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5.2 Finding II

Objective at: Energy Intensity, Efficiency Heterogeneity, and Saving Potential
Quantify factory-level energy intensity, machine-type efficiency differences, and sector-wide energy-saving potential

What Predicts Whether a Factory Realizes Savings

- A regression of the model-consistent saving rate on factory characteristics identifies the number of substitutable machine types changed by the optimization as the strongest and most consistent predictor (significant at 1% across all specifications)
- Factory scale (output) and capacity utilization show no robust independent association with the saving rate once this is controlled for
- Larger workforce is associated with a smaller proportional saving rate in union-based estimates, though this is not robust across the full distribution of factories
- Policy implications: the saving rate is higher in factories with a smaller machine stock, more empirically valid substitution of machine types – used in the state or utility – and more general

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Administrator Md Abdus Salam today said that a five-year renewal facility for trade licences will be introduced soon to make services easier and more convenient for businesses. "We are working to make the trade licence renewal process easier, faster and digital," he said while addressing a discussion meeting on "Local Business and Commerce, Law and Order, Human Rights Development and Trade Licence Services" organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in the capital. Salam said the DSCC wants to provide trade licence services through mutual understanding and cooperation with the business community instead of applying force or creating harassment. He said necessary measures were being taken to enable businesses to renew trade licences and pay holding taxes and other

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Institutional failure is depleting our forests

The degree of indifference and neglect seen from the authorities when it comes to saving our forests is unacceptable and alarming, considering the accelerating rate of deforestation across the country. According to Global Forest Watch,

According to Global Forest Watch, Bangladesh lost around 9.4 thousand hectares of humid primary forest between 2002 and 2025. Additionally, the country’s humid primary forests shrank by 10 percent over two decades. Despite such alarming data, we do not see enough coordinated institutional efforts to save our forests, even though Bangladesh does not lack relevant laws or institutions. A recent story published by this daily.

wild shrubs and smaller acacia trees. The Forest Department’s social forestry initiative, introduced after 2012, has failed to yield positive results, largely because the trees planted by locals are indiscriminately felled. Meanwhile, despite visible sand extraction, government agencies cannot seem to agree on who exactly is responsible for conservation efforts in the area. Forest Department officials claim they cannot take legal action for sand extraction as the area is not a reserved forest. The district administration says that without the Department of Environment’s (DoE) involvement, their hands are tied. Meanwhile, the DoE said it had no scope to act under the existing soil and sand management law in this case, alleging the district administration held the jurisdiction to do so. Such confusion among concerned authorities is deeply frustrating. If no government agency is willing to take responsibility for a forest that is being depleted by truckloads, what is the point of having multiple agencies tasked with ensuring environmental protection? Unfortunately, many forests across the country are withering away due to illegal settlements, development projects, and commercial ventures, and other extractive activities. In many cases, politically connected local actors exploit weak enforcement to continue operating with impunity, as has been the case for Garjan Forest. We, therefore, strongly urge the relevant authorities to come together and formulate a plan to protect this forest from further exploitation and chart a course of action for its restoration. It is high time the government at large stopped seeing forests as isolated patches of land and began treating them with the dignity and protection they deserve.

Keep faith in BNP government

& DiasporaThe prime minister said his government wants to establish Bangladesh as a welfare state by implementing people-oriented programmes aimed at improving the lives of people, particularly those living in rural areas. “Our goal is to establish a welfare state, and that is why we have taken various measures. We have already started programmes, including the Family Card, which I have outlined before you,” he said. Tarique Rahman said the government is taking a range of measures to improve people’s livelihoods, including canal excavation, support for farmers, free education for women up to the honours level, and assistance for schoolchildren from poor families. Referring to the Family Card programme, he said the government has already started implementing its election pledge to provide Family Cards to women who head households. “We have started the work and will gradually take it to every household across the country over the next five years.” He also said the government is introducing Farmers’ Cards to provide financial assistance to farmers and gradually ensure the supply of fertiliser, seeds and pesticides through the cards. Tarique Rahman said the government has decided to make women’s education free up to the honours level, with the state bearing all related expenses. “Women constitute half of the country’s population. If we leave women behind, we cannot take the country forward.” The Prime Minister said girls who achieve good results in education would also be provided with government support. He said the government would gradually provide school uniforms and school bags to children from poor families across the country, alongside the distribution of free textbooks. “We want to provide new school bags and school uniforms to children along with the new books distributed every year,” the Prime Minister said. Tarique Rahman said the government is also taking initiatives to make imams, muezins and other religious leaders self-reliant. He said the government has also introduced sports and cultural programmes for children and young people to help develop future athletes and artists. On the canal excavation programme, the Prime Minister said the benefits would extend beyond farmers to people living in areas through which the canals flow. “Canal excavation alone is not enough. We have to ensure the water obtained through excavation is put to proper use,” he said. “Government to present 10-year power solution plan in Parliament” “Now is the time to work and take the country forward,” he said, calling for collective efforts to rebuild the state and reconstruct the country. The Prime Minister said the people are the owners of the country and therefore they must come forward to build Bangladesh. SouthAsians & DiasporaHe said the government inherited a severely damaged situation in the economy, foreign policy, education and health sectors after the previous authoritarian government. “We cannot solve all the problems in a single day. We have to rebuild the country from the ruins,” Tarique Rahman said. He also criticised what he described as the previous government’s unplanned measures in the power and energy sectors, saying these contributed to the current crisis. The Prime Minister said the next session of Parliament would begin on August 27 where the government would present its plan for addressing the country’s electricity problems over the next 10 years. “We will present before the people in Parliament how we will solve the electricity problem over the next 10 years,” he said. Tarique urged people to remain alert against those attempting to create disorder on the streets, saying ordinary people suffer the most from such activities. “If disorder is created on the streets, ordinary people suffer the most. Their busi-

A presidential election, or another coronation?

Md. Neyamul Hossain

became a textbook example of electoral autocracy under Sheikh Hasina’s leadership. The July Charter seeks to restore a degree of balance between the president and the prime minister by empowering the presidency to make appointments to the National Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, Law Commission, Press Council, Energy Regulatory Commission, and the governor of the central bank. The BNP agreed to these provisions but registered a note of dissent over the inclusion of the Bangladesh Bank governor as well

The July Charter seeks to restore a degree of balance between the president and the prime minister by empowering the presidency to make appointments to the National Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, Law Commission, Press Council, Energy Regulatory Commission, and the governor of the central bank. The BNP agreed to these provisions but registered a note of dissent over the inclusion of the Bangladesh Bank governor as well as the chair and members of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The charter also provides a conditional exemption from some of its provisions, stating that “if any political party or alliance secures a public mandate based on explicit mention in their election manifesto, they may proceed accordingly with necessary measures.” As a signatory to the charter, BNP is expected to empower the country’s 23rd president accordingly. Its manifesto, known as the 31-point plan, remains silent on the presidency and its powers, thereby making the charter’s proposals effectively binding on the party. Although implementation of the charter remains stalled amid an ongoing dispute between the ruling BNP and the opposition 11-party alliance over procedural questions, it is widely expected that even limited.

of the Energy Regulatory Commission. The charter also provides a conditional exemption from some of its provisions, stating that “if any political party or alliance secures a public mandate based on explicit mention in their election manifesto, they may proceed accordingly with necessary measures.” As a signatory to the charter, BNP is expected to empower the country’s 23rd president accordingly. Its manifesto, known as the 31-point plan, remains silent on the presidency and its powers, thereby making the charter’s proposals effectively binding on the party. Although implementation of the charter remains stalled amid an ongoing dispute between the ruling BNP and the opposition 11-party alliance over procedural questions, it is widely expected that even limited constitutional changes would eventually result in a significant enhancement of the president’s powers. The president’s role also assumes particular significance in appointing a caretaker government to oversee national elections if political parties fail to agree on selecting the head of a caretaker administration. The national consensus reached after the July Uprising

also prescribes that the president should be elected through a secret ballot. Article 10 of the July Charter, under the heading “Presidential Election Procedure,” states: “The Constitution shall stipulate that Bangladesh shall have a President elected by majority vote through secret ballot by members of both houses of Parliament (lower and upper).” Because the constitutional amendments have yet to be made, the forthcoming election will take place without an upper house. The election has also been necessitated by the premature resignation of Mohammed Shahabuddin from the presidency. The absence of an upper house makes the contest even less competitive, particularly because the current single-chamber parliament gives the ruling party a two-thirds majority. The outcome, therefore, appears to be a foregone conclusion in favour of the ruling party’s nominee Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. The election could, at least theoretically, still produce a different outcome if BNP lifted the Article 70 restriction on its MPs. On August 11, Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni told the media that Article 70 of the Constitution would remain in force during the presidential election, meaning that any lawmaker voting against the party’s decision would risk losing their parliamentary membership. This is clearly at odds with what BNP promised the nation when it signed the July Charter. BNP’s note of dissent on amending Article 70 reserves only two additional areas, beyond confidence votes and finance bills, where the restriction would apply: constitutional

amendments and national security. Article 70, when incorporated into the constitution, was not intended to prevent MPs from exercising their freedom of choice—perhaps only once in a parliamentary term—to vote for the person who would hold the country’s highest constitutional office. Taking away MPs’ freedom to choose the new president obviously raises the question of whether the party lacks confidence in the MPs elected on its ticket to support its nominee. More fundamentally, does the very principle of a secret ballot not strengthen the independence and stature of the office of the president? Ostensibly, as a co-signatory of the charter, presumed winner Mirza Fakhrul would command greater respect, although he may understandably have had no part in the decision to block a free vote. Undoubtedly, the delay in implementing the July Charter over persistent procedural disputes is not only making the reform agenda uncertain; it is also taking us back towards the very system that we fought, and paid such a huge price, to overthrow.

Presidential Election: EC validates

On the other hand, the 11-party alliance submitted its nomination papers in favour of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Chairman Colonel (ret’d) Oli Ahmed. EC Secretariat Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said the last date for withdrawal of candidacy is 4:00 pm on August 18 (Tuesday). Voting will be held in the session hall of Jatiya Sangsad from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on August 20 (Thursday), he said.

7 firms fined Tk 10 lakh

violating food safety regulations, with legal action taken as necessary. During the week, seven raids were conducted in Dhaka Metropolitan area, resulting in fines of Tk 4 lakh against three establishments and three cases filed against them. Beyond Dhaka, mobile court drives were also carried out in Brahmanbaria, Moulvibazar, Dhaka and Manikganj districts, covering four establishments. These operations led to fines of Tk 6 lakh and four cases filed. Alongside the mobile courts, monitoring of food establishments also continued, with regular inspections carried out at markets, hotels and restaurants, bakeries, sweet shops, and food production and processing units to strengthen oversight of food safety compliance. During the period, monitoring was conducted at 130 food establishments across the country. To raise public awareness, a 14-minute message on trans fat was broadcast on Bangladesh Television, while three separate food safety messages were aired on Bangladesh Betar for a combined 35 minutes during the week. SouthAsians & DiasporaThe authority also disseminated food safety messages widely through images, reels and videos on social media, covering safe food consumption, hygienic food production and marketing, and consumer rights. Research activities aimed at strengthening the food safety system, risk assessment and policy formulation are also ongoing, according to the statement. Commenting on the ongoing activities, BFSA Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam said ensuring safe food remains one of the government’s top priorities. “To achieve this goal, the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority is working in an integrated manner through law enforcement, regular monitoring, mobile court operations, research, mass awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagement,” he said, adding that collective efforts by the government, businesses, producers, consumers and all relevant stakeholders are crucial to ensuring food safety. He said such activities by the authority will continue more broadly and effectively in the public interest in the future.

