager of Star Line Filling Station, said: ?"Against our daily demand of 11,000–12,000 cubic feet across three stations, the supply has been completely cut off since Wednesday afternoon. It may take a few more days for the situation to normalize."

Unmanaged Waste Plagues

dumping site and implement a modern waste collection and disposal framework. Conscious citizens emphasized that routine road sweeping alone will not solve the issue; a long-term solution requires dedicated disposal infrastructure. To mitigate environmental and public health risks, local sufferers are demanding immediate, decisive action from municipal authorities to ensure a cleaner, healthier Boroiyarahat.

Foreign investors should

Shama Obaid Islam while giving the speech of the chief guest said that 18 crore people of Bangladesh want development, they do not want to see fascism dictators. Of course they will come back to this country and when they come back, those who are convicted, shot and killed small children, they must go to jail and be punished according to the laws of Bangladesh. At the time, the minister said that the government's money should not be wasted, so that no dishonest circle gets an opportunity to commit corruption.

No one in BNP will be

plantation and fish fry release programme at the Sri Sri Bordeshwari Kalimata Temple ground in the Rajarbagh-Sabujbagh area of the capital. About drug abuse and other criminal activities, he said people involved in drug abuse, terrorism, and extortion must be brought under the law regardless of their political identity. "Even if anyone from the BNP is involved in such crimes, they will not be spared. Organizational action will also be taken against party leaders and activists who shelter or patronize criminals," Habibur Rashid added. Drawing the administration's attention, he said, "Do not consider anyone's political identity while arresting people involved in drugs abuse. Whoever they are, arrest them and send them to court. We want them punished."

BNP delivering beyond electoral going beyond them,” he said while responding to criticism over the government’s first 180 days initiatives. He made the remarks while speaking at an event at Dhaka’s Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The senior BNP leader described the retirement benefits being provided to retired private-school teachers as the BNP’s “32nd point,” although it was not included in the election manifesto. He said each retired teacher would receive around TK 500,000–TK 700,000 through the digitised iBAS++ system, with the money transferred directly to bank accounts. Highlighting the education initiatives of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Ahmed said efforts to promote practical, production-oriented and technical education began during his tenure. He added that former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia introduced the system of retirement benefits for teachers.

Main work of Teesta

response to questions from journalists after laying the foundation stone of a bridge over the Sanaijan River in the Kuchlibari



Milad and Doa Mahfil on the occasion of Begum Khaleda Zia's 82nd birthday in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Milad and Doa Mahfil were held in Faridpur on the occasion of 82nd birth anniversary of BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. This milad and prayer was organized at the model mosque of Bad Johar city on Saturday under the initiative of Faridpur Mahanagar Krishak Dal. Faridpur Mahanagar Krishakdal President Advocate Md. Local leaders and activists of the party participated under the leadership of Mamun or Rashid Mamun. A special prayer was conducted in the Mahfil to pray for the soul of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and for the overall welfare and prosperity of the country and nation. Leaders and workers of different organizations of Mahanagar Krishak Dal and BNP were present in the event.

area of Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat on this afternoon.The minister said that there will be no rush in implementing such a big project like the Teesta Master Plan to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness."The highest importance is being given to ensuring that public money is not wasted and that the project remains effective in the long term.

After digging the canal, the UNO

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Muhammad Zafar Arif Chowdhury is full of praise for such brave work. Fakhruddin Tahsin Mridha and Md. Rashimul Haque Rimon said that during the previous government, political leaders and bureaucrats would eat up all the money without working together. And during this government's tenure, the Amtali Upazila Executive Officer returned the money to the government treasury after completing the work. This is the first such scene in Amtali. I have never heard of or seen any example of any UNO returning money to the government treasury after completing the work. If every political leader and government official were like this, it would not take long for the country to move forward.It is reported that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has taken the initiative to dig two canals in Amtali Upazila under the employment project for the extremely poor. On April 8, the Disaster Management Department allocated 77 lakh 28 thousand 842 taka for digging a 3-kilometer canal of the West Kewabunia Canal of Kukua Union and 51 lakh 53 thousand 995 taka for digging a 2-kilometer canal of the Pashurbunia Canal of Haldia Union. 397 extremely poor beneficiaries did this digging work. Amtali Upazila Executive Officer Muhammad Zafar Arif Chowdhury supervised the digging work. He completed the digging work of the canal beautifully and smoothly. After digging the canal, UNO has planted different species of trees on both banks of the canal to enhance its beauty. After digging the canal and planting trees, UNO has returned 37 lakh 50 thousand 540 taka to the government treasury. Due to such honest, brave and great initiative of UNOs, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called 84 UNOs from all over Bangladesh for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister's Office on Saturday. Later, the Prime Minister listened to them about the benefits and beautification of the canal and various suggestions for the development of the upazila. Later, the Prime Minister gave them directions for various development-oriented activities in the upazila.

Bangladesh, Kosovo reaffirm

longstanding contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations and expressed its sincere gratitude to the members of the Bangladesh to the UN Peace Keeping Forces who served in Kosovo. SouthAsians & DiasporaThe Bangladeshi side welcomed Kosovo's growing participation in international and regional organizations and initiatives and expressed its support for Kosovo's continued integration into international organizations, conventions, and multilateral mechanisms as an equal participant.The Kosovo side commended Bangladesh for its humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis and expressed its support for Bangladesh's efforts aimed at ensuring the safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable repatriation of the displaced Rohingya population to Rakhine State in Myanmar.The Kosovo side also underlined the importance of sustained engagement by the international community to facilitate a durable solution to the crisis.

The two sides recognized the growing demand for labour mobility and underlined the importance of establishing a structured framework for the recruitment and employment of Bangladeshi workers in Kosovo.They agreed to explore the possibility of developing government-to-government (G2G) cooperation mechanisms that would ensure transparent, orderly, and mutually beneficial labour migration.The two sides emphasised the importance of maintaining regular Foreign Office Consultations as an effective mechanism for strengthening bilateral cooperation, reviewing progress, and identifying new areas of collaboration.They agreed to hold the third Foreign Office Consultations in Dhaka during 2027 at a mutually convenient date.The consultations were held in a constructive atmosphere, reflecting the excellent relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the People's Republic of Bangladesh and their shared commitment to further deepening bilateral cooperation.

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5 people jailed for drug use in Rajapur,Jalakati

Rajapur Correspondent

The upazila administration has arrested five people on charges of drug use in two separate places in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi. Later, each was given a three-month non-commissioned prison sentence and a fine of Tk 1,000 through a mobile court. The drive was conducted at two separate places on Saturday (August 15) at around 8:30 pm under the leadership of Rajapur Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) Rifat Ara Mauri. The people arrested in the drive are - Sujan Tewari (45), father Jayram Tewari, Bara Kaibartkhali; Md. Mizanur Rahman (42), father Gani Hawlader, Bara Galua; Tuhin (22), father Mauje Ali Hawlader, Purba Fulhar; Md. Saiful Hawlader (24), father Mauje Ali Hawlader, Bara Kaibartkhali and Md. Rabbi (20), father Md. Babul Hawlader, is a resident of Manoharpur area. They are all residents of Rajapur upazila. According to the upazila administration sources, they were caught consuming yaba and ganja during the operation. Later, when they were produced before the mobile court, each was given a three-month non-compulsory imprisonment and a fine of Tk 1,000. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Mauri said that the anti-drug operation will continue.



