



Saudi Crown Prince invites PM Tarique to visit Saudi Arabia

Staff correspondent

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to visit Saudi Arabia to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues. Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Zafer H bin Abiyah handed over the invitation letter to Tarique Rahman during a meeting at the Prime Minister's

Office in the Secretariat on Monday, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Hossain Shadhin. In the letter, the Saudi Crown Prince expressed his country's keenness to further strengthen bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh in areas of mutual interest, with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of the two countries and their brotherly peoples. Saudi Crown Prince invites PM Tarique to visit Saudi Arabia He said Saudi Arabia is pleased to invite the

Bangladesh Prime Minister to visit the Kingdom to discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties and consult on regional and international issues. The date and schedule of the visit will be determined at a mutually convenient time through diplomatic channels, according to the invitation. Mohammed bin Salman also conveyed his wishes for Tarique Rahman's continued health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

‘We never want our friendship with India to deteriorate,’ says Anee

Staff correspondent

Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee on Monday said Bangladesh does not want its friendly relations with neighbouring India to deteriorate over the long-pending Teesta water-sharing treat and urged New Delhi to take Dhaka's interest into account while pursuing its own. “The neighbouring country is a friendly country. They have to think that while they have their interests, we also have ours. A friend should protect the interests of a friend. They will pay attention to our interests. We never want our friendly relations with them to deteriorate,” he said. Anee made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled ‘Sustainable Management of the Teesta River’, organised jointly by the Ministry of Water Resources and BUET's Department of Water Resources Engineering at the BUET Academic Council Building in the morning.e said the Teesta project is a major initiative and the government has already participated in several seminars and consultations since the election to gather

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Solar power to be introduced in all entities under LGRD ministry: Shahe Alam

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam today said the use of solar power will be ensured in all entities under the ministry. At the same time, he said, initiatives will be taken to introduce the use of solar power in other government departments in the next phase. Shahe Alam made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a review meeting on the use of solar power in offices, agencies and institutions under the Local Government Division and Rural Development and Cooperatives Division at the conference room of the Local Government Division at Bangladesh Secretariat here.e said there is a plan to use solar power on the rooftops of government offices. Through this, it will be possible to cut the cost of electricity in government institutions and increase the use of renewable ener-

gy, he said. The state minister said the use of solar power has already started at Sangsad Bhaban and this programme will be expanded to other government offices in phases. He said if the use of solar power is introduced in the head offices of the departments and organisations under the Local Government Division, it will be possible to significantly reduce the government's electricity costs. There is a plan to ensure this programme in every office at the district, upazila, municipality and union levels, Shahe Alam said. The state minister said through the net metering system, the excess electricity generated from solar power at the entities of Local Government Division can be supplied to the national grid. Regarding the implementation process, he said two separate committees will be formed under the leadership of two additional secretaries of the Local Government and Rural Development

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Bangla Sky 18 August 2026

Measles: Death toll hits 915 as 7 more die in 24 hrs

Staff correspondent

Seven more children died with measles-like symptoms in 24 hours until 8:00am on Monday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 915 this year. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has classified all seven latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths. With this, the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 816, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 99. A total of 981 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, bringing the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 143,778. Meanwhile, 50 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections to 17,930. Since March 15 this year, a total of 125,386 patients with suspected

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Integrated efforts needed to develop textile, jute sectors: Commerce Minister

Staff correspondent

Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar said today coordinated efforts by industry, academia and the government are essential for the development of Bangladesh's textile and jute sectors. “There are opportunities to further improve Bangladesh's textile education, research and technological capabilities through collaboration with international educational institutions such as China's Zhejiang Sci-Tech University,” he said. The minister made the remarks while

addressing a symposium organised by Zhejiang Sci-Tech University at the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC) in the capital today as the chief guest. Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar said the world economy is rapidly moving towards technology-driven systems, and students, teachers and industry stakeholders need to be connected with artificial intelligence, modern technologies and digital management. “The government is taking necessary initiatives to help Bangladesh keep pace with global technological changes,” he said.

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Construction Work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation Inaugurated by Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Bridges, and Railways

Masum Hawladar, Bagerhat

The construction work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation, an institution of the Latif Master Foundation, has been formally inaugurated. On Monday, 17 August, Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP, Minister of Railways, Shipping, and Road Transport & Bridges inaugurated the construction work. Those present at the time included, Dr. Md. Faridul Islam, Former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, President of the Officers' Forum and Founder of Latif Master Foundation; Administrator of Bagerhat District Council Barrister Sheikh Mohammad Zakir Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat, SP Bagerhat, along with other officials of the district administration and police, various political and social personalities, doctors,

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Protest Rally in Chattogram Against Price Hikes of Fuel, Gas, Water and Electricity