Govt has roadmap for developing

new entrepreneurship, and further modernizing the country’s procurement regime. “Implementing these reforms has become one of BPPA’s foremost priorities.” He said Bangladesh’s public procurement has expanded significantly over the years as the annual value of public procurement increased from about US\$3 billion in 2003 to around US\$10 billion in 2010 and now stands at nearly US\$30 billion. “As the national budget and the Annual Development Programme (ADP) continue to grow, procurement volumes will inevitably increase further. Managing this scale demands stronger institutions, advanced technological capabilities, and a highly skilled workforce,” Kamruzzaman said. Recognizing these emerging challenges, he said the BPPA recently organized three stakeholder consultation workshops in line with government directives. The consultations focused on three priority areas: Enhancing the electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system; Ensuring full implementation of mandatory e-GP; and Strengthening BPPA’s institutional capacity. He said these workshops generated valuable recommendations

from government agencies, development partners, and private sector, academia and procurement professionals. “These recommendations provide a clear roadmap for the next phase of reforms. The time has come to strengthen BPPA so that it can effectively lead Bangladesh’s public procurement system into the future,” he said.

On sustainable procurement, he said, “Absolutely, Public procurement must evolve beyond its traditional focus on economy, efficiency, transparency and accountability. It should become a strategic instrument for generating long-term environmental, social and economic value.” Kamruzzaman said the government must strengthen Bangladesh’s procurement system by embedding sustainability principles, promoting green and climate-resilient procurement, encouraging innovation, supporting local industries, expanding digital procurement and ensuring value for money throughout the procurement lifecycle. “BPPA will continue advancing procurement reforms aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making public procurement a powerful driver of inclusive growth, environmental stewardship and improved public service delivery,” he said. Shedding lights on public procurement reforms and digitization, the BPPA CEO said Bangladesh has made much progress to this end. He said at the fourth meeting of the BPPA Governing Board held on July 9, 2026, the Minister for Finance and Planning, who chairs the Board, expressed satisfaction with BPPA’s institutional development and commended the reduction in procurement lead time from around 100 days in 2010 to just 54 days today. Before the introduction of e-GP: Only 12 percent of contracts were signed within the original bid validity period. Today, the figure has reached 99 percent; Publication of contract award notices has increased from 15 percent to 100 percent; Publication of tender notices has improved from 20 percent to 100 percent. He said these improvements have significantly enhanced transparency, efficiency, accountability and competition in public procurement.

DSE holds 3-day training

the capital market. “Through this training, exchange of professional experience between officials of the commission and the stock exchange will become easier,” he said. He stressed the need for effective coordination between the two institutions to ensure proper functioning of the capital market, compliance, corporate governance and protection of investors’ interests. He hoped the training would enhance the professional skills of the participants and enable them to play a more effective role in the development of the capital market. EC Additional Director Md Hossain Khan said the capital market plays an important role in the country’s economic development. “Enhancing the knowledge, skills and professionalism of officials concerned is essential for an effective capital market,” he said. He said the training would provide participants with practical knowledge about capital market operations, trading and settlement, investor protection, surveillance and the use of technology. He also expressed hope that the initiative would strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation and coordination between the BSEC and DSE. During the workshop, participants were provided with basic and practical knowledge on various aspects of Bangladesh’s capital market, including market structure, trading, surveillance, listing, corporate governance, monitoring, market operations, TREC affairs and ICT operations. Officials concerned expressed hope that the training would not only enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants but also further strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation and coordination between the BSEC and DSE. Speaking at the concluding session, DSE Chief Technology Officer.



Govt to establish Modern Information Complexes in every district, upazila: Swapon

Staff correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon has said the government is constructing modern information complex in every division. The programme will also be expanded at district and upazila level, he said while inaugurating the construction work of the modern Barishal Divisional Information Complex at Ichhakathi in Kashipur of Barishal city here today. The event was organised by the Department of Mass Communication under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The information complex-

es will multifaceted centers for information, knowledge, entertainment and research, he said. "The complexes will not only be eye-catching buildings; they will serve as hubs of information, knowledge and research. The complexes will primarily function as Digital Information Service Centres, providing a wide range of digital services to the public," he said. Swapon said development work under the project is already underway in 26 districts. To popularise the facilities and encourage students to engage in research, promotional leaflets will be distributed to local educational institutions through the ministry, he

said. The government's objective is not limited to infrastructure development; rather, it aims to bring the quality of the complexes up to international standard," he said. To achieve this, Swapon said, both infrastructure engineering and software engineering are being given separate and equal importance. Highlighting the technological facilities planned for the complexes, Swapon said they would feature state-of-the-art, technology-enabled cineplexes and electronic screens, with facilities for screening digital movies as well as 3D and 4D films. Speaking as chair of the

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Propitious environment needed before PM's India visit: Dhaka

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh today said a conducive environment needs to be created for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to India, linking it to Dhaka's pending extradition requests to New Delhi.

"We are of the view that a propitious environment needs to be created for the visit," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson and Additional Foreign Secretary A.K.M. Shahidul Karim told reporters at the foreign ministry here.

Karim said officials of Bangladesh and India had remained engaged over the possibility of the Prime Minister's bilateral visit to India.

"Officials of Bangladesh and India have been in touch with each other for several weeks on the possibility of a bilateral visit by Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Tarique Rahman to India," he said. The spokesperson, however, said the process had been adversely affected by an open press interaction in New Delhi on August 5 by deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"However, this process was

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Muktadir urges Lithuania to invest in Bangladesh's ICT, fintech sectors

Staff correspondent

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir today urged Lithuanian technology companies to explore investment and business opportunities in Bangladesh's rapidly expanding ICT, fintech and other technology-driven sectors. He made the call when Lithuanian non-resident Ambassador to Bangladesh Diana Mickeviciene met him at the Ministry of Commerce at the Secretariat here, said a press release. Commerce Secretary Md Ataur Rahman Khan was present at the meeting. Muktadir said Bangladesh and Lithuania have significant scope to expand bilateral trade and investment although the existing volume of trade between the two countries remains limited. He particularly highlighted Bangladesh's rapidly growing ICT sector, skilled young workforce and strong pool of freelancers, saying Lithuanian technology companies could utilise these resources to expand their operations in Bangladesh and gain access to the wider South Asian market. "Bangladesh is now a promising destination for investment," the minister said, adding that necessary facilities have been ensured for repa-

triation of investment and profits. He said Bangladesh is providing a stable and investment-friendly environment for international investors and urged Lithuanian businesses to take advantage of the emerging opportunities. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment cooperation and partnerships in technology-oriented sectors, including ICT, cybersecurity and fintech. Ambassador Diana Mickeviciene said Lithuania is a global leader in laser technology, GovTech and fintech services. She expressed her country's interest in sharing expertise and technological experience with Bangladesh to support its digital transformation, technological development and cybersecurity capabilities. The Lithuanian ambassador also emphasised the importance of building effective partnerships between the public and private sectors of the two countries, saying such cooperation could create new opportunities in technology, innovation and investment. The meeting also stressed the need for prompt measures to expand bilateral trade, increase business-to-business contacts and undertake joint initiatives in technology-driven sectors.



New initiative launched to combat cyber-enabled human trafficking

Staff correspondent

The International Organization for Migration (IOM-UN Migration) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of

Finance of Bangladesh have signed a 24-month project to strengthen Bangladesh's efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking facilitated through digital technologies. The project,

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PM's people-centric, reform agenda driving rapid change in Bangladesh: Mahdi Amin

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser and his office spokesperson Mahdi Amin has said Bangladesh is undergoing a rapid transformation as the government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman pursues a people-centric and reform-oriented agenda focused on good governance, accountability, economic recovery and the rebuilding of state institutions. "The government is working to rebuild the state structure weakened over the past one and a half decades, establish accountability and move forward with the principle of

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Jaintapur Residents Demand Cancellation of Proposed Municipality

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat (Sylhet)

A press conference was held at Jaintapur Press Club on Saturday, August 15, demanding the cancellation of the proposed Jaintapur Municipality. The press conference was organized by the Conscious Citizens Forum. The organization claimed that the proposed municipality, comprising 12 mouzas from Nijpat and Jaintapur unions, was formed based on incorrect information and does not meet the required criteria. Forum Convener Md. Jalal Uddin said most residents of the proposed area are farmers, laborers and fishermen, while there is limited business and industrial activity. The forum demanded a fresh and impartial field investigation and urged the government to reconsider the proposal based on accurate information and the opinions of local residents. Joint Convener Burhan Ahmed, Member Secretary Abdul Qayyum Sarker, member Kamal Hossain and others were present at the press conference.

Govt working to eliminate aviation syndicates: Afroza

Staff correspondent

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam today said the government is working to eliminate syndicates from the aviation sector while ensuring fair airfares for expatriate Bangladeshis. "With the cooperation of all of you, I hope we will be able to eliminate all syndicates in the aviation sector," she said. The minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion marking "National Fisheries Fortnight 2026" at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Manikganj, said an official press release here. Afroza said the government has made significant progress in implementing its election manifesto during its first six months in office, including initiatives to develop Bangladesh into a regional aviation hub. She said the government is also working to ensure fair airfares for expatriate Bangladeshis. The minister said initiatives are being taken to offer special incentives on airfares and accommodation at hotels and motels under the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation in honour of the July fighters. Earlier, Afroza inaugurated a colourful rally marking "National Fisheries Fortnight 2026" under the theme "Self-Reliant Nation with Silver Fish, Bangladesh First". The rally began in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at 11 am, and ended on the office premises after parading through important streets of the town. Later, the minister released fish fry into a pond adjacent

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Govt. working for proper management of water resources – Nitai Roy Chowdhury

Staff correspondent

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury here on today said Bangladeshis are known as a nation of "fish and rice" and the country is one of the best in the world in terms of natural resources and scenic beauty. "The government is working to advance the country through proper management

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An operation by Mirsarai Police Station in Chattogram 110 kg cannabis (ganja) and 100 bottles of Phensedyl were recovered

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai correspondent, Chattogram

In connection with this incident, police have arrested one person named Md Jewel. A private car used for transporting the drugs was also seized during the operation. Chattogram District SP Masud Alam held a press briefing regarding the recovered drug consignment and the operation.

BRAC's Shikha Project delegation visits RU

Staff correspondent

A delegation of BRAC's Shikha Project today visited Rajshahi University (RU) to discuss initiatives aimed at preventing sexual violence, sexual harassment and stalking on the campus. The delegation held an exchange of views meeting with RU Vice-Chancellor Professor Faridul Islam at the conference room of Administration Building-1. Head of the delegation and BRAC Director A F M Shahidur Rahman briefed the meeting on the aims and objectives of the Shikha Project, which seeks to prevent sexual violence, sexual harassment and stalking in public and private spaces. As part of implementing the project at RU, the

delegation outlined various initiatives to raise awareness among teachers, students, officers and employees, including workshops, training programmes and other awareness-building activities. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that the Shikha Project's

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4killed, 2 injured as pickup flips in Rangamati; vehicle seized

Staff Reporter

Four people, including women, were killed in a tragic road accident when a pickup truck overturned on a dangerous bend of the Rangamati-Chittagong highway. Two others, including the driver, were critically injured and are currently undergoing treatment. The incident took place around 5:30 AM on Sunday (August 16) in front of the Manikchhari Army Camp under Saphchhari Union in Rangamati Sadar Upazila. The deceased were identified as Meghrani Chakma (45), Shantana Chakma (38), Shanti Ranjan Chakma (65), and Shobha Chakma (52). According

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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

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

সিরিয়ালের জন্য যোগাযোগ :
01675-271725
01815-092341

চেম্বার :
DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

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

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

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

BCCCI hosts 12-member delegation

creating opportunities for Bangladeshi students studying fashion, textiles and related disciplines to pursue academic and practical learning opportunities at Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, including exposure to China's advanced textile and fashion industries.Mohd. Khorshed Alam, President of BCCCI, welcomed the visiting delegation and emphasised the importance of strengthening Bangladesh-China cooperation in education, technical skills development, textiles, fashion and industry-based training.He said that BCCCI is keen to facilitate stronger links between Bangladeshi educational institutions, textile industries and Chinese universities and industries. He also highlighted a BCCCI initiative to facilitate opportunities for Bangladeshi textile students to gain practical exposure in China through factory visits, industry engagement and hands-on training.