Alok Karmakar convener of Awami League's affiliate organization Jubo League, whose activities are banned in Kawkhali

Pirojpur Correspondent:

Police have arrested Alok Karmakar, convener of Awami League's affiliate organization Awami League's Upazila branch, Awami League's publicity secretary and principal of Kawkhali Women's College, whose activities are banned in Kawkhali, Pirojpur. He was arrested in front of Madan Mohan Ziur Akhrabari in the upazila on Wednesday afternoon. According to police sources, he was arrested in a case of vandalism, arson and explosives act at the Kawkhali Upazila BNP office on August 4, 2024. The case was filed at Kawkhali Police Station in October 2024. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kawkhali Police Station Md. Anwar Hossain said that Alok Karmakar was arrested on Wednesday afternoon in a case of vandalism of the BNP office. Later, he was sent to Pirojpur court on Thursday (August 13).



Illegal Border Crossing Attempt in Feni: Two Women Arrested and Remanded to Custody

Staff Reporter

Two Bangladeshi women were arrested on Friday night while attempting to illegally enter India through the Phulgazi border area in Feni. Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), assisted by the Village Defence Party (VDP), detained them from the Madhya Kamalla area near the Noapur border. The arrestees have been identified as Sona Laxmi (70), wife of late Sudhir Das from Nayakhali village in Mehendiganj Upazila, Barishal, and Shantana (40), wife of Bishu Das from Dolgoni village in Chitalmari Upazila, Bagerhat. According to BGB sources, the two women were spotted moving suspiciously near border pillar 2131-7 S under the Noapur Border Outpost (BOP) of the 10 BGB Battalion. Members of the local VDP intercepted them while they were attempting to cross into Indian territory and handed them over to a BGB patrol team. BGB later transferred the arrestees to Phulgazi Police Station for legal action. Md. Shaheen Miah, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Phulgazi Police Station, stated that preliminary investigations revealed both women had previously lived in India. They had recently arrived in Bangladesh and were attempting to return across the border. The OC added that a case has been filed against them under the relevant passport and border control laws. A Feni court ordered them sent to prison on Saturday afternoon.

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Magnitude 7.7 quake hits Indonesia, killing at least 38

International Desk

A powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off Indonesia's Flores island early Saturday, killing at least 38 people, damaging or destroying buildings and triggering panic among residents in the quake-prone region. More than a dozen people were injured in the earthquake, which prompted authorities to issue a tsunami warning before it was lifted after monitoring showed no significant changes in sea levels that threatened coastal communities.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck at a depth of 10 kilometers at 5:58 a.m. local time. Its epicenter was about 68 kilometers north-northwest of Ende in East Nusa Tenggara province. Several aftershocks followed the main tremor.

National Disaster Management Agency chief Suharyanto said rescuers had recovered at least 38 bodies, mostly from the Sikka, Manggarai and East Manggarai regencies. Sixteen of the bodies were recovered from a landslide in Reok village in Manggarai.

At least 13 injured people were taken to nearby hospitals, including two in serious condition.

Three helicopters and a rescue vessel were deployed to help deliver supplies and support emergency operations, including possible evacuations. Authorities said the region's numerous islands and difficult terrain were complicating access to affected areas.

Around 2,000 residents of Nagekeo regency fled their homes and moved to temporary shelters, officials said.

East Nusa Tenggara Police Chief Rudi Darmoko said the earthquake caused widespread damage and brought down buildings. Power outages in several cities and villages also disrupted communications and made rescue operations more difficult.

Landslides triggered by the earthquake in Ende regency blocked sections of the Trans-Flores highway, a roughly 700-kilometer road connecting Labuan Bajo and Larantuka.

Local television footage showed patients being evacuat-



Michigan shootings leave six dead, including suspect

International Desk

A series of shootings in Michigan resulted in the deaths of five victims and the suspected shooter on Friday, authorities said. Police conducted an extensive search across two residences and a nearby wooded area before locating the suspect.

Michigan State Police said officers were called shortly before noon to a home in Missaukee County, roughly 170 miles northwest of Detroit, after receiving reports of gunfire. When officers arrived, they found three people dead and another person critically injured. The injured victim was transported to a hospital.

Police identified the suspected shooter as 39-year-old Chad Hickman, who had left the residence before officers arrived. Authorities launched a large-scale search and later discovered a fourth deceased person at another nearby home.

Police warned residents through a post on X that Hickman was believed to be armed and dangerous and urged people not to approach him.

Investigators eventually located Hickman's vehicle in a wooded area near Whitlock Lake. The search led officers to the bodies of Hickman and another deceased person, bringing the total number of deaths to six, including the suspect.

"This situation is heartbreaking for the community and challenging for the investigators involved," Lt. Ashley Miller said. She added that investigators would continue working through the night to examine and process each of the crime scenes.

Authorities asked residents to stay away from the locations connected to the shootings while the investigation continued.

Police had not immediately released the identities or ages of the victims because their families had not yet been notified.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said she had been briefed about the incident and was closely monitoring developments.

"My thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the Missaukee community," Whitmer said

ed from several hospitals as a precaution. Medical workers moved beds, oxygen cylinders and other equipment outside and established temporary treatment areas.

The earthquake was strongly felt across much of Flores, with reports of damage from several areas.

Yohanna Embu, a resident of Sikka regency, said people ran toward higher ground after the strong shaking. She said several buildings were damaged, including the waiting area of the port terminal in Maumere, which collapsed.

At St. Peter Major Seminary in Sikka, students attending morning Mass fled after part of an assembly hall collapsed, according to seminary rector Rev. Guidelbertus Tanga. He said one priest suffered a broken leg after jumping from the second floor.

The tremor also caused panic in Labuan Bajo, a major gateway to Komodo National Park. Damage was reported in Bima in neighboring West Nusa Tenggara province and in parts of southern Sulawesi.

Authorities initially issued a tsunami warning for parts of East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi and advised residents to stay away from beaches and riverbanks. The warning was later withdrawn after no dangerous sea-level changes were detected.

Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because it lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area marked by numerous tectonic faults and volcanoes.

The country has experienced several devastating earthquakes and tsunamis. A 1992 earthquake and tsunami killed about 2,500 people on Flores.

In 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake triggered a tsunami and widespread liquefaction in and around Palu, killing more than 4,400 people. In 2010, an offshore earthquake generated a 3-meter wave that struck the Mentawai Islands, killing more than 400 people.

In December 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a massive tsunami that killed about 230,000 people across a dozen countries.

At least 16 killed, 40 injured in Cameroon bus crash

International Desk

At least 16 people were killed and approximately 40 others injured early Friday following a collision on the Yaounde-Bafoussam highway in Cameroon.

The accident took place at Nomale in the Ndikinimeki subdivision of the Mbam-et-Inoubou division, located in the Centre region.

According to police and eyewitness, a passenger bus slammed into a parked truck loaded with planks. Among those killed were seven members of the same family who were traveling to attend a funeral.

State broadcaster media said the number of injuries, while local police confirmed that formal investigations have been launched to determine the precise cause of the crash.

Road accidents are a common occurrence in Cameroon, frequently attributed to reckless driving and poor infrastructure. Data from the Cameroonian Ministry of Transport reveals that approximately 1,500 people die annually in road-related incidents across the central African nation.

Delhi High Court, Airport receive bomb threats ahead of Independence Day

International Desk

Security has been beefed up in the Indian capital after the Delhi High Court, Indira Gandhi International Airport, and several other key installations received bomb threats via email on Friday, just a day before the country's 80th Independence Day celebrations.