An open discussion followed the formal session, where representatives from both sides exchanged views on a range of potential areas of cooperation, including student exchange, university collaboration, technical training, industry exposure, knowledge sharing and joint initiatives in fashion and textile education.he meeting was attended by Mr. Masud Ali Khan, Vice President, BCCCI; Professor Rakibul Hoque, Director, BCCCI; representatives of the National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research (NITER); along with other BCCCI members and representatives of the visiting delegation.The meeting concluded with a shared understanding of the importance of developing long-term academic, technical and industry linkages between Bangladesh and China in the fields of fashion, textiles, technology and related sectors. The BCCCI and Zhejiang Sci-Tech University expressed their interest in maintaining close communication and exploring practical opportunities to translate the discussions into meaningful and sustainable collaborative initiatives.

Army Honors Meritorious

School were honored with educational kits. Invited guest Md. Erfanul Haq Chowdhury, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), along with other government officials, handed over awards to boost student morale.?Following the reception, a specialized health awareness session was organized for around 70 female students of classes nine and ten at Shishu Moncho High School under the direction of the Khagrachhari Region. Conducted in the presence of the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, the session highlighted various aspects of adolescent health care and hygiene.?Local government department heads, teachers, parents, journalists, public representatives, and community leaders attended the program. Local elders noted that such timely initiatives by the Army will play a pivotal role in promoting education and strengthening harmony in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

BPPA's 2nd batch of four

were also present in the inaugural session.mphasizing the importance of the PPM training, the IMED Secretary said such professional training in public procurement is essential for government officials to improve their efficiency and effectiveness of procurement processes.He stressed the need to reduce unnecessary delays and additional costs in public procurement, noting that project costs often increase because of delays in procurement and land acquisition. The Secretary said professionalization of public procurement has become increasingly important and that such training programmes would help government officials strengthen their skills and complete procurement activities in a timely and efficient manner.Under the ongoing World Bank-supported Procurement Modernization to Improve Public Service Delivery (PMPSD) Project, BPPA plans to conduct 22 non-residential and five residential four-week PPM training courses during the 2026-27 fiscal year.The first residential four-week training course under the programme is scheduled to begin on 22 August, 2026 on the ESCB campus at Gazaria in Munshiganj.

CPD recommends renewable

measures alone will not be sufficient to achieve deep decarbonisation.

The study found that capital and energy function as complements under the existing production system, while a core group of machines remains difficult or impossible to substitute.

The CPD therefore recommended directing machinery replacement incentives toward areas where significant energy savings are technically feasible. Cutting, for example, accounts for around 5.5 percent of the installed machine stock but could deliver about 27 percent of total savings, while sewing represents around 85 percent of the machine stock but provides less than 3 percent of substitution-based savings.The think tank also called for a shift towards overall renewable electrification, alongside long-term research and development into lower-energy sewing technologies.It stressed that policy support should not focus solely on machine substitution, particularly because sewing has a large irreplaceable machine core.

The CPD recommended giving greater policy attention to thermal processes in washing and dyeing, which the study identified as the most energy-intensive production stage. Rooftop solar can offset grid and captive electricity consumption, but it cannot currently replace gas-fired boilers used in thermal processes.On financing, the CPD urged the government and financial institutions to expand blended finance, combining private investment, concessional lending and government-backed credit, particularly for smaller factories. The study found that smaller factories face the largest efficiency gaps, with the smallest group showing a 57.3 percent energy-saving gap compared with 8.9 percent for the largest factories.The study also recommended that financial institutions develop standardised appraisal frameworks for renewable energy and energy-efficiency investments to reduce the technical burden on factories seeking loans.The CPD further called for outcome-based regulation, including mandatory energy audits and standardised emissions reporting, rather than an approach focused mainly on procedural compliance.

It also recommended better coordination among institutions to reduce transaction costs related to renewable energy projects.The study suggested formalising buyer-driven incentives by encouraging preferential sourcing from factories that demonstrate verified progress in decarbonisation. It also proposed wider dissemination of model-factory experiences to overcome information and behavioural barriers.

he CPD found that renewable energy can also improve factories' cost predictability. Under an illustrative 30 percent solar-offset scenario, average monthly energy costs could fall by 15.7 percent, while a 10 percent offset-the maximum observed in the sample-could reduce costs by 5.5 percent.A simulation of energy-price uncertainty showed that renewable adoption could reduce monthly energy-cost volatility, with the coefficient of variation falling from 0.1148 to 0.1102 under the renewable-offset scenario. The study said the reduction was positive for 96 percent of factories.However, implementing the study's recommended machine reallocation would require substantial investment.

The estimated sector-wide cost ranges from Tk 6,604 crore for 50 percent adoption to Tk 13,209 crore for full adoption, with the largest factories accounting for the bulk of the cost.The CPD concluded that decarbonisation of the RMG sector should be treated not simply as an environmental obligation but as a competitiveness strategy, particularly as global buyers increasingly place importance on verified emissions performance.

It stressed that technological, financial, institutional and

behavioural interventions must be implemented in a coordinated manner to break the sector's carbon lock-in.The recommendations at a glance are: targeted incentives for efficient machinery; accelerated renewable electrification; long-term R&D for low-energy sewing technology; measures to decarbonise thermal processes; blended finance for smaller factories; outcome-based regulation and mandatory energy audits; standardised emissions reporting; coordinated institutional approvals; buyer-driven incentives; and standardised financial appraisal systems for green investment.

5-year trade licence

municipal taxes from home through digital services.Regarding the demand for five-year trade licence renewal, the DSCC administrator said the proposal had been positively considered and an official decision would be announced soon.On signboard taxes, he said the actual size of many signboards of large commercial establishments was not properly reflected in tax assessments.However, he stressed that businesses would not be harassed over the issue, and the DSCC would ensure a fair and transparent system for determining such taxes.The DSCC administrator identified traffic congestion, encroachment of footpaths and the problem of illegal hawkers as some of the major challenges facing the capital.He said hawkers and battery-run rickshaws would be brought under a registration system and licences would be issued based on a fixed number. Their identities and activities would also be preserved in a digital database, he added.Salam said the longstanding problems of outstanding trade licence fees and unpaid rents in city corporation markets would also be addressed in cooperation with business organisations.He called for market-based coordination initiatives involving business associations to resolve the problems.Speaking about the preservation of Old Dhaka's heritage, he said various programmes had been undertaken marking the 416th anniversary of the historic part of the capital.We want to develop Dhaka in such a way that its citizens can proudly regard it as their own city," he said.The DSCC administrator also urged business leaders to take a leading role, alongside the administration, in addressing traffic congestion, footpath encroachment, extortion and other urban management problems."Without the active cooperation of the business community, sustainable solutions to these problems are not possible," he said.DCCI President Taskin Ahmed presided over the meeting.Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Masud Karim attended the meeting as a special guest. Senior officials of the two city corporations, DCCI directors and business leaders were also present.

Govt to establish Modern Information

event, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Mahbuba Farjana said the information complexes would play important role in combating misinformation and disinformation. Barishal Divisional Commissioner Khalil Ahmed, Barishal City Corporation Administrator Advocate Bilkis Akter Jahan Shirin, spoke among others on the occasion. In his welcome address, Project Director Moniruzzaman said the seven-storey modern Information Complex in Barishal is being constructed at a cost of Taka 17.63 crore. Later, Deputy Project Director Rezaur Rabbi Moni presented details of the project through a multimedia presentation.

Propitious environment needed

vitiated by the open press interaction in New Delhi on 5th August by Sheikh Hasina who has been convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal for committing crimes against humanity. We have made our position clear on this matter,” he said.Karim said Dhaka had requested New Delhi to act expeditiously on Bangladesh's extradition requests as part of efforts to create an appropriate environment for the proposed visit.

“To this end, we have requested the Indian authorities to expeditiously act on our request to extradite Sheikh Hasina and other fugitive criminals, and to hand over to Bangladesh the accused killers of Shaheed Sharif Osman Hadi in compliance with our bilateral extradition treaty. We are awaiting their response,” he said.The spokesperson reiterated that Bangladesh would continue pursuing its “Bangladesh First” foreign policy while maintaining friendly relations with other countries, including its neighbours. “We reiterate that we will continue to pursue our "Bangladesh First" policy to promote friendly bilateral relations with other countries, including our neighbours, on the basis of sovereign equality, national dignity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit,” he said.

New initiative launched

Countering Cyber-Enabled Human Trafficking Through Technology”, funded by the IOM Development Fund, to be implemented by IOM Bangladesh in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs, an IOM press release said today. The project aims to support longer-term efforts to prevent cyber-enabled human trafficking in Bangladesh. Its findings and training resources are expected to contribute to future policy and programme development and to strengthen existing national and inter-agency efforts to combat trafficking. Responding to growing concerns over the use of social media, online platforms, job portals and other digital technologies by traffickers to target, recruit, control and exploit people, the project will focus on three key areas, including building evidence and knowledge, strengthening law enforcement capacity, and improving digital literacy in communities. The agreement was signed by Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Dr Laura Tomm Bonde, Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh.AKM Sohel, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief, UN Wing, ERD, and representatives of relevant government agencies, including Ministry of Home Affairs and IOM, were present."Technology is transforming the way people communicate, seek employment and connect with opportunities, but it can also be exploited by traffickers," said Dr. Laura Tomm Bonde, Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh. "This project will help strengthen the evidence, skills and community awareness needed to ensure that technology becomes part of the solution rather than a tool for exploitation," she added.Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky said, "The project will contribute to the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to prevent the misuse of technology for human trafficking while promoting technology as a means to counter human trafficking." Its overall outcome is to enable government stakeholders and communities to take informed action to prevent, respond to and mitigate the risks of cyber-enabled human trafficking, he said.

PM's people-centric, reform

'Bangladesh First'," he said.Mahdi Amin made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat.During the interview, he spoke candidly about the government's first 180 days, its key social and economic initiatives, the energy situation, overseas employment, foreign policy, media freedom and the country's law and order situation. Reflecting on Bangladesh's political transition, he said the people had gone through a prolonged period marked by controversial elections, restrictions on fundamental rights and an erosion of democratic institutions.

"Bangladesh witnessed the 2014 election without voters, the 2018 'night-time election' and the 2024 'dummy election'. During that period, an unelected government established authoritarian rule and deprived people of their basic freedoms and rights," he said.According to Mahdi Amin, the present government draws its legitimacy and strength from the people following a free, fair and credible election."Breaking the

shackles of authoritarianism, an elected and people-oriented government has been formed under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Its only source of power is the people. With their genuine support, the government is working to bring meaningful change in every sphere and establish good governance," he said.Pointing to the government's first six months, the adviser said one of the earliest major initiatives was the waiver of agricultural loans of up to Tk 10,000, including principal and interest. More than 13 lakh farmers have directly benefited from the decision, he said.The government has also introduced the Family Card, aimed at empowering women and strengthening household economies, while allowances have been introduced for imams, muezzins, khatis and other religious leaders, he said.