The threatening email, titled "Blast Delhi High Court @2:11 PM" and sent in the name of the separatist movement "Khalistan," detailed plans to blow up multiple locations across the city. The message claimed that members of the movement, which seeks to create an independent sovereign state for Sikhs, have already reached Delhi.

According to the email, a bomb is set to explode at the Delhi High Court on Saturday afternoon at 2:11 PM, followed by blasts at various district courts an hour later. The message asserted that the attacks are a response to cases being heard in Delhi courts, alleging that the judiciary only hears cases against Sikhs.

Beyond the courts and IGI Airport Terminal 3, threats were issued for six other locations: Jamnagar House, the Jhandewalan building, the Saket office, the District Magistrate's Office, and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Office in Delhi Cantt. The email also threatened the Delhi Metro and trains bound for Ambala.

Indian authorities have dispatched fire tenders and security teams to all mentioned sites. While intensive investigations are currently underway, officials confirmed that nothing suspicious has been found so far.

Japan PM skips Yasukuni Shrine on war surrender anniversary

International Desk

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi stayed away from Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine on Saturday as Japan marked the 81st anniversary of its surrender in World War II, apparently seeking to avoid further tensions with China and South Korea.

However, in her address marking the anniversary, Takaichi did not refer to Japan's wartime aggression in Asia or express remorse for atrocities committed during the war.

She paid tribute to those who died in the devastation of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa, as well as Japanese troops who died on overseas battlefields, describing their sacrifice as the foundation of Japan's peace and prosperity.

"Japan, since the end of the war, has consistently contributed to global peace and prosperity. We will never let the tragedy of the war be repeated," she said, stressing that Japan could play an important role in addressing regional and global challenges as a reliable nation.

Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, another Cabinet minister and three senior officials of Takaichi's governing Liberal Democratic Party visited Yasukuni Shrine earlier Saturday.

The shrine honours Japan's war dead, including 14 convicted Class-A war criminals, and visits by Japanese political leaders have long drawn strong criticism from China and South Korea, which regard them as signs that Japan has failed to properly confront its wartime past.

China's Foreign Ministry lodged a protest with Japan over the shrine visits, accusing Japanese politicians of attempting to revise the historical judgment on wartime criminals, conceal Japan's wartime atrocities and distort historical facts. Beijing called on Tokyo to seriously reflect on its wartime history and abandon militarism.

Relations between Japan and China have been strained since November, when Takaichi said a Chinese attack on Taiwan could create a situation threatening Japan's survival and potentially require Tokyo to use force.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday that Seoul would continue pursuing pragmatic diplomacy based on national interests while expanding cooperation with Japan.



Modi says Maoist insurgency nearing end, warns of ideological threat

International Desk

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country's decades-old Maoist insurgency was nearing an end, but warned that people supporting the movement's ideology could continue to pose a threat.

Addressing the nation on India's 79th Independence Day from the Red Fort in New Delhi, Modi said years of security operations had pushed armed Maoist rebels to the brink of defeat.

He claimed that security forces had succeeded in removing armed Naxalites from forest areas, but warned of what he described as "dimagi Naxals," or people who support the movement ideologically. "We have succeeded in getting rid of armed Naxals in the jungles, but 'dimagi Naxals' are looking for opportunities to create violence and unrest," Modi said, urging authorities to identify and isolate them. The Maoist insurgency, also known as the Naxalite movement, has challenged state authority across parts of central and eastern India for decades. The conflict has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, rebels and security personnel. The movement began in 1967 with an uprising in Naxalbari village in eastern India and later developed into an armed rebellion inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. It has traditionally claimed to represent landless farmers, poor rural communities and Indigenous people. Modi said the insurgency had damaged the future of generations of young Indians and credited his government's security and development measures with reducing Maoist violence significantly since he came to power in 2014. The prime minister also announced measures aimed at strengthening India's self-reliance in areas including defence and agriculture, with a particular emphasis on young people.

He highlighted initiatives such as artificial intelligence skills training and free online coaching for competitive examinations, without directly referring to recent youth-led protests that posed a rare challenge to his government. Modi said India had transformed from a "fragile" economy into the world's fastest-growing major economy over the past decade. He also reiterated his government's goal of making India a developed nation by 2047, marking 100 years of independence.

The term "dimagi Naxal" is similar to the politically contentious phrase "urban Naxal," which Modi and leaders of his Bharatiya Janata Party have previously used for activists, academics, intellectuals and other critics.

Critics have accused the government of using such labels to stigmatise dissent. International rights organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have also criticised the Indian government over its use of anti-terror laws, sedition-related provisions and foreign-funding regulations, alleging that they have been used against civil society groups, activists and journalists critical of government policies.

"Korea-Japan cooperation is now more important than ever," he said, adding that the new bilateral relationship should also recognise those still suffering from historical grievances.

Takaichi had repeatedly said she would visit Yasukuni on Aug. 15, making her decision to stay away closely watched.

Koizumi, who has regularly visited Yasukuni on the anniversary of Japan's wartime surrender, made the visit despite his position as defense minister in a government seeking to strengthen Japan's military capabilities and expand weapons exports. He did not comment on the visit and walked past reporters at the shrine.

Three senior LDP officials also prayed at the shrine and made offerings on behalf of Takaichi. Party Secretary-General Shunichi Suzuki said he offered prayers with the prime minister's thoughts for the spirits of the war dead in mind.

The move was also seen as an attempt to maintain Takaichi's support among conservative and right-wing voters despite her decision not to visit personally.

Japanese Emperor Naruhito, meanwhile, struck a different tone in his address at a memorial ceremony in Tokyo. He expressed hope that the devastation of war would never be repeated and referred to the need to reflect on Japan's past while keeping in mind feelings of deep remorse.

Naruhito also called for the memories of suffering during and after the war to be

passed on to future generations.

Takaichi has previously resisted acknowledging Japan's wartime aggression and has rejected calls for an apology over issues including forced labour and the exploitation of women as sex slaves for Japanese troops.

She has said that she belongs to a postwar generation and bears no responsibility for Japan's wartime actions. Her position is in line with a broader nationalist trend in Japan associated with former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whom Takaichi has regarded as a political mentor.

Since Abe's government, Japanese prime ministers have largely avoided new apologies to Asian victims of Japan's wartime atrocities. Former Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, however, expressed remorse over the war and described it as a mistake last year.

Lebanon says 9 dead in strikes as Israel says targeted Hezbollah

International Desk

Lebanon said Israeli strikes on the south killed nine people including three children on Saturday, the deadliest raids since deals in June eased hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

Israel said it carried out retaliatory strikes against the Iran-backed militant group but Lebanon's prime minister said seven people killed in one of the strikes were not "military targets" and urged Israel to halt an "extremely dangerous" escalation.

Israel "escalated its attacks on the south" early Saturday, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said, reporting that warplanes struck a home on the outskirts of the village of Ansar and carried out a "series of airstrikes targeting the Ali al-Taher ridge", a strategic hill overlooking the Nabatieh area.

It later reported a strike on the southern town of Deir Zahrani.

Lebanon's health ministry said seven people were killed "including three children and two women," in Ansar, with another two people killed and nine others wounded in Deir Zahrani, adding that the toll there was provisional.

An AFP correspondent in Ansar saw a destroyed building as rescuers working to remove human remains from the rubble, and a swimming pool clouded and grey from dust and debris.