He described the Family Card as more than a social assistance programme, saying it was designed to give women greater economic independence and dignity."Women are using the assistance for their children's education, household expenses and small businesses. It is not simply financial support; it is a quiet revolution aimed at making women self-reliant and dignified," he said.

Mahdi, however, acknowledged that some technical inconsistencies had emerged in the distribution of the cards. The government is now updating the database and strengthening the "Proxy Means Test" system to ensure that assistance reaches only genuine beneficiaries, he said.On the cost of living and energy situation, he said the government had managed to keep essential commodity prices under control during Ramadan and two Eid festivals while ensuring timely payment of workers' outstanding wages, salaries and bonuses.But he admitted that the energy crisis could not be resolved overnight."The energy crisis accumulated over the past one and a half decades cannot be completely resolved in six months," he said, adding that the government was pursuing a long-term strategy to secure gas and fuel at affordable prices from alternative sources.He said discussions were being held with the US-Bangladesh Business Council, Malaysia's Petronas and Chinese investors as part of the effort to diversify energy sources and strengthen energy security.

On overseas employment, the adviser said the government was hopeful of reopening Malaysia's labour market for Bangladeshi workers after intensive negotiations"Discussions with Malaysia are at the final stage. If everything goes as planned, we hope the issue will be resolved by the end of August," he said.Reopening the market could create opportunities for more than 100,000 Bangladeshi workers to travel to Malaysia over the following four months, he said. Employment opportunities would not be confined to a particular sector, but would include real estate, agriculture and manufacturing, he added.The government is also preparing skilled workers for new destinations by providing technical and language training and arranging collateral-free special loans for employment in Japan, Oman, Jordan and European countries beyond the Middle East, he stated. Initiatives are also underway to expand Bangladesh's manpower exports to Eastern European markets, he said.On freedom of expression and law and order, Mahdi Amin said the government had ensured a significantly more open environment for free expression and journalism during its first six months."Even in the face of strong criticism and provocative behaviour, the government has demonstrated the highest level of political restraint," he said.e said the police and administration were being transformed into service-oriented institutions, moving away from authoritarian mindset."From elephant killing to other serious and ordinary crimes, independent and impartial legal proceedings are continuing. No criminal is being given political or partisan protection," he said.Turning to foreign policy, Mahdi Amin said the government's central principle was "Bangladesh First"."We want deep economic and strategic relations with all countries, including India, based on equality, justice and mutual respect," he said.On the government's efforts to bring ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina back to Bangladesh to face justice, he said India, as a friendly neighbour, was expected to extend full cooperation with the legal process.

On the economic outlook, the adviser said the government was working with the ambition of building a trillion-dollar economy by strengthening the country's economic foundations and making Bangladesh more competitive.

He said the government was taking steps to make doing business easier, including making the "One Stop Service" more effective, introducing 24-hour cargo services at ports and providing tariff concessions on imports of raw materials to encourage domestic production."A democratic process allows mistakes to be corrected. By utilising the government's sincerity, goodwill and accountability, Bangladesh will, InshaAllah, emerge as a prosperous and self-respecting nation, standing tall in the global community," Mahdi Amin added.

Govt. working for proper

of water resources and development of canals and wetlands," he made the remarks as the chief guest during the inauguration ceremony of the National Fisheries Week with the theme “A self-reliant country through silver fish, Bangladesh first.”Jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and Khulna District Administration, the Minister joined the discussion and award-giving ceremony as the chief guest at the conference room of the Khulna Deputy Commissioner’s office this morning.Despite facing drought, floods, excessive rainfall and other natural adversities, Bangladesh produces a huge quantity of fruits and crops, he said.The minister called upon farmers, blacksmiths, potters, weavers, fishermen and people from all walks of life to work together to achieve self-sufficiency in every sector."Imports must be reduced by increasing domestic production. In particular, we can meet the country's demand for fish and also earn foreign currency by exporting fish after increasing production," he said.Roy Chowdhury urged all to move forward united with dreams, hopes and aspirations and build a prosperous, self-reliant and developed Bangladesh through collective efforts.

Khulna Deputy Commissioner Hoore Jannat presided over the programme.Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Md Billal Hossain Khan, Director of the Divisional Fisheries Office Md Jahangir Alam and Police Superintendent of the Range DIG Office Md Sajjadur Rahman Russell attended the event as special guests.istrict Fisheries Officer Md Badruzzaman delivered the welcome address.

Officials of government and private organisations, fish farmers, fishermen, representatives of fish-exporting companies, and representatives of fish-feed producers and traders' associations attended the programme.

The chief guest also handed over crests to two successful fish farmers in recognition of their contributions.Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out from the Circuit House premises, led by the minister, marking the Fisheries Week.

BRAC's Shikha

programmes would contribute to making the RU campus free from sexual violence, sexual harassment and stalking.Pro-VC (Administration) Prof Md. Abdul Alim, Pro-VC (Education) Prof Mamunur Rashid, Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences Prof Md. Golam Mortuza, Registrar Prof Iftikharul Alam Masud and Proctor Prof Mahbubur Rahman were present at the meeting. Chairman of the Department of Philosophy Prof Md. Ariful Islam, Director of the Central Science Laboratory Prof A B M Hamidul Haque, member of the Complaint Committee on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse Prof Shahnaz Parveen, and other distinguished teachers also attended.

Govt working to eliminate

to the Deputy Commissioner's Office.Addressing the discussion as the chief guest, Afroza said the government is working to move the country forward under its "Bangladesh First" principle.She urged government officials to play a more proactive role in implementing the government's election manifesto.The minister said the Department of Fisheries is working relentlessly to conserve the country's fisheries resources and ensure sustainable production, while the government remains ready to provide necessary technical assistance to fish farmers.She stressed expanding fish farming at the grassroots level, saying indigenous fish play an important role in meeting the nutritional and protein needs of the people.Popularising fish farming across the country could also contribute to poverty alleviation and strengthening the national economy, she added.The programmes marking National Fisheries Fortnight focused on conservation of fisheries resources, sustainable production and expansion of fish farming at the grassroots.The administrator of Manikganj Zila Parishad and senior officials of different government departments in the district, among others, attended the discussion.

Renewables can boost RMG

Industrial Decarbonization series.RMG exports rebound to \$3.88 billion in July despite Yoy dipSami Mohammad, Programme Associate at CPD, presented the paper, "Renewable Energy as a Competitiveness Strategy for Industrial Decarbonization in Bangladesh's RMG Sector." Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director at CPD, chaired the event.The study based on primary data from 350 RMG factories covering 78 machine types across nine production sections, is described as the largest factory-level production and energy dataset assembled for the sector.According to the research, RMG accounts for 15.4 percent of Bangladesh's total greenhouse gas emissions, with the sector having pledged a 30 percent emissions cut by 2030 under the UN climate charter.The study noted that pressure is mounting from the European Green Deal, the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and Bangladesh's upcoming LDC graduation, alongside buyers' growing Scope 3 emissions demands.Econometric modelling in the study found capital and energy behave as complements rather than substitutes in RMG production, meaning expanding machinery under existing technology raises energy use rather than reducing it, evidence the researchers describe as the empirical signature of technological lock-in.The study also identified a core of "irreplaceable" machines, concentrated overwhelmingly in the sewing category, which holds 85.2 percent of installed machine capacity but yields under 3 percent of potential energy savings from substitution.By contrast, cutting machinery, just 5.5 percent of the machine stock, accounts for 27.3 percent of total savings potential, while washing and dyeing was found to be the most energy-intensive stage of production despite its small footprint.Rooftop solar was found to be financially viable and capable of hedging against volatile LNG-linked energy prices, with a Monte Carlo simulation showing renewable offsets reduce cost volatility for 96 percent of factories.However, the study stressed that solar cannot address gas-fired thermal processes used in washing and dyeing, leaving a portion of emissions outside the reach of current renewable electrification.Implementing the study's recommended machinery reallocation was estimated to cost between Tk 6,604 crore and Tk 13,209 crore, with costs concentrated heavily among the largest factories, which account for over 70 percent of the sector-wide bill.The study recommended directing substitution incentives toward evidence-backed categories such as cutting and finishing, scaling renewable electrification alongside R&D on lower-energy sewing technology, targeting blended finance at smaller, capital-constrained factories, and shifting regulation from procedural compliance toward outcome-based, measurable emissions reporting. Speakers at the dialogue said decarbonizing the RMG sector requires coordinated technological, financial, institutional and behavioural interventions, noting that partial measures alone would not be sufficient to break the sector's carbon lock-in.

4killed, 2 injured as pickup

to police and local sources, a speeding pickup truck (Chattogram Metro-N-11-2599) carrying passengers was heading toward Kutukchhari Bazar from the Kalyanpur area of Rangamati town. Upon reaching the Manikchhari Army Camp area, the driver lost control of the vehicle. The pickup skidded off the road, flipped over, and was completely wrecked. Meghrani, Shantana, and Shanti Ranjan died on the spot.?Upon receiving the news, army personnel and police, with the help of locals, rescued the victims and rushed them to Rangamati General Hospital. As Shobha Chakma's condition deteriorated while under treatment, doctors referred her to Chattogram Medical College Hospital. However, she succumbed to her injuries en route.?The severely injured driver, Gyan Bikash Chakma (50), and another passenger, Suman Chakma (45), are currently undergoing treatment at Rangamati General Hospital.?Dr. Shawkat Akbar, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Rangamati General Hospital, stated that out of the six individuals brought to the hospital, three were already dead. Another victim passed away on the way to Chattogram in critical condition.?Confirming the incident, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station, Md. Jasim Uddin, said that the vehicle involved in the accident has been seized. The bodies will be handed over to their families following legal procedures.?Meanwhile, hearing the news of the tragedy, former Hill Tracts Affairs Minister and local Member of Parliament Dipen Dewan rushed to the hospital. He expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family members and assured all-out assistance, including medical

Price fall in large-cap drives stocks down

Staff correspondent

Stocks today continued its losing streak for a third consecutive session as investors remained cautious, awaiting greater clarity on potential changes to margin rules and assessing their possible impact on market liquidity and trading activity.The DSEX, the broad index of the DSE, fell 23.9 points to settle at 5,860 points, compared with 5,884 points in the previous trading session.The market remained under sustained selling pressure throughout the session, with expectations of weaker corporate earnings amid the ongoing gas crisis weighing on factory capacity utilisation and triggering a broad-based decline.Despite the fall in the index, market turnover increased 22.2 percent to Tk 11.3 billion from Tk 9.3 billion in the previous session.General Insurance accounted for the highest share of turnover at 26.4 percent, followed by Textile at 19.8 percent and Pharma at 9.6 percent. Almost all sectors posted negative returns. Life Insurance declined 2.4 percent, Jute 2.1 percent and Paper 1.7 percent, recording the highest corrections.n the other hand, General Insurance gained 2.2 percent and Telecom edged up 0.2 percent, the only sectors to post notable positive returns on the bourse.Of the 396 issues traded, 101 advanced, 241 declined and 53 remained unchanged. The port city bourse, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), also closed in negative territory. Its Selective Categories' Index (CSCX) and All Share Price Index (CASPI) declined by 46.6 points and 68.1 points, respectively.



At least 5 killed as record flooding hits Indiana

International Desk

At least five people have died in Indiana after severe storms and flooding battered the state this week, while rescuers used boats Saturday to evacuate residents from neighborhoods along the White River in Indianapolis. Heavy rains pushed rivers to record levels, forcing residents to higher ground. More than a dozen counties declared local disasters, with much of the latest damage reported along river corridors from Hamilton County to northern Indianapolis suburbs. President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration, making federal disaster assistance available, Federal Emergency Management Agency said. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett said the city was facing its worst flooding in more than 30 years. Hundreds of homes were evacuated, while the Indianapolis Fire Department rescued 95 people and 45 pets by late afternoon. Hundreds of emergency calls were received. More than 350 evacuations occurred in Delaware County, while a senior mobile home community in Tipton County was evacuated. Rescues and welfare checks continued in Fayette County. The five deaths included a boy killed when a tree fell on



Rescuers find 26 more bodies in Lake Kariba; ferry tragedy toll reaches 72

International Desk

The death toll from a ferry disaster on Lake Kariba has risen to 72 after rescuers recovered 26 more bodies on Saturday. At least 17 children were among those killed when the overloaded vessel capsized earlier this week. The incident occurred on Tuesday amid strong waves while the aging ferry was traveling from the town of Kariba toward rural and fishing communities in the country's northwest. Officials noted that the vessel is a critical link for the region, where roads are heavily damaged and public transportation is extremely scarce. While authorities have not yet confirmed the total number of people on board or those still missing, current estimates suggest as many as 153 passengers were on the ferry, which had a reported capacity of only 90. Zimbabwe's disaster management agency stated that 77 people have been rescued to date. Police initially faced difficulty determining the number of children aboard because those below ticketing age were not included in initial passenger manifests. However, a recently released police list showed that 16 of the child victims were aged 10 or younger, including a infant just one year old. Lake Kariba, the world's largest human-made lake by volume, was created by damming the Zambezi River in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The lake stretches more than 200 kilometers (124 miles) in length and up to 40 kilometers (25 miles) in width, with the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia running through its center.

7 terrorists killed in security operation in Pakistan

International Desk

Pakistani security forces killed seven terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the southwest Balochistan province, the security sources said Sunday. The operation was conducted in Lajay area of Kharan district following reports of terrorist presence, according to security sources. A cache of modern weapons, ammunition and military equipment, along with two vehicles and a motorcycle, was recovered, while terrorist hideouts were destroyed, the sources said. The killed terrorists were allegedly involved in robbery, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, targeted killings and planning suicide attacks in Kharan and surrounding areas. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stressed that the nation remains united and resolute in the fight against terrorism, saying intelligence-based operations will continue until the "last terrorist" is eliminated.

his home, a woman swept away after driving into floodwaters and a teen who went missing after jumping into a river Wednesday. Gov. Mike Braun expressed condolences and urged residents to avoid floodwaters. The National Weather Service said some areas received more than 11 inches of rain in two days. The White River rose above 24 feet in Anderson and Noblesville, breaking records set in 1913. Flood warnings remained across central Indiana, with the river expected to crest in Indianapolis Saturday evening. National Guard vehicles assisted rescue operations. Severe weather earlier in the week also caused tornadoes, heavy rain and flash flooding across the Midwest, with damage reported from the Chicago area to western Pennsylvania. Some Indiana residents remained without power. In Noblesville, floodwaters submerged homes, vehicles, roads, parking lots, cornfields, a memorial and a flower garden. Historic Potter's Bridge remained standing. Matt Doudt, City photographer, said the flooding resulted from heavy rainfall upstream. Despite extensive damage, he said no lives were lost in Noblesville and everyone was rescued.

Ukraine launches massive drone attack across Russia, killing at least 6

International Desk

Ukraine launched one of its largest drone attacks on Russia since the start of the war on Sunday, killing at least six people and sending hundreds of drones toward Moscow and other areas, Russian officials said. Russia's Defence Ministry said its air defences intercepted and destroyed 822 Ukrainian drones overnight. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said around 600 drones were detected heading toward the Russian capital, with about one-third of them destroyed over the Moscow region. An 83-year-old man was killed when a Ukrainian drone struck a private home in the Moscow region, regional Governor Andrey Vorobyov said. Vorobyov also said a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at a warehouse belonging to Russian retail giant Wildberries. Images circulated by Russian media showed thick columns of black smoke rising over the town of Podolsk, where the warehouse was located. Five other people were killed in Russia's southern Rostov region, according to regional Governor Yury Slyusar. He said three towns in the region came under attack, though further details were not immediately available. The scale of Sunday's attack highlighted Ukraine's growing use of long-range drones against targets deep inside Russian territory as the war continues.



Israel claims to have killed senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon

International Desk

The Israeli military on Sunday claimed it has killed Abu Hassan Alaa, a senior commander of Hezbollah's "Badder Unit," during an operation in southern Lebanon. In a statement posted on X, the military accused Alaa of coordinating attacks against Israeli troops, specifically citing his involvement in the launch of explosive drones targeting soldiers in southern Lebanon. The strike was carried out in response to Hezbollah's recent actions against Israeli personnel within the designated "Security Zone", Israeli military said. Iran says Qatar holding 3 missing pilots; Israeli strikes kill 11 in Lebanon This claim follows reports from just hours earlier in which Israel said it had killed another Hezbollah commander, Ali Samir al-Haj Hassan, in a strike on the southern village of Ansar. Local reports indicated that at least seven people, including two women and three children, were killed dur-

Indonesia earthquake death toll rises to 51

International Desk

Rescue teams in eastern Indonesia recovered four additional bodies on Sunday after a magnitude-7.7 earthquake struck Flores the previous day, raising the death toll to 51. More than 100 people were injured, while thousands were forced to leave their homes. The earthquake struck the Flores region at a depth of about 10 kilometers early Saturday morning, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Residents fled as tsunami warnings were issued and later canceled. Indonesia's meteorological agency reported at least 235 aftershocks. Rescuers continued searching through collapsed structures and landslides across six regencies on Flores. Efforts were concentrated in Manggarai, East Manggarai and Nagekeo, where damaged roads and communication problems had made access difficult. Authorities said more than 900 houses were destroyed and another 450 were damaged, forcing around 5,000 residents into temporary shelters. Landslides also blocked parts of the Trans-Flores Highway, a major road connecting communities across the mountainous island. Relief teams have been supplying food, drinking water, blankets and medicine while emergency shelters are



being established. Restoring electricity and communications and reaching isolated villages remain major challenges. Residents in Labuan Bajo, a popular tourist gateway to Komodo National Park, spent the night outside because they feared further tremors. Many described the earthquake as extremely frightening. Indonesia frequently experiences earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because it lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire. Flores has suffered major disasters before, including a 1992 earthquake and tsunami that killed about 2,500 people. Other devastating earthquakes and tsunamis struck Sulawesi in 2018 and off Sumatra in 2004, causing thousands of deaths.

Hurricane Lala pulls away from Hawaii's Big Island

International Desk

Hurricane Lala was pulling away from Hawaii's Big Island early Sunday, as heavy rain and strong winds struck the US Pacific state and officials warned of potentially dangerous flooding. "Damaging winds will persist across portions of the Big Island of Hawaii overnight, with the strongest winds expected in areas of higher terrain," the National Hurricane Center said at 11:00 pm local time (0900 GMT Sunday), warning that the coast would be hit with "large and dangerous waves." Lala strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane on Saturday, generating winds of up to 75 miles per hour (120 kilometers per hour). Lala "appears to have peaked in intensity" when it passed near South Point of the Big Island in the afternoon, and did not make landfall. "The hurricane could maintain its intensity for a few more hours, but weakening is expected by early Sunday as Lala continues to pull away from the Big Island," NHC officials said. Aside from the Big Island, a tropical storm warning was in place for the state's seven other major islands: Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau. A maximum storm total of 30 to 35 inches (76 to 89 centimeters) of rainfall was expected over the windward Big Island. "Heavy rainfall, with life-threatening flooding and mudslides, especially in areas of steep terrain, will continue tonight into early Sunday over the Big Island and Maui," officials warned. The heavy rain and flood risk will then spread westward across the island chain on Sunday, according to the NHC. Power outages were reported for more than 20,000 customers in Hawaii Saturday afternoon, with weather officials confirming "damaging winds and heavy rain" were spreading across the Big Island famed for surfing and tourism. Swells generated by Lala would build through the weekend and are likely to cause "life-threatening surf and rip current conditions." "It's a serious storm," Governor Josh Green said, proclaiming a state of emergency to ensure Hawaii and its counties "have sufficient resources to clear debris, secure infrastructure, and take other measures to prepare." Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi said Friday his administration had spent days preparing for the storm, and urged residents to be ready.

Bus carrying Polish tourists crashes in Hungary kills 12

International Desk

At least 12 people were killed and 10 others seriously injured when a passenger bus carrying Polish tourists overturned on a highway in Hungary early Sunday, police said. The accident occurred around 1am on the eastbound lanes of the M3 motorway near Mezokeresztes, about 140 kilometres (87 miles) east of Budapest. Police said the bus veered off the highway and plunged into a ditch before overturning. Preliminary investigations indicated that the driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel. The driver was taken into custody, authorities said. Hungary's National Directorate for Disaster Management said 57 passengers and two drivers were on board when the crash occurred. Several passengers were trapped beneath the overturned vehicle and had to be rescued. Polish Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maciej Wewiór told Polish news agency PAP that everyone aboard the bus was a Polish citizen. The passengers were from Poland's southeastern Podkarpackie region and were returning from a pilgrimage to Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to the regional government in Rzeszow. Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar said at least 10 people sustained serious injuries in the crash. He expressed condolences to the families of those killed and thanked emergency responders for their efforts at the accident site. Polish President Karol Nawrocki also expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy and offered his sympathy to the victims' families and loved ones.

Death toll in Zimbabwe ferry capsizing rises to 80: police

International Desk

Another eight bodies were retrieved from Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba on Sunday to take the death toll from this week's ferry capsizing to 80, police said. The overloaded passenger ferry run by the government's Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) overturned in choppy waters on Tuesday in a rare accident on the vast lake on the border with Zambia. "The Kariba RIDA boat accident death toll is now 80 following the recovery of eight more bodies on 16th August 2026," the police said in a statement. It is believed to be the country's deadliest such disaster. Search teams recovered 25 bodies on Saturday, taking the toll to 72. Police gave no details of the new victims but most of the passengers on the vessel were villagers and fish traders who lived around the lake, many from the Chalala fishing camp. Officials say the boat was authorised to carry 90 people but was packed with 114 adults, five crew members and an unspecified number of children. The civil protection unit said on Wednesday that 77 people had been rescued. With the 80 bodies that police said they had recovered, this would mean the vessel was carrying 157 people. Officials have not said how many children were among the dead. The ferry was a vital link for rural communities living around the lake to the town of Kariba, nearly 280 kilometres (175 miles) northwest of the capital Harare. Hundreds of people gathered at the district hospital in Kariba on Saturday to identify the bodies of their relatives and loved ones.





Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff served notice over Vimal Elaichi ad

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff have been served show-cause notices by Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over an advertisement for Vimal Elaichi, which authorities say may indirectly promote pan masala banned in the state.

The three actors appeared together in a Vimal Elaichi advertisement in 2024. Maharashtra Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe issued the notices on Aug 11, directing the actors to immediately stop participating in the campaign and remove promotional material related to the advertisement from their official social media accounts.

According to the nine-page notice, the advertisement appears to promote the Vimal brand, which is primarily associated with pan masala, the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of which are prohibited in Maharashtra.

Mundhe said the use of the name "Vimal Elaichi" in the advertisement appears to create a connection with the Vimal pan masala brand and could mislead consumers or indirectly promote the identity of a prohibited product.