Abbas Khalil, 60, said he was doing his early morning Islamic prayers when the strike hit.

"We were shocked... There's no justification for this," he told AFP.

An Israeli army statement said that it struck "Hezbollah terror infrastructure in the areas of Nabatieh and Ansar", adding that the move came "in response to an action by the Hezbollah terrorist organisation" against Israeli soldiers in the Ali al-Taher Ridge area.

- 'Extremely dangerous' -

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said that "the seven martyrs of the Israeli strike on the village of Ansar are not 'military infrastructure' and the women and children who were killed are not military targets."

"Israel must halt this escalation," he said, adding that it was "extremely dangerous and undermines efforts to consolidate stability in the south".

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war in March with rocket fire at Israel in support of its backer Iran.

Israel responded with heavy airstrikes and a ground invasion that Lebanese authorities say have killed more than 4,300 people.

Violence has significantly decreased since the signing of a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June on the broader Middle East war and a US-sponsored framework deal between Lebanon and Israel later that month. But Lebanon still reports intermittent Israeli strikes and broad demolitions of civilian buildings in southern villages and towns.

In Ansar standing next to the swampy swimming pool, building owner Mohammed Saab told AFP he waited every year to rent it out over the summer.

"What do I have here for this to happen?" he said in shock. The NNA also said that "the valley between Ansar and Zarariyeh was also subjected to a strike, the first at this geographical depth since the ceasefire two months ago".

- Negotiations -

Ansar is around 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Israeli border and is located beyond a so-called "yellow line" declared by the Israeli army which runs in Lebanese territory along the frontier and where Israeli troops are operating.



Adam Driver to play Mister Sinister in Marvel’s ‘X-Men’ reboot

Entertainment Desk

Adam Driver is set to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe as the supervillain Mister Sinister, while rising star Inde Navarette will portray Rogue in Marvel's upcoming "X-Men" reboot. Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige announced the new cast members Friday night at Disney's D23 convention in Anaheim, California. Driver's former "Girls" co-star Christopher Abbott will play Professor Charles Xavier, while Maya Boyd has been cast as Storm. The film, directed by Jake Schreier, is scheduled to hit theaters in May 2028. "Beef" creator Lee Sung Jin and "The Bear" co-showrunner Joanna Calo are writing the screenplay. Driver's involvement in the "X-Men" project had been widely rumored for years, with speculation often suggesting he might portray Magneto. During the D23 presentation, Driver appeared on a large screen while the rest of the newly announced cast members appeared on stage. "Kevin and I had been talking for years about my joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and I think we finally found the perfect film," Driver said. He jokingly announced that he would play Magneto before correcting himself and revealing that he would instead portray Nathaniel Essex, the

character better known as Mister Sinister. Navarette, who has quickly gained attention following her performance in the horror film "Obsession," was also the subject of considerable casting speculation before her role as Rogue was confirmed. Previously announced cast members at the event included Samara Weaving as Emma Frost, Kit Connor as Scott "Cyclops" Summers and Sadie Sink as Jean Grey. Sink's role was revealed through her appearance in this summer's Marvel hit "Spider-Man: Brand New Day." Feige noted that many of the actors had only met one another backstage shortly before appearing before the audience. Marvel's incorporation of the "X-Men" into the MCU became possible after Disney acquired 21st Century Fox's film assets in 2019. The D23 presentation also featured updates on Disney's upcoming "Star Wars" projects. Ryan Gosling and director Shawn Levy promoted "Star Wars: Starfighter," which is scheduled for release in May 2027. Gosling will play Kade Auberan, a character described as a man from the less privileged side of the galaxy whose fate becomes connected with a powerful starfighter. Gosling said his early association with Disney played an important role

in his career and described his return to the company decades later as life-changing. The event also featured appearances by "Star Wars: Ahsoka" star Rosario Dawson and Hayden Christensen, who will return as Anakin Skywalker in the second season of the Disney+ series. Marvel veterans Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans and Hayley Atwell also appeared to promote "Avengers: Doomsday," scheduled for release on Dec. 18. Downey, now playing Doctor Doom, is shown battling Thor, while Evans returns as Captain America. The trailer also features Ian McKellen as Magneto. Hugh Jackman appeared in a video message and suggested he may return as Wolverine, though Marvel has not definitively confirmed his participation. Disney also offered a preview of the upcoming Disney+ series "Visionquest," starring Paul Bettany as Vision and James Spader as Ultron. The evening included a presentation for "Frozen 3," with Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel performing for fans despite technical problems involving audio, video and stage doors. Josh Gad also performed a song as Olaf, while the cast of "The Greatest Showman" presented musical numbers from the stage adaptation of the 2017 film.



Yash's Toxic Plot Revealed, Film Gets 'A' Certificate Ahead of August 26 Release

Entertainment Desk

Yash-starrer action thriller Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is set to arrive in cinemas on August 26, with the film securing an 'A' certificate from India's Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film was certified by the CBFC's Bengaluru regional office on August 13, 2026. According to the certification details, Toxic is in Kannada and has a certified length of 194.12 metres. The official synopsis describes the film as the story of a gangster grappling with loyalty, morality and the search for redemption in post-independence Goa, where vio-



lence and jealousy dominate. Set against a dark and atmospheric backdrop, the film features intense action and morally conflicted characters while exploring the sacrifices involved in love and the pursuit of redemption. Toxic is produced by Venkat K Narayana under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, with Geetu Mohandas directing. The film has been written and filmed in Kannada and English and will also be released in dubbed versions in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. The movie features an ensemble cast led by Yash and including Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth.



‘Weaknesses in dialogue’, not Durefishaan’s English accent: Netizens

Entertainment Desk

This is the question that is currently being discussed on the internet, centred around Pakistani actress Durefishaan Saleem. There is a lot of discussion on social media about the way she delivers English dialogues in new drama serial 'Dar-e-Nijaaat'. However, when this storm turned into a personal attack, senior actress Sanam Saeed did not remain silent. She stood by her co-star and strongly protested the matter. Recently, Sanam Saeed wrote on social media, "It is extremely uncomfortable and unreasonable to make fun of an artiste's pronunciation or presentation in this way. The way he is being targeted on every platform is a manifestation of a kind of cruelty and insensitive behavior towards people." In serial 'Dar-e-Nijaaat', the character 'Zaryab' played by Durefishaan is a girl from a noble family who is preparing for higher education in the United States. The character is seen speaking in a mix of Urdu and English for the sake of the script. However, a large section of netizens and theater lovers see the matter differently. They claim that the problem is not only in accent of the actress, but the main weakness is in the plot and dialogue of the play.



People are really in turmoil over electricity: Omar Sani

Entertainment Desk

Load shedding is happening regularly across the country. People are increasingly expressing their displeasure on social media and they are expressing their anger over the current electricity situation. This time, actor Omar Sani has expressed his anger over the electricity situation. In his Facebook post, he wrote, "Don't worry, our Power Minister, please don't sing Safai. I go outside Dhaka a lot, there is really no electricity for hours. Especially my experience is in Savar, Manikganj near Dhaka." Sharing his experience with electricity situation, he also said, "I can go further if I want. In short, people are really in turmoil over electricity." Referring to his area of residence, the actor wrote, "I live in Bashundhara, so I don't feel it. When I go outside, the minister feels it." Drawing the Prime Minister's attention, Sani wrote, "My dear Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, I am looking at you."