The notice said that if the use of the Vimal brand for elaichi or a similar product is intended to maintain or strengthen its association with pan masala or tobacco-related products, the campaign could amount to surrogate promotion of a restricted product rather than an advertisement for an independent product.

The FDA chief also asked the actors to provide complete copies of their endorsement agreements, campaign briefs, payment details and documents showing that due diligence had been carried out before joining the campaign.

The action was taken under consumer protection laws and Maharashtra's prohibition on pan masala. Authorities said misleading endorsements could result in fines

ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, while endorsers could also be barred from promoting products for up to three years.

Mundhe has been leading enforcement efforts against the manufacture and sale of gutka and other banned tobacco products in Maharashtra. The latest action is not the first controversy involving Bollywood stars and the Vimal Elaichi campaign.

In 2022, actor Akshay Kumar apologised after facing widespread criticism for appearing alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Ajay Devgn in a Vimal Elaichi advertisement.

At the time, Kumar said he did not endorse tobacco products and announced that he would withdraw from the campaign. He also said he would donate his endorsement fee to a charitable cause.

He added that the advertisement could continue to be broadcast for the duration of his existing contractual obligations but promised to be more careful about his future endorsements.

Switzerland selects Gaza survivors documentary for Oscars

Entertainment Desk

Switzerland has selected a documentary featuring testimonies from survivors in the Gaza Strip as its entry for the 2027 Academy Awards, media reports said Thursday, Anadolu reports.

"Who Is Still Alive," directed by Geneva-based filmmaker Nicolas Wadimoff, will compete for a nomination in the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards, Swissinfo reported.

The documentary places Gaza survivors in an abstract setting where they recount their experiences.

"Who Is Still Alive" won the Prix de Soleure, Switzerland's most prestigious film award, at the Solothurn Film Festival earlier this year.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is expected to announce a shortlist of international submissions in December.

The five final nominees will be revealed Jan. 21, ahead of the Academy Awards ceremony on March 14.

I feel very lonely since Ayub Bachchu passed away: James

Entertainment Desk

After a long hiatus of twelve years, the rockstar is set to perform a concert in Rome, Italy, on August 16-coincidentally, the same day as birthday of Ayub Bachchu.

At a press conference held in the ballroom of a hotel in Rome ahead of a concert, James paid tribute to his friend and legendary musician, Ayub Bachchu.

"We always worked together; we were inseparable. So, I feel very lonely since he left; I don't want to say anything more than that," he said.

James and Ayub Bachchu started their journey together. However, James is still grappling with the pain of losing a dear friend and longtime colleague after the demise of Ayub Bachchu on October 18, 2018.

James, popularly known as 'Nagarbawl', embarked on a musical tour of Europe during the last week of July. His tour began with a concert in London, with perform-



ances scheduled in Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Sweden. Notably, he performed in Portugal for the first time during this tour.

James states that the genuine love and support from Bangladeshis living abroad always serve as a great source of inspiration for artists.

The way expatriates remain connected to Bengali music and culture, even while living in foreign lands, inspires the artists.

Siam's first look from 'Andhar' unveiled

Entertainment Desk

Popular Dhallywood filmmaker Raihan Rafi unveiled the first look of Siam Ahmed's character in his upcoming supernatural thriller 'Andhar' on Monday. Based on a supernatural story by Siam plays detective Delwar in the film. Rafi has been gradually releasing unofficial first looks of the film's characters, previously featuring Nazifa Tushi, Afsana Mimi, Farrukh Ahmed Rehan and Chanchal Chowdhury. Sharing Siam's first look, Rafi wrote on facebook, "I always try to establish the heroes of my films as distinct individuals. You will not find any similarities between the heroes of 'Poramon 2', 'Surongo', 'Toofan' and 'Taandob'.

But I had never had the opportunity to work on a completely classic hero character. 'Andhar' gave me that opportunity," Rafi wrote. The film also stars Nazifa



Tushi, Rehan, Gazi Rakayet, Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi and Swarnali Chaiti, among others.

"Siam has brought detective Delwar to life with everything he has," the filmmaker wrote, adding that although he had considered several actors for the role before filming, he could no longer imagine anyone else playing Delwar after completing the shoot," says the director. "Although my character is a detective by profession, I too have a world of darkness within this mysterious world," Siam wrote on social media while sharing the first look.

Actress Tanjin Tisha surrenders in fraud case

Entertainment Desk

A court in Dhaka on Thursday granted bail to actress Tanjin Tisha in a case lodged for alleged fraud and breach of trust.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jewel Rana passed the order as the actress surrendered before the court and pleaded for bail.

According to the case statement, Aponia Fashion executive Aminul Islam filed the case against Tanjin Tisha on November 5, 2025, alleging that she did not pay the bill for a saree and failed to keep her promise to advertise for the company.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police recently submitted its report against the actress, following which the court issued a summons against her on August 12.

Rani Mukerji Gets Honorary Doctorate

Entertainment Desk

Indian actress Rani Mukerji was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by Australia's La Trobe University. She is only the second Indian film personality to receive the distinction, following Shah Rukh Khan, who was honoured by the university in 2019.

The honour was presented to Rani at a special ceremony at Federation Square in Melbourne as part of the 2026 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).

La Trobe University recognised her contribution to Indian cinema as well as her humanitarian work and advocacy around social causes concerning women, children and marginalised communities.



X-Men cast and release date revealed at D23

Entertainment Desk

Marvel Studios has revealed the cast and release date for its upcoming X-Men film during the Disney Entertainment Showcase at D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event("D" stands for Disney and "23" represents 1923, which is the year Walt Disney founded the company).

The Marvel Cinematic Universe movie will arrive in cinemas on May 5, 2028, with several of its major mutant characters now confirmed.

Kit Connor will play Cyclops, while Inde Navarrette has been cast as Rogue.

Christopher Abbott will portray Professor Xavier, with Samara Weaving taking on the role of Emma Frost. Maya Boyd will play Storm, while Sadie Sink has been cast as Jean Grey.

Adam Driver will also appear in the film as Nathaniel Milbury, the character better known as the Marvel supervillain Mr. Sinister.

The X-Men movie will be directed by Jake Schreier, who previously directed 2025's Thunderbolts. Schreier is set to bring the latest Marvel project to the big screen as the franchise's mutants join the wider Marvel Cinematic Universe.



The cast announcement was made on Friday, August 14, during Disney's showcase at D23 in Anaheim, California. The event brought together announcements covering upcoming films, television series, experiences and products from across Disney's entertainment divisions.

The upcoming X-Men film is scheduled to reach cinemas several years after the D23 announcement, with Marvel yet to reveal further plot details in the information provided.

D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event is Disney's biennial exposition, where the company previews upcoming projects and celebrates its entertainment history. This year's event is taking place at the Anaheim Convention Center from Friday through Sunday.



Salman, Sanjay reunite in int'l action thriller

Entertainment Desk

Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt have joined forces with international actors Monica Bellucci and Giancarlo Esposito for the upcoming action film '7 Dogs'. The movie is directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah, known for their work on the 'Bad Boys' franchise.

The film features a diverse cast from India, Egypt, Europe, Hollywood, and the Middle East, with action sequences designed by 87Eleven, the team behind 'John Wick'.

'7 Dogs' is set to release in Indian cinemas on August 21, 2026, in Hindi and English. The film brings together actors and filmmakers from several parts of the

world.

The cast includes talent from India, Egypt, Europe, Hollywood and the Middle East, making 7 Dogs a major international production. Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt represent India, while Ahmed Ezz and Karim Abdel Aziz lead the film from Egypt. The ensemble also features Monica Bellucci, Martin Lawrence and Giancarlo Esposito among others.

Tara Emad, Nasser Al Qasabi and Max Huang are also part of the film. The makers of the global action thriller "7 Dogs" unveiled its trailer in India on August 13. The trailer features special action appearances by Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt, bringing the popular Bollywood duo together once again.

Prova reflects on relationship, healing in new social media post

Entertainment Desk

Sadia Jahan Prova gained popularity as a model and became an overnight star through a TVC for Meril Soap. She later became successful in drama and TV serials. Besides acting, Prova is also quite active on social media.

Prova shared an emotional message on social media on Friday (August 14), regarding relationship, self-respect, and mental peace. She wrote, "Ending a relationship does not mean giving up on people.

Rather, sometimes it is about finally admitting the truth to yourself-that a relationship which was once meaningful is now slowly breaking you down from within."

"Love can never be worth the cost of losing your peace of mind, identity, or mental health.

Those who show up only for their own needs may not actually help you, yet they end up draining you completely. Then there are family members who overstep boundaries, and others who-despite being physically present-



make you feel utterly alone. People keep striving in the hope of change in such situations, until one day they realize that they are losing themselves in this process.

Her message stated that removing someone from your life is not an act of cruelty; rather, it is a sign of courage.

It is essential to choose the truth over a false facade and to prioritize self-respect over silent suffering.

People might say that the person has changed, but they fail to realize that this isn't just about cutting someone out-ultimately, it is a decision to save oneself.

"Healing is impossible in a place where one is constantly hurt. One cannot grow in an environment that stifles one's mental space. Therefore, stepping

away from a relationship or situation does not mean abandoning someone; rather, it is a path to reclaiming one's self-respect. Sometimes, letting go can be the greatest and most powerful expression of love," writes the actress at the end of the post. This post created curiosity among fans.



Alaves, Sevilla triumph as new La Liga season begins



Sports Desk
Alaves beat 10-man visitors Getafe 3-0 on Saturday and Sevilla snatched a late 2-1 win against Rayo Vallecano as La Liga's 2026/27 season kicked off. Kiko Femenia's red card late in the first half for a high lunge set Getafe back and Nahuel Tenaglia nodded home the opener for the hosts after

73 minutes. Former Real Madrid striker Mariano curled home a fine second from the edge of the box in stoppage time as Quique Sanchez Flores's team got off to a winning start. Mikel Rodriguez smashed home the third after being teed up by Mariano as Getafe crumbled during added time. In the second match on the opening

day of the new campaign, hosts Sevilla started poorly as a defensive mix-up allowed Alvaro Garcia in to open the scoring early on. However, Luis Garcia's Sevilla battled back in the second half, with Jon Guridi levelling from the penalty spot. Sevilla's Kike Salas was sent off with two minutes remaining but they were able to grab a late victory after Scottish forward Robbie Ure was brought down in the box deep in stoppage time. Former Barcelona youth player Peque took the responsibility and rifled the

penalty into the top corner. On Sunday, Villarreal visit promoted side Racing Santander, among other games. Atletico Madrid start their season at home against Malaga on Wednesday. Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid are not in action until next weekend, visiting Espanyol on August 22, while champions Barcelona travel to face Elche on August 23.

PSG sign Belgian winger Godts from Ajax

Sports Desk

Paris Saint-Germain have signed Belgian left winger Mika Godts from Ajax on a five-year contract, the two-time European champions announced on Saturday. The 21-year-old had a breakout season last year, scoring 17 goals and providing 12 assists in the Dutch league, where he was named young player of the year. According to Ajax, the transfer fee was 55 million euros (\$64 million), including bonuses. Godts has been capped twice by Belgium but missed out on a spot in their World Cup squad. After coming through the academy at Genk, he signed for Ajax in 2023. Godts went on to make 115 appearances for Ajax in all competitions, totalling 54 goal involvements. "I feel incredibly proud to be joining one of the best clubs in the world. I can't wait to pull on this shirt and experience the Parc des Princes and its supporters," Godts said in a statement on PSG's website.

Bangladesh HP whitewash Malaysia with massive victory in 3rd match



Sports Desk

Bangladesh High Performance (HP) team completed a 3-0 ODI series sweep over visiting Malaysia after romping to a massive 237- run victory in the third and final match today at Bashundhara Sports Complex in the city. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Bangladesh posted a formidable 369- 7 in their stipulated 50 overs, with wicketkeeper-batter Adil Bin Siddique leading the charge with a brilliant 135 off 111 balls. Adil struck 14 fours and four sixes at a strike rate of 121.6, anchoring the innings in an aggressive fashion. The amount of runs caused mental breakdown to Malaysia which was folded for just 132 in 31.4 overs, handing the HP a facile victory. Khalid Hasan played a perfect foil to Adil

with 73 off 86 balls, including six fours and two sixes, while Jawad Abrar added further impetus with a rapid 53 off just 32 balls, hitting five fours and as many sixes. Moinul Islam Tanmoy contributed 30 off 27 balls, while Rizan Hossain made 15 off 12, Ahrar Amin Payen 24 off 19 and Sheikh Parvez Jiban remained unbeaten on 23 off 13. Rafiuzzaman Rafi was unbeaten without scoring, while Debashish Sarkar was dismissed for a duck. Malaysia's chase never got going as Bangladesh's bowlers struck regularly to bowl them out for just 132 in 31.4 overs. Captain Syed Aziz top-scored with 20, while Prashant Madhukar remained unbeaten on 18. Nazmus Shakib and Vijay Unni both scored 16, with Aslam Khan and Ahmed Akil contributing 15 each. Azab Khan made 14. None of Malaysia's other batters could reach double figures, with Saif Ullah Malik and Muhammad Amir dismissed for ducks. Virandeep Singh scored four. Bangladesh maintained pressure throughout the innings, taking wickets at regular intervals to seal a comprehensive victory and complete a dominant 3-0 series sweep.

No.1 Scheffler leads by two at PGA St. Jude playoff event

Sports Desk

World number one Scottie Scheffler seized his first 54-hole lead in more than a year, taking a two-stroke edge after Saturday's third round of the PGA St. Jude Championship. The 30-year-old American fired a two-under par 68 to stand on 13-under 197 after three rounds in the PGA FedEx Cup playoff opener at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee. Scheffler is 11-for-17 in winning after 54-hole leads in PGA events, including triumphs in his past seven attempts. "Strategy is still the same, just go out there and execute," said Scheffler. "This is a golf course where that's really all it comes down to. I'll just do my best to go out there tomorrow and be committed and try and execute." Four-time major winner Scheffler, who last led after 54 holes at last year's British Open, will play Sunday's final round alongside friend and compatriot Sam Burns, who shot a bogey-free 62 to share second with South Korean Im Sung-jae on 199. "It's always a little weird just because I want him to have success so much and I think he wants the same for me," Scheffler said. "It will be a competition like normal. It will be fun being out there with your friend but it's also a bit weird." Defending playoff champion Tommy Fleetwood of England shared fourth on 202 with American Jake Knapp while South Korean Kim Si-woo, Sweden's Alex Noren, American Brian Harman and Japan's Hideki Matsuyama were another stroke adrift. Im is among those in position to jump into the top 50 on the season points list and qualify for next week's playoff event in St. Louis while Harman needs improvement on Sunday to rise from 51st. "I always look at the leaderboard so I'll know where I'm



at," Harman said. "I'll be trying to shoot it super low to win the tournament. We'll start with that and see where it takes us." Scheffler's only victory this year came in his January season opener in the California desert, but he also has had five runner-up finishes and five other top-10 showings.

Scheffler began the day with a three-stroke lead after matching the course record with a 61 on Friday, but struggled to fight off challengers all day. He needed an 11-foot putt to save par at the third and missed a 12-footer to bogey the fourth. "Any time you're holing those 10- to 15-footers, it's really nice to keep the round going," Scheffler said. "It was definitely important to keep the

momentum going." Scheffler fell back into a share of the lead twice but grabbed the outright lead again each time with birdies -- from just outside 12 feet at the par-three eighth and just beyond eight feet at the par-three 11th. - 'Frustrating' times - Burns made eight birdies to leap into contention for his first victory since the 2023 WGC Match Play. "It can be frustrating at times when you feel like you're playing well and you're not getting the results of a win out of it," Burns said. "You've just got to keep putting yourself in that position. The more you do it, the better the odds are for you." Norway's Viktor Hovland grabbed a share of the early lead with birdies at the second and fourth holes but slipped back with bogeys at nine and 10 and a double bogey at 12. Scheffler sank a 16-foot birdie putt at 12 and a six-foot birdie putt at the par-five 16th to reach 14-under and seize a three-stroke lead, but found the right rough and a greenside bunker on the way to a bogey at 17

Messi sees penalty saved as Nashville routs Inter Miami in MLS

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi missed yet another penalty and was booked as Inter Miami suffered a 4-1 loss at Nashville on Saturday in a top-of-the-table MLS clash. England's Sam Surridge and Germany's Hany Mukhtar scored second-half goals for the hosts in a showdown between the Major League Soccer over-all leaders. Argentina and Miami captain Messi was denied from the penalty spot in the first half and issued a yellow card in the 59th minute but also assisted Inter's lone goal. Messi struck both posts in second-half stoppage time. Nashville leads MLS with 43 points and a record of 13-2 with four drawn while Inter Miami are second on 38 points. Nashville had already knocked Miami out of this year's CONCACAF Champions Cup in the round of 16. Defending MLS champion Miami, which had been a league-best 8-1-1 on the road, saw a seven-match undefeated MLS run snapped as Nashville remained unbeaten at home in the MLS campaign. Honduran defender Andy Najar scored with a header in the 17th minute to give Nashville a 1-0 lead. Miami had a chance to equalize with a Messi penalty



kick in the 23rd minute but Nashville goalkeeper Brian Schwake saved his weak effort. Messi's record from the penalty spot is poor by his sky-high standards, including missing twice at the World Cup. The visitors netted the equalizer three minutes into first-half stoppage time when Venezuelan Telasco Segovia blasted in a right-footed shot off an assist by Messi. Mukhtar, the 2022 MLS Most Valuable Player, put Nashville back in front in the 49th minute. Surridge gave Nashville a 3-1 lead and Mukhtar added his second in the 63rd for extra insurance as the hosts pulled away.

Cardinals' Baez bashes record three homers in MLB debut

Sports Desk

St. Louis rookie Joshua Baez smacked three home runs, the most ever by any player in his Major League Baseball debut, as the Cardinals beat the host Chicago Cubs 8-4 on Saturday. The 23-year-old Dominican-American right-fielder made a debut for the ages at historic Wrigley Field, the oldest National League ballpark dating to 1914. Baez smashed the first pitch he saw in MLB, a 93.4-mph fastball from Cubs left-hander Matthew Boyd, for a two-run homer into center field that gave St. Louis a 3-0 lead. In his second time at bat, Baez blasted a changeup pitch for a solo homer down the left field line in the fourth inning to lift the Cardinals ahead 4-3. That made Baez only the ninth player in MLB history with two homers in his regular-season debut, and just the second

since 1900 to homer on his first two MLB at bats after Bob Nieman in 1951. And Baez was not yet done.

In the sixth inning, Baez homered again off Boyd for a 6-3 St. Louis lead to put himself alone in MLB history. Baez flew out to left field in the eighth inning but finished 3-for-4 at the plate with three homers and five runs batted in during his first MLB contest. Baez was set to play Friday for Memphis, the Cardinals' top developmental club, when he was told he was going to the top club. "It was kind of like a shocking moment, just because you don't know when it's going to happen," Baez said. Baez recalled his late father, Jose Manuel, who died in 2023. "His dream was to play in the big leagues," Baez said. "The only promise that I made to him was that I was going to be able to do that for him."



Djokovic feels the heat in Cincinnati opening defeat

Sports Desk

Novak Djokovic suffered in the second set from punishing heat and humidity on Saturday but made a match of it before falling 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Argentine Thiago Tirante in what could be the Serb's last appearance at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters. The second-round battle lasting for more than two and a half hours was the first match for the 39-year-old with 24 Grand Slam singles titles since he lost to Jannik Sinner in the Wimbledon semi-finals more than a month ago. Djokovic, who claimed the last of his three Cincinnati titles in 2023, claimed the opening set with little fuss. He won a brutal 18-minute third game of the second, saving four break points over nine deuces but bending over in distress between points and even dropping to his hands and knees after one particularly grueling exchange. Djokovic took a medical timeout after that game, with the physio and then a doctor coming on court to assist with assessments and ice towels. After Tirante took the second set both players cooled off in the locker room. Slightly revived, Djokovic set the pace again in the deciding set. But it all went wrong in the ninth game, when Djokovic saved three break points before getting it wrong on a drop shot to bring up a fourth break chance that his opponent converted. Tirante clinched the biggest win of his career in the next game as Djokovic again failed to land a drop shot on match point. The Serb, who must now try to regroup before the US Open starts on August 30, admitted he might have played his last match in Cincy. "It looks like I won't be back, unfortunately to play here," he said, confirming that the sweltering weather got the better of him. "It was a combination of the heat and humidity, all those things," he said. "Everything involved makes it worse."



Seventh seed Flavio Cobolli, runner-up at the French Open, defeated Miomir Kecmanovic 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Martin Landaluce beat Matteo Arnaldi 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to reach a third-round clash against Tirante. - 'Focused' Eala advances - In the WTA draw, Philippines sensation Alexandra Eala advanced to the third round 6-1, 3-0 as injured Elena-Gabriela Ruse quit their match during a weather delay. The Romanian had received treatment on her right ankle just before play was halted by a thunderstorm. During the 90-minute delay, Ruse pulled the plug on her effort, sending ninth seed Eala through. Eala, the emerging WTA star who captured her first WTA title in Washington this month, will next play Amanda Anisimova after the American ninth seed beat Turk Zeynep Sonmez 6-2, 6-3. As always, world number 20 Eala was supported by a vocal contingent of compatriots, with Philippines flags displayed in abundance. The 21-year-old has enjoyed similar support around the world -- in her run to the second week of Wimbledon, her breakthrough win in Washington and at this month's 1000 event in Toronto, where she was beaten in the fourth round by Swiss veteran Belinda Bencic. Eala and Ruse swapped breaks in the first two games before Eala ran off six straight games to pocket the set and was in command when the storm struck. "I was playing well and feeling really focused," Eala said. "I tried to stay in the zone. A retirement is not the way you want to end a match, I wish her a speedy recovery. Injuries are not fun." Roland Garros finalist Maja Chwalinska advanced 6-2, 6-2 over Spain's Cristina Bucsa, the Pole getting her first win since Paris after suffering an injury at Wimbledon and taking a month away. Anna Kalinskaya ousted Cincinnati local Caty McNally 6-3, 6-4, while Magdalena Frech defeated Jelena Ostapenko 6-1, 6-3.



National Fish Week Celebrated in Sonagazi: Rally and Discussion Held

Jahangir Alam.Staff Reporter

Sonagazi, Feni — National Fish Week was celebrated in Sonagazi upazila with enthusiasm, focusing on the theme "Planned Fish Farming Will Increase Fish and Generate Wealth." The day was marked by a colorful rally and a discussion meeting. The discussion took place on Sunday morning at the Upazila Parishad auditorium, presided over by Sonagazi Upazila Fisheries Officer Taslima Akter. Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Yusuf Miah attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the program, Chief Guest Md. Yusuf Miah emphasized increasing fisheries production and adopting modern tech-

CIID seizes gold and other contraband worth Tk 43 lakh at Shahjalal Airport

Staff correspondent

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) officials seized 133 grammes of gold, medicines, cigarettes, prohibited cosmetics and foreign liquor worth an estimated Tk 42.88 lakh in separate drives at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday. The seizures were made during four separate operations by the airport's C-shift officials based on intelligence reports.