Madhuri plays role of host for 1st time

Entertainment Desk

Whenever the talk of the hugely popular quiz show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)' comes up, the face of Amitabh Bachchan comes to mind. But this time, a different dimension is being added to that familiar atmosphere. This time, the audience will discover a new look of Bollywood's 'Dhak Dhak Girl' Madhuri Dixit in the role of the host! Teaser of the new season hosted by Amitabh in Hindi has already surfaced, but the speculation about Madhuri's involvement is different. However, the story behind the matter is different. Madhuri is going to host the Marathi version of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. This is the first time that the Marathi version is being organised around a female host. In that regard, new history is being created with the help of Madhuri.



Sayani Gupta’s Hollywood journey

Entertainment Desk

Sayani Gupta's acting has been praised in both series and movies. This time, this Bengali actress has started her journey in Hollywood movies. The director of the movie titled 'Arya' is Neil Tuli. The screenplay is based on a piano teacher named Arya Sinha. Sayani will play this role. Not only acting, Sayani will also be the executive producer of this movie. In the story of movie 'Arya', Arya is forced to take on a difficult responsibility despite her reluctance to keep her career moving and fulfill her ambitions. She has to revive a dying school band. But Arya struggles to adapt to the Western environment and different culture. Then the real struggle begins. Arya, who is stubborn and tough, finds a new definition of success by facing the latent fears and insecurities hidden



within her. Sayani is currently busy shooting for movie 'Arya'. Talking about this new chapter in her career, she said, "I was looking for such an opportunity for a long time. The script of the movie is as great as my character. I am lucky that the makers have seen Arya in me. This character will remain in my heart for the rest of my life." Sayani started acting in 2012 with movie 'Second Marriage.com'. She then became known for movies 'Fan', 'Jagga Jasoos', 'Jolly LLB', 'Article 15', 'Margarita with a Straw'. The movie 'Margarita with a Straw' received great praise from the audience and critics at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014. It was released in theaters the following year. Sayani's performance as a visually impaired student in the movie still leaves a mark on the audience.

Samira Khan Mahi in 2 miniseries

Entertainment Desk

Popular small screen actress Samira Khan Mahi does not act regularly in TV series. She last acted in Deepto TV's long-running serial 'Khushbu'. Mahi was seen in this serial directed by Sajjad Sumon for a short time. She acted in some of the early episodes of the serial. This time Mahi acted in two miniseries. She will be seen acting in two miniseries titled 'Mayar Songsar' and 'Kormofol'. Both series will be released soon on Cinemawala YouTube channel. The series 'Kormofol' is directed by Mohin Khan. The serial, which is based on a family story, also stars Dilara Zaman, Irfan Sajjad, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, A Kh M Hasan, Deepa Khandakar, Monira Mithu, and others. On the other hand, the series 'Mayar Songsar' is made by Mohammad Omar Faruk. Earlier this year, this director made the miniseries 'Chena Acheni' starring Allen Shuvro and Tabassum Chhoya. However, Mahi did not want to say anything about who



else will be in 'Mayar Songsar' right now. She said that the production company will announce the details soon. Samira Khan Mahi said, "The two series will be released on Cinemawala YouTube channel. Both are basically family stories. One is a female-led story; the other is a family drama. Both are made about family emotions, relationships and various realities. Many talented artistes have acted here. I hope the audience will like it when it comes out." Meanwhile, yesterday, Samira Khan Mahi's drama 'Kotha Dilam' was released on Jago Entertainment YouTube channel. The drama is based on a love story and has been directed by Imraul Rafat. Mahi is accompanied by Arosh Khan.

Samira Khan Mahi has recently reduced the number of her work. The actress said that she has deliberately decided to reduce her work. She has made this decision to give time to herself and her family.



Bangladesh hold the edge as Australia fight back in Darwin



Sports Desk
Bangladesh remain in front in the first Test in Darwin, but Australia finally found some stability with the bat on the third day. SouthAsians & Diaspora
Australia closed on 161 for 4, still 67 runs behind Bangladesh's 426, with Cameron Green unbeaten on 43 and Alex Carey on 19. The pair shared an unbroken 39-run stand to see

Australia safely through the final session. Bangladesh added 75 runs to their overnight total on Saturday before being bowled out for 426. Mehidy Hasan Miraz made 65, while Taskin Ahmed remained unbeaten on 14. Josh Hazlewood took 6 for 89, completing a six-wicket haul that limited Bangladesh's lead to 228. Bangladesh's first innings was led by Tanzid Hasan's maiden Test century.

The opener made 101, while captain Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 84 and Mominul Haque 49. Mushfiquir Rahim added 36 as Bangladesh built a commanding first-innings advantage. Australia then suffered another poor start. Hasan Mahmud removed Travis Head for 17 and Jake Weatherald for a duck, leaving the hosts 37 for 2. Taijul Islam dismissed Marnus Labuschagne for 31 before Mehidy removed Steven Smith for 44 at 122 for 4.

Jimenez rescues dramatic Wolves draw in Championship opener

Sports Desk

Mexico World Cup star Raul Jimenez saved Wolves from an embarrassing start to the Championship campaign as his late penalty rescued a 2-2 draw against Blackburn in the opening game of the season on Friday. Playing in the Championship for the first time in eight years following their relegation from the Premier League last season, Wolves are hoping for an immediate return to the top-flight. Cesar Peixoto's first game as Wolves boss was just two minutes away from ending in defeat before Jimenez converted a stop-page-time penalty at Molineux. Wolves won just three league matches last season in a dismal campaign that fuelled fan protests against Chinese owners Fosun. Following the surprise decision to hire Peixoto from Portuguese club Gil Vicente to replace Rob Edwards, who was sacked during the close-season, Wolves need a fast start to win back their disgruntled supporters. The early signs were good as the hosts, featuring debutant Kieran Trippier, took the lead in the 18th minute with their first shot of the season. Fer Lopez sent a perfect pass behind the Blackburn defence and Zimbabwe midfielder Marshall Munetsi sprinted clear for a composed finish from the edge of the penalty area. But Tony Mowbray is back in charge of Blackburn for the second time and the experience campaigner watched his side equalise in the 27th minute when Sean McLoughlin cleverly glanced a header past Dan Bentley. Wolves were stunned by that blow and there was worse to come in the 48th minute as Blackburn forward Andri Gudjohnsen met Dapo Afolayan's cross with a close-range finish. However, former Fulham star Jimenez came to the rescue in the first appearance of his second spell at Wolves. Fresh from helping Mexico reach the World Cup last 16, the 35-year-old netted from the spot in the closing seconds after Ryan Alebiosu handled Jackson Tchatchoua's cross. Wolves are second favourites for promotion behind West Ham and just ahead of Burnley, the other clubs that crashed out of the Premier League last term.



- Spygate shame - West Ham's status is little surprise, given they kept hold of coach Nuno Espirito Santo, who led Wolves to promotion from the second tier in 2018, and influential England forward Jarrod Bowen. The Hammers start their campaign on Sunday with a trip to Burnley, who are led by new manager Nicky Hayden. Burnley have won promotion from the Championship in each of the past two seasons they played in the division, both times amassing over 100 points. With the shadow of their spygate shame still hanging over them, Southampton open at Watford on Sunday. Southampton were expelled from last season's Championship play-offs after admitting spying on Middlesbrough, Ipswich and Oxford. Saints boss Tonda Eckert took responsibility for the scandal, which was exposed when a member of the club's staff was found filming Middlesbrough prior to the first leg of their play-off semi-final. Southampton beat Middlesbrough but were denied a final showdown with Hull by their expulsion, with the Tigers sealing promotion instead. Eckert was backed by Southampton despite calls for his sacking but the German could face a ban after being charged by the Football Association. Middlesbrough, beaten by Hull in the play-off final as last-minute replacements for Southampton, start on Saturday against Lincoln, who are in the Championship for the first time since 1961 after winning promotion from League One.