Acting on a tip-off that a passenger arriving from Colombo would be carrying gold illegally, CIID officials mounted surveillance at different points of the airport.

After SriLankan Airlines flight UL189 landed at around noon, officials detained passenger MD Parvez while he was crossing the Green Channel after completing immigration and collecting his baggage. During a search, officials recovered 133 grammes of gold concealed in a specially modified compartment of his trolley. They also recovered 2,589 pieces of conditionally importable medicines hidden in his luggage. The passenger failed to produce the required permits and supporting documents for importing the medicines. The gold and medicines were seized through a detention memo, with their estimated value put at around Tk 30 lakh.

In a separate operation, CIID officials searched the baggage of Jony Mia, a passenger arriving on Air India flight AI237, and seized six litres of GRANTS-brand foreign liquor. The estimated market value of the liquor is Tk 1.20 lakh. Officials also searched the baggage of Md Mizanur Rahman, who arrived on Emirates flight EK0586. They recovered 29 cartons of cigarettes and 708 pieces of Pakistani Whiting Serum from his baggage. The seized goods are estimated to be worth Tk 4.49 lakh.

In another operation, CIID officials searched the baggage of Suma Begum, a passenger arriving on US-Bangla Airlines flight BS316. They recovered 30kg of Gouri cream, the import of which is prohibited. The estimated market value of the cream is Tk 6 lakh. According to CIID, the day's overall seizures included 133 grammes of gold, 2,589 pieces of medicines, 51 cartons of cigarettes, 31kg of prohibited cream, 708 pieces of prohibited serum and six litres of foreign liquor. The total estimated market value of the seized goods is Tk 42.88 lakh.

Sylhet triple murder: Prime suspect Babul put on 4-day remand

Staff correspondent

A Sylhet court on Sunday placed Babul Mia, the prime suspect in the killing of a female domestic help and an elderly couple in Sylhet city, on a four-day remand. Sylhet Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Farhana Sultana passed the order when police produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in the case. On August 12, police recovered the bodies of an elderly couple and their domestic help with their throats slit from a flat of their four-storey building in the Mitali Residential Area of Raynagar. The deceased were identified as MA Sattar, 82, his wife Suraiya Begum, 72, and their domestic help Tahmina, 25. Babul was arrested from a colony in the Rajbari area of Raynagar on the same day. Later, the couple's daughter filed a case in this regard. During primary interrogation, Babul admitted that he entered the building – Nikunja Villa – owned by Sattar and got into an altercation with Tahmina over their relationship.



Discussion Meeting and Award Distribution Ceremony Held in Sarail on the Occasion of National Fisheries Day

Taslima Khandaker (Nusrat), Sarail Upazila Correspondent.

A discussion meeting and award distribution ceremony was held in Sarail, Brahmanbaria on the occasion of National Fisheries Day. The event was organized at the Upazila Parishad hallroom under the initiative of the Upazila Administration and the Upazila Fisheries Department. The event was chaired by Upazila Livestock Officer Dr. Mansur Ahmed. The Chief Guest was Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Saiful Islam. The program was conducted by Mohammad Jasim Uddin of the Upazila Fisheries Office. The welcome speech was delivered by Upazila Fisheries Officer Mohammad Saidur Rahman. Those present at the event included Upazila BNP President Anisul Islam Thakur, former General Secretary Anwar Hossain Master, Sarail Sadar Chairman Abdul Jabbar, Jubo Dal Convener Abu Sufian, along with officials from various government departments,

public representatives, fishermen, representatives of various fishermen's associations, and local dignitaries. Speakers at the discussion meeting said that the fisheries sector plays an important role in the country's economy, employment, and meeting people's nutritional needs. To further develop this sector, they emphasized fish farming through modern and sustainable methods, along with the conservation of native fish species and the proper use of water bodies.

The speakers further said that if fisheries resources are managed in a planned manner, it is possible to meet the protein needs of the country's people and create employment for a large number of people. For this, conservation of natural breeding grounds of fish and proper management of fisheries resources are essential. After the discussion meeting, awards were distributed to various fishermen's associations and individuals in Sarail Upazila for their outstanding contributions to the fisheries sector.

BGB seizes Indian drugs, liquor in Naogaon

Staff, Correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 110 Indian tapentadol tablets, 23 bottles of Phensedyl and two bottles of liquor from the Naogaon border area last night. Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of Naogaon Battalion (16 BGB), led by Subedar Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, conducted a drive in Balashahid area under Porsha upazila at around 10:40 pm, said a press release today. During the drive, the team recovered the narcotics, estimated to be worth Tk 28,700, from an abandoned condition about 50 yards inside Bangladesh from border pillar No. 230/45-R. The seized drugs are being handed over to Porsha Police Station in Naogaon, the release said. Naogaon Battalion Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Ariful Islam Masum said BGB would continue its all-out operations to prevent illegal border crossings, cattle smuggling, drug trafficking and other forms of smuggling along the Naogaon.



Sports and prize distribution at Bhulaipara Darul Quran Madrasa Sitakunda

Omar Faruk, Special correspondent

On the occasion of July 2nd year, the annual sports competition, cultural program and prize distribution were held at Bhulaipara Darul Quran Ebtedayi Madrasa in Barabkunda, Sitakunda, Chittagong. On Saturday, August 15, at the madrasa premises, under the chairmanship of Director Ashraf Uddin and moderated by Assistant Teacher Karim Uddin, Maulana A.T.M. Badrul Islam, the Jamaat-e-Islami-nominated Barabkunda chairman candidate, was the chief guest. Local dignitaries including leaders of the Bhulaipara Mosque Management Committee were the special guests. The program began with Quran recitation and Hamd-Na'at. Later, the students participated in Qirat, Islamic music, poetry recitation and various sports competitions. The chief guest said that students should be proficient in morality, discipline, human values and modern knowledge along with religious and institutional education. Later, the program ended with the distribution of prizes among the winners and special prayers.

Women farmers call for food sovereignty through local seeds

Staff, Correspondent

Grassroots women farmers at a community advocacy meeting strongly called for ensuring food sovereignty through the promotion and preservation of local seeds. They also shared their experiences of producing safe food using local seeds, farmers' traditional knowledge and locally available inputs, while emphasizing seed sovereignty and the need to build climate-resilient agricultural systems. Green Coalition and development research organization BARCIK organized the meeting titled "Demanding Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and Drought and Climate-Resilient Agriculture" in Darshanpara village under Paba Upazila in the district today. A total of 45 women farmers and male farmers engaged in safe agricultural practices participated in the meeting held at the Bilnepalpara Agroecology Learning Center (ALC). BARCIK Regional Coordinator Shahidul Islam, Program Officer Touhidul Islam, Barendra Youth Forum President Atikur Rahman



Feni-1 MP Rafiqul Alam(Mojnu) Meets Prominent Industrialist M. A. Kashem over Tea

A.N.M.Nurul Amin Chagalniya Correspondent

sssFENI — Member of Parliament for Feni-1, Munshi Rafiqul Alam (Majnu), met with prominent industrialist, eminent patron of education, and Chairman of Southeast Bank PLC, M. A. Kashem, over a morning tea session in Feni. During the informal meeting, the two leaders exchanged warm greetings and held discussions focusing on the overall socio-economic development, educational advancement, and infrastructural growth of the region. M. A. Kashem, who is also a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees at North South University (NSU) and a former President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), extended his best wishes to MP Rafiqul Alam (Mojnu). The MP expressed his appreciation for M. A. Kashem's significant contributions to Bangladesh's banking sector, private higher education, and various philanthropic initiatives, particularly in Feni. Both personalities underscored the importance of joint efforts between public representatives and business leaders to foster local community welfare and generate employment opportunities.

nology-based aquaculture methods. The event was also attended by special guests, including Upazila Agriculture Officer Md. Main Uddin Ahmed, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Touhid Hossain, Upazila Women Affairs Officer Nargis Akhtar, Upazila Cooperative Officer Mohammad Hanif, Poura BNP Convener Monjur Hossain Babor, Upazila Juba Dal Convener Khurshid Alam Bhuiyan, and BNP leader Syed Selim Reza, alongside local social and political figures. Earlier in the morning, a colorful rally was brought out from the Upazila Parishad premises. After parading the main streets of the town, the rally concluded at the auditorium. Local administration officials and fishermen from all walks of life participated in the rally.



National Fisheries Week 2026 Observed in Rajapur

Rajapur Correspondent

With the theme A Self-reliant Country in Silvery Fisheries, Bangladesh First, the three-day National Fisheries Week - 2026 was inaugurated in Rajapur, Jhalokathi. Today Sunday, 16 August at 11:00 AM, the program was inaugurated with a colorful rally, discussion meeting, prize distribution and release of fish fingerlings. The event was organized by the Upazila Administration and Fisheries Office. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Rajapur Upazila Executive Officer Rifat Ara Mouri, The Chief Guest was Rafiqul Islam Jamal MP, Member of Parliament for Jhalokathi-1 (Rajapur-Kathalia) constituency. Special guests present included, Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer Goutam Mondol, Upazila Livestock Officer Dr. Md. Abdullah, Upazila Agriculture Officer Mosa. Shahida Sharmin Afroze, Senior Vice-President of Rajapur Upazila

BNP Abdul Haque Nantu, Convener of Rajapur Upazila Jubo Dal Md. Masum Billah Parvez, Convener of Upazila Swachhasebak Dal Ratan Debnath, Convener of Upazila Chhatra Dal Shakhawat Hossain Rabbi, Member Secretary Rafiqul Islam Mridha, and *Md. Forhan Hossain, Personal Assistant (PA) to the MP, among others. In the discussion meeting, speakers called upon fish farmers and fishermen to play a more effective role in increasing fisheries production, practicing modern fish farming methods, and enhancing the contribution of the fisheries sector to the country's economy. Fish farmers, fishermen, public representatives, journalists from print and electronic media working in the upazila, dignitaries, and people from various professions from different areas of the upazila were present at the event. Later, three best fish farmers of the upazila were awarded commemorative honors for National Fisheries Week.



CRC Head of Delegation exchanges views with Red Crescent Rajshahi City Unit

Staff, Correspondent

Nicolas Fleury, Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), held a courtesy meeting and exchange of views with Mahafuzur Rahman Riton, Administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and Chairman of the Red Crescent Rajshahi City Unit. The meeting and exchange of views was held this afternoon in the office room of the Administrator at Nagar Bhaban. At that time, the RCC Administrator presented a souvenir gift to the ICRC Head of Delegation Nicolas Fleury. Earlier, a courtesy meeting and exchange of views was held between Nicolas Fleury and the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Rajshahi City Unit, at the office of the Red Crescent Society Rajshahi City Unit in Nagar Bhaban. Mahafuzur Rahman Riton,

Administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation and Chairman of the Red Crescent Rajshahi City Unit chaired the event. Others present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of Red Crescent Rajshahi City Unit Rezaul Karim Raju, Secretary Dr. Muhammad Shamim Hossain Chowdhury, Executive Committee members Professor Dr. Parvez Azaharul Haque and Sheikh Md. Mamun, and volunteers of the city unit. During the exchange of views, Nicolas Fleury praised the natural beauty and clean environment of Rajshahi. He also discussed the ICRC's humanitarian activities regarding the security, healthcare, and communication with families of foreign nationals detained in Rajshahi Jail. In addition, Nicolas Fleury highly praised the responsible role played by the volunteers of the Rajshahi City Unit through ambulance services and other humanitarian activities during the student-people's movement.