Pallister holds off Ledescky to win Pan Pacs 400m free title

Sports Desk

Australian Lani Pallister attacked early and held on to win the women's 400m freestyle ahead of US great Katie Ledescky at the Pan Pacific Championships in Irvine, California on Friday. Pallister led all the way to win in 3min 58.42sec, setting a blistering early pace and hanging on as nine-time Olympic gold medallist Ledescky charged late to take silver in 4:00.15. "It felt good until it didn't," said Pallister, who arrived in Irvine off a four-gold performance in the Commonwealth Games and beat Canadian star Summer McIntosh in the 200m free on Wednesday, before finishing runner-up to Ledescky in the 1500m free on the same night. Pallister, who helped Australia bag 4x200m free relay gold on Thursday, admitted she was hurting at the end. "After having two really good 200s at the start of the week I knew I had easy speed," she said. "I think it got me on the back end." New Zealand's Erika Fairweather took bronze in 4:02.35 as world record-holder McIntosh had to take what satisfaction she could from winning the consolation final with a time of 4:00.58. McIntosh, winner of three individual gold medals at the Paris Olympics, said it was a case of "lessons learned" after she miscalculated her preliminary swim and ended up with the ninth-fastest time of the morning. "I promise I'll make sure it doesn't happen again," she said. The competition that brings together top swimmers from non-European countries has been a mixed bag for McIntosh. She bounced back from her 200m free defeat to win the 400m individual medley but was disappointed to finish more than four seconds slower than her own world mark. "This meet is definitely not going how I wanted it to go," McIntosh said. Australia's Sam Short continued his stellar form with a dominant victory in the men's 400m free, clocking 3:40.52 to break legendary Australian Ian Thorpe's championship record of 3:41.83 set in



1999. - "So much left" - "I really put it on the line," said Short, who came off a 400m, 800m and 1500m free treble at the Commonwealth Games and won the 800m free on Wednesday. "I thought I was going 3:39," he added. "I had so much left at the end, but (personal best) can't complain. "Beat Thorpe's meet record, I think that's older than me," added Short, who is indeed just 22 and said he counted Thorpe among the heroes of his youth. China's junior world record-holder Zhang Zhanshuo was second in 3:42.42 and American Aaron Shackell bagged bronze in 3:43.44. Matthew Temple kept the Australian gold flowing, touching in 50.39sec to lead compatriot Ben Armbruster in a 100m butterfly one-two, and Aussie Sam Williamson won a 50m breaststroke thriller in 26.36sec with South African Michael Houlie and American Van Mathias tied for second in 26.42. World record-holder Gretchen Walsh of the United States powered to a dominant victory in the women's 100m fly in 55.15sec. Regan Smith led Claire Curzan in a US one-two in the women's 200m backstroke and the US capped the night with a pair of rousing wins in the 4x100m freestyle relays. The US women set an American record of 3:29.32 for a 4x100m freestyle relay triumph over Australia. They were fueled by Kate Douglass's stunning lead-off leg of 51.69 -- the second-fastest 100m free in history. The US men -- Chris Guiliano, Patrick Sammon, Destin Lasco and Jack Alexy -- took gold in 3:09.01. Australia took second in 3:09.57, pushing the Americans until the end in a preview of the fireworks the rivals can be expected to produce at the Los Angeles Olympics in two years' time. The Americans and Australians didn't have things all their own way. Japanese 17-year-old Yumeki Kojima pulled off a surprise in the men's 200m back, rallying from fourth at the halfway mark to win in 1:55.38. Olympian Tang Qianting won the women's 50m breaststroke in 29.67 to give China their first gold of the week.

Women's hockey development program inaugurated in Cumilla

Sports Desk

The Cumilla leg of the BRAC Bank-Prothom Oporajeyo Alo Women's Hockey special training and development program was formally inaugurated today (Saturday) at Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Stadium in Cumilla. Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) vice-president and selection committee's chairman Sajed AA Adel, State Minister for Youth and Sports' personal secretary Kabir Khan, BHF selection committee's member Mahbub Harun, women's wing vice chairman Bodrul Islam Dipu and its secretary Tariquzzaman Nannu were among others present in the opening ceremony. Speaking in the closing ceremony, BHF vice-president Sajed A.A. Adel said: "Our main objective is to identify talented



women hockey players at the grassroots level and develop them to international standards. We're hopeful that this venue in Cumilla will produce skilled hockey stars for the national team in the future." It can be mentioned that as part of the nationwide talent-identification initiative to develop women's hockey, special training camps are also being conducted in Cumilla, alongside Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Sylhet, Netrokona, Kushtia and Narayanganj.

Euro 2020 winner Ciro Immobile retires at 36

Sports Desk

Ciro Immobile, a member of Italy's Euro 2020-winning team, announced his retirement at the age of 36 in a video published Friday. In the video, Immobile addressed his teammates at French Ligue 1 club Paris FC, who he joined in January. "It's a very difficult moment for me because it's the end of one of the greatest periods of my life. I loved this job with all my heart but I want to be honest with myself about the current situation," he explained. "If I can no longer keep pushing when I'm in pain, when I'm training, if I can't give my best, it's hard," he added. "It's not an easy decision because you are incredible guys, a great family... but for me it's time to spend time with my family. They followed me everywhere, I needed them for 17 years and today they need me." The prolific Immobile scored 350 goals in 656 matches for a series of clubs. He notched 207 goals in 340 matches for Lazio, where he played from 2016 to 2024, becoming the club's all-time leading scorer. Immobile also played abroad, for Borussia Dortmund (2014-2016), Sevilla (2016) and Besiktas in Turkey. He won 57 international caps and was part of the Squadra Azzurra side that were crowned European champions in a tournament delayed until 2021 by the Covid pandemic, when Italy beat England in a penalty shootout at Wembley. After a serious thigh injury left him sidelined in Italy, Immobile joined Paris FC in February until the end of the season with an additional year as an option. He managed just two league goals for the newly promoted club that are owned by the LVMH luxury brands family.

BCB holds doa mahfil marking Khaleda Zia's 82nd birth anniversary

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today organised a Quran recitation and Doa Mahfil marking the 82nd birth anniversary of former three-time Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. The programme was held at the BCB premises. BCB Director and Women's Wing Chairman Rafiqul Islam Babu and BCB Director and Age Group Talent Hunt Chairman Minhajul Abedin Nannu attended the event.

Miraz 65 keeps Bangladesh in control as Australia miss chances

Sports Desk

Mehidy Hasan Miraz was unbeaten on 65 as Bangladesh reached 417 for 8 at lunch on the third day of the first Test against Australia on Saturday, stretching their lead to 219 runs. Miraz and Taskin Ahmed added 45 without being separated in the morning session, putting on their fifth partnership of more than 40 runs in the innings. Miraz has faced 152 balls, hitting five fours and a six. Taskin is 12 not out from 22 balls. Australia managed only two wickets in the 23-over session, both taken by Josh Hazlewood. Hasan Mahmud and Taijul Islam were dismissed as Bangladesh lost their seventh and eighth wickets. GeographicReference Australia also missed two chances off Pat Cummins. Steven Smith and Travis Head both put down catches. Miraz finished the session in style, hitting Cameron Green for six over the boundary. His partnership with Taskin has taken Bangladesh closer to a lead of 250. Bangladesh resumed the day on 351 for 6 after Tanzid Hasan's 101, Najmul Hossain Shanto's 84 and Mominul Haque's 49 helped them sustain a strong position. They had started the innings 102 runs behind Australia, who were bowled out for 198 on the first day. Australia now face the prospect of having to chase a large deficit in their second innings, with Bangladesh still two wickets away from completing their first innings.



Steady India 101-1 at lunch in first Sri Lanka Test

Sports Desk

Devdutt Padikkal and K.L. Rahul shared an unbroken stand of 54 as India reached 101-1 at lunch on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday in Galle. The tourists lost opener Yashasvi Jaiswal for 32 after he was run out following a mix-up with Rahul, with both batters ending up at the non-striker's end. The duo put on 47 runs for the first wicket to give India a steady start in the country's landmark 600th Test. At lunch, Rahul was batting on 32 while Padikkal, who replaced the injured Sai Sudharsan, was on 35. There was considerable assistance for the Sri Lankan spinners, as is usually the case in Galle, but the Indian



batters used their feet well against them. Nishan Fernando, fielding at short leg, was forced to leave the field after he copped a nasty blow on the helmet when Rahul attempted a sweep shot off Prabath Jayasuriya. Sri Lanka handed a Test debut to 25-year-old off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha, whose six overs went for 29 runs. Galle is hosting its 50th Test match, the first Asian ground to achieve the milestone. India have an impressive record against Sri Lanka, having not lost any Test match against them since 2015. Since losing in Galle in 2015, India have won eight of the 10 Tests with Sri Lanka, with the remaining two ending in draws.



Prayers offered to mark Begum Khaleda Zia's 82nd birth anniversary in Feni

Feni Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) organized a Milad and Dua Mahfil in the district, the home district of its former chairperson and former prime minister late Begum Khaleda Zia, marking her 82nd birth anniversary. The district BNP arranged the programme at the Central Boro Jame Mosque in the town after Asr prayers today. District BNP Convener Sheikh Farid Bahar presided over the event. Among those present were District BNP Member Secretary Alal Uddin Alal, Joint Convener Prof MA Khalek, Feni Pourashava BNP Convener Delwar Hossain Babul, Sadar Upazila BNP Member Secretary Aman Uddin Kaiser Sabbir, District Jubo Dal Member Secretary Naim Ullah Chowdhury Barat, District Swachhshasebak Dal General Secretary SM Kaiser Elin, District Chhatra Dal President Salauddin Mamun, Organizing Secretary Zakir Hossain Riad Patowari and Joint General Secretary Shawkat Ali Jewel Patowari. The dua was conducted by Hafez Maulana Abdullah, Pesh

Imam of the Central Boro Jame Mosque. A large number of BNP leaders and activists from the district, upazilas and municipality attended the programme. Meanwhile, the Parshuram Upazila BNP organised another Milad and Dua Mahfil at the Parshuram Central Jame Mosque after Asr prayers. BNP lawmaker from Feni-1 constituency Rafiqul Alam Majnu attended the programme as the chief guest. BNP National Executive Committee Member Abu Taler, Upazila BNP Convener Abdul Halim Manik and Member Secretary Ibrahim Khalil Moni, among others, were present at the event. District BNP Member Secretary Alal Uddin Alal said Milad and Dua Mahfils were also organised at the union level alongside district, upazila and municipal programmes to mark Khaleda Zia's 82nd birth anniversary. The participants prayed for the eternal peace and salvation of the departed soul of the former prime minister.



Prayers offered to mark Begum Khaleda Zia's 82nd birth anniversary

Rajshahi Correspondent

Special prayers and doa mahfil were held and food was distributed among the destitute in Rajshahi metropolis to mark the 82nd birth anniversary of Mother of Democracy and former Prime Minister Late Begum Khaleda Zia. This noon, in the Sapura area of Ward No. 15 of the city, Mahfuzur Rahman Riton, administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and General Secretary of Rajshahi City BNP, distributed food among the poor as the chief guest at a programme organised by 'Amra BNP Paribar'. Before the food distribution, a special dua and munajat were held seeking forgiveness for the soul of Deshnetri Late Begum Khaleda Zia. Speaking as the chief guest at the programme, RCC Administrator Mahfuzur Rahman Riton said, "Mother of Democracy, former Prime

Minister, the uncompromising Deshnetri Late Begum Khaleda Zia struggled throughout her life to establish democracy in the country and ensure the voting rights of the people." He said, "Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is working to implement the unfinished dream of Late Begum Khaleda Zia. He is working tirelessly to build a new Bangladesh and for the welfare of the people of the country." The organisers present at the programme were former Vice-President of Rajshahi city BNP Shahin Iqbal and former Councilor of Ward No. 15 Abdus Sobhan Liton. Aslam Sarkar, vice-president of Rajshahi city BNP, was present as a special guest at the programme. Also present at the time were Shah Makhdum Thana BNP Member Secretary Nasim Khan, Chandima Thana BNP Member Secretary Monirul Islam Jony, and leaders of local BNP and its affiliated organisations.

Pedestrian Killed, 5 Vehicles Smashed as Speeding Truck Rams Queue Outside Feni CNG Station



Staff Reporter

A pedestrian was killed and a microbus driver severely injured when a reckless Chittagong-bound truck rammed into a line of vehicles waiting outside a CNG refueling station on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Chhagalnaiya upazila on Thursday morning. The collision was so severe that five stationary vehicles—including three microbuses, a minibus, and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw—were completely crushed. The incident occurred around 9:00 AM in front of Iqbal CNG Filling Station in the Muhuriganj area of the upazila. The deceased was identified as Jewel Das (30), a worker at the local PHP factory in Muhuriganj and a native of Hatiya upazila in Noakhali district.

According to eyewitnesses and local sources, a long queue of CNG auto-rickshaws, microbuses, and minibus-

es had been standing on the highway since Wednesday afternoon due to an acute gas crisis. The parked vehicles occupied a significant portion of the road, disrupting regular traffic flow on the Chittagong-bound lane. On Thursday morning, Jewel Das was walking to work when a speeding truck ran him over, killing him on the spot. Immediately after crushing the pedestrian, the truck lost control and rammed into a queued minibus. The impact triggered a chain-reaction collision, smashing three microbuses and an auto-rickshaw positioned ahead of it. The driver of one of the damaged microbuses sustained critical injuries during the crash. Following the accident, enraged locals and bystanders caught the truck driver and handed him a beating. Officers from the Fazilpur Highway Police Station later arrived at the scene, brought the situation under control, and seized the truck. Local transport drivers expressed deep frustration over the recurring hazard, urging the authorities to resolve the gas shortage quickly and restore order on the highway to prevent further casualties. Confirming the details, Shahidul Islam, Officer-in-Charge (Acting) of Fazilpur Highway Police Station, stated that the victim's body was handed over to his family without an autopsy upon their request. "The truck involved in the crash has been seized, and legal proceedings are currently underway," he added.

Man killed in Narayanganj road crash

Narayanganj Correspondent

A man was killed after being hit by a motorcycle while crossing a road in Siddhirganj of the district this morning. The deceased was identified as Azizul Haque, 85, son of late Hossain Ali Sheikh of Jalkuri Taltala area. According to police, Haque had left his home in the morning and was crossing the road in the Jalkuri Taltala area when a motorcycle hit him. He sustained serious injuries in the accident. Locals rescued him and initially took him to Narayanganj 300-Bed Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Siddhirganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Emdadul Haque confirmed the accident and said necessary steps are being taken in accordance with the law.



Young Man Killed in Motorcycle Accident in Sitakunda

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

A 22-year-old man named Md. Easin Hossain was killed in a motorcycle accident in Sitakunda, Chattogram. The accident occurred around 10:00 am on Saturday (August 15) in the Faujdardhat Jalil Gate area of Sitakunda. The deceased, Md. Easin Hossain, was the son of Hasan Ali of Hajipur Miazhi Bari in Chaudhagram upazila of Cumilla. Sergeant Md. Zakir Hossain of Bar Aulia Highway Police Station confirmed the incident. He said Easin died at the scene of the accident. After receiving the information, police went to the spot and took steps to recover the body. He further said that it was not immediately clear how the accident occurred or whether the motorcycle collided with another vehicle. Police are investigating the incident.

Two killed in Lalmonirhat road accident

Lalmonirhat Correspondent

Two passengers were killed and four others injured after a truck rammed a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Hatibandha Bazar area under Hatibandha upazila of the district this afternoon. According to locals, the battery-run auto-rickshaw was carrying passengers from Dighirhat area towards Hatibandha Bazar when a truck heading towards Burimari Land Port crashed into it. Two passengers died on the spot, while four others sustained injuries. Some of the injured were reportedly in critical condition. Local residents rescued the injured and took them to Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex. Hatibandha Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ashrafuzzaman Sarker said the identities of the two deceased could not be known immediately. Police have seized the truck, but its driver and helper fled the scene following the accident. Legal proceedings are underway in connection with the incident.



Spray machines distributed to marginal farmers in Sirajganj

Sirajganj Correspondent

Spray machines were distributed free of cost among 97 marginal farmers and sewing machines among 46 poor and disadvantaged women trained in tailoring in Kazipur upazila of the district today. The initiative was taken under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of Kazipur Upazila Parishad to support agricultural production and help the trained women become self-reliant. Sirajganj-1 (Kazipur) constituency lawmaker Md Selim Reza distributed the machines among the beneficiaries as the chief guest at the upazila parishad auditorium this morning. Kazipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mostafizur Rahman presided over the programme. Among others, former Kazipur Upazila BNP general secretary and former mayor Md Abdus Salam, Kazipur Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Shariful Islam, Upazila Women Affairs Officer Chitra Rani Saha and BNP leader Advocate Robiul Alam attended the programme as special guests. The initiative is expected to assist marginal farmers in increasing agricultural productivity while creating income-generating opportunities for disadvantaged women through tailoring.

Khaleda Zia's 82nd birthday observed in Khulna

Khulna Correspondent

A discussion and doa mahfil was held here today marking the 82nd birthday of BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Khulna city and district units of BNP jointly organised the programme at the party office on KD Ghosh Road at around 11am. Addressing the programme, BNP leaders said the previous government had subjected Khaleda Zia and her family to severe political repression and persecution. The meeting was presided over by Khulna city BNP president and Khulna Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Advocate SM Shafiqul Alam Mona. In his speech, Mona alleged that Khaleda Zia had been unjustly confined in an isolated prison and deprived of adequate medical treatment. He said the then government had sought to remove her from politics through prolonged repression. He said the country's political situation had changed and expressed confidence in the leadership of BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Mona urged party activists to remain vigilant against attempts by anti-liberation forces and associates of fascism to destabilise the country.



He called upon BNP leaders and activists to work under Tarique Rahman's leadership to build a Bangladesh free from exploitation and discrimination. Following the discussion, a special doa was held seeking forgiveness for Khaleda Zia's departed soul and peace and prosperity for the country. Khulna district BNP convener Moniruzzaman Montu, city BNP general secretary and BCB director Shafiqul Alam Tuhi, city BNP joint convener Rehena Isa, district BNP joint convener Khan Zulfikar Ali Julu, Molla Khairul Islam and Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, city BNP organising secretary Hasanur Rashid Chowdhury Miraj, district BNP joint convener Enamul Haque Sajal, former city BNP joint convener Chowdhury Shafiqul Islam Hossain and former Daulatpur thana BNP general secretary Sirajul Haque Nannu, among others, attended the programme.

Begum Khaleda Zia's 82nd Birth Anniversary District Chhatra Dal Holds Doa, Milad Mahfil at Feni Central Grand Mosque

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Feni District Chhatra Dal organized a doa and milad mahfil at the Feni Central Grand Mosque, seeking the good health, long life, and quick recovery of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her 82nd birth anniversary. The special prayers and milad were held on Saturday (August 15) following the Zuhur prayers. A large number of leaders and activists from various units of the district Chhatra Dal, along with general worshippers, attended the event. A special munajat was offered seeking physical well-being for the former prime minister, overall peace and progress for the nation, and salvation for the souls of those martyred in the movement to restore democracy. District Chhatra Dal leaders noted that three-time former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia remains a symbol of the struggle for democracy and public rights in Bangladesh. On her 82nd birth anniversary, Feni District Chhatra Dal chose to observe the day through prayers for her health and longevity rather than grand celebrations. Following the prayer session, tabarruk (blessed food) was distributed among the worshippers and orphans.



Family Attacked Over Long-Standing Land Dispute in Sitakunda

Special Correspondent, Chattogram

A family has allegedly been attacked following a long-standing dispute over residential land in the Baro Awlia Madhyam Sonaichhari area of Ward No. 7 under Sonaichhari Union No. 8 in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram. Three members of the family, including Yunus Mia, his wife and their son, were reportedly injured in the attack. Yunus Mia, who sustained serious injuries, has been admitted to a hospital in Chattogram for advanced treatment. According to local sources and members of the victim's family, the incident took place around 1:00pm on Wednesday (August 12) at Yunus Mia's newly built house. The family alleged that Yunus Mia's younger brothers, Bablu and Alamgir, along with three to five others, were assaulting his son. Hearing their son's screams, Yunus Mia and his wife rushed to the scene, where they were also allegedly attacked. The family claimed that the alleged attackers beat Yunus Mia and his wife indiscriminately with sticks. Hearing their cries, local residents rushed to the scene, prompting the attackers to leave, according to the family. The family also claimed that several people, including Jannatul Ferdous and Jaheda Begum, were present during the incident. The injured family members were initially taken to Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex. After receiving primary treatment, Yunus

Mia's wife returned home. However, as Yunus Mia's condition was considered serious, he was later transferred to a hospital in Chattogram for better treatment. According to the victim's family, the dispute is not a new one. The two sides have allegedly been involved in a long-standing dispute over residential land. The family further claimed that Yunus Mia and his son had been attacked several times in the past. They alleged that Yunus Mia sustained serious injuries in the latest incident after being beaten with sticks. Several local residents said the two parties involved in the dispute are members of the same family. They said the long-standing dispute over residential land has led to tension in the area on several occasions. Meanwhile, when this correspondent visited the home of the accused to seek their comments, the house was found locked. No family members were available, and therefore, their statement could not be obtained.

The victim's family has demanded a fair investigation into the incident, legal action against those involved in the alleged attack and security for their family members. The family is also preparing to file a case with the court in connection with the incident. Contacted over the matter, the Officer-in-Charge of Sitakunda Police Station said that if the victims submit a complaint, the police will investigate the incident and take legal action in accordance with the law.