Special correspondent, Chattogram

A protest rally was held at Anderkilla intersection in Chattogram at 5:00 pm on Monday, August 17, demanding the cancellation of plans to privatize fuel imports, electricity distribution, the railway, and 44 state-owned industries across the country, as well as the proposed 5 percent increase in the price of WASA water. The rally was organized by the Chattogram district branch of the Bangladesh Socialist Party (Marxist) (BASD-Marxist). Advocate Shafi Uddin Kabir Abid, coordinator of the party's Chattogram district branch, presided over the rally. Among others, district committee members Asma Akter, Jahedunnabi Kanak and Ripa Majumdar addressed the gathering. The leaders said, “Immediately after coming to power, the BNP government is handing over 44 state-owned enterprises, including Chattogram Chemical Complex, TSP Fertilizer Factory, Pragati Industries and KPM, along with more than 10,000 acres of land, to private ownership on the pretext of losses.” They said the country has already experienced the bitter consequences of privatization in the past, when land, machinery

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BORDER KILLINGS, SMUGGLING TOP AGENDA AT BGB-BSF BATTALION COMMANDER-LEVEL MEETING

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

A battalion commander-level courtesy meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) was held along the Feni border to discuss recent push-in attempts, drug smuggling, and measures to reduce border tension. During the meeting, both forces expressed a firm commitment to work together to bring border fatalities down to zero, prevent illegal crossings, and control all types of cross-border crimes. The hour-long meeting took place on Sunday between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM at the Majumdarhat BOP area under BGB, adjacent to the Belonia ICP in Parshuram Upazila, Feni. A 21-member delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel M. M. Zillur Rahman, Commanding Officer of the Feni Battalion (4 BGB), represented the Bangladesh side. The 9-member BSF delegation was headed by Commandant S. H. Ravindra Madani of the 43 BSF Battalion. During the meeting, both sides emphasized increasing regular communication to avoid unwanted situations and maintain a peaceful atmosphere along the border. It was decided that any local border-related issues or disputes would be resolved immediately through discussions at the local Company Commander level. If unresolved, the matter will be escalated to the Battalion Commander level. Key Decisions of the

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DSCC administrator orders action over trade licence irregularities

Staff correspondent

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Administrator Md Abdus Salam on Monday announced a zero-tolerance policy against harassment of businesses and illegal financial transactions in the issuance and renewal of trade licences. A revenue department official of the DSCC, Mostafa Nuruddin Ahmed, has been relieved of his duties following allegations of harassment and bribery in connection with the issuance and renewal of trade licences. DSCC administrator pledges to turn city areas greener. He has also been asked to explain in writing within three working days why administrative and legal action should not be taken against him. Mostafa Nuruddin Ahmed was serving as a licence and advertisement supervisor at the Miscellaneous Collection Branch of the DSCC Revenue Department in Zone-4. A meeting was held jointly by the DSCC and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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16-Year-Old Girl Found Dead in Sitakunda, Father Accused of Killing Her

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

A 16-year-old girl named Sani Islam Maya was found dead in Sitakunda, Chattogram. Her father, Md. Abul Hashem, has been accused of beating and strangling her to death following a family dispute. However, the allegation has not yet been independently confirmed. The incident reportedly took place at around 10:00 am on Sunday (August 16) at the residence of former councillor Zahurul Alam in South Mahadebpur (Hasan Gomosta), Ward No. 6 of Sitakunda Municipality. The deceased, Sani Islam Maya, was the daughter of Md. Abul Hashem and Farul Begum. Their ancestral home is reportedly located in East Saidpur, Ward No. 9, Jafarnagar, Sitakunda. According to police, local residents informed the emergency service through 999, following which two separate units of Sitakunda Model Police Station rushed to the scene and recovered the girl's body. After preparing the inquest report, the body was sent to the mortuary of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sitakunda Model Police Station, Md. Moinal Islam, said the actual

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1,802 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 13 iPhones seized at Chattogram airport

Staff correspondent

Customs intelligence officials have seized 1,802 cartons of foreign cigarettes and 13 iPhones from a single flight at Shah Amanat International Airport. A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, BG148, arrived at the Chattogram airport from Dubai at 8:18am on Monday. South Asians & Diaspora Acting on prior intelligence, CIID officials kept passengers and baggage under close surveillance. Officials seized 264 cartons of cigarettes and four iPhones from passenger Md Moinal Abdin. Another passenger, Abdul Mannan, was found carrying 246 cartons of cigarettes and four iPhones. A third passenger, Nurul Alam Riyad, was carrying 272 cartons of cigarettes and five iPhones. Officials found another 1,020 cartons of Platinum cigarettes in unclaimed baggage at baggage belt No. 2. The baggage had arrived on the same BG148 flight. The cigarettes have an estimated market

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BRTC's 'Pink Bus Service' to be inaugurated in city Today

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is set to launch 'Pink Bus Service', a special facility designated for women, in capital Dhaka tomorrow, aiming to ensure safe, comfortable and smooth travel for women on the city streets. The initiative to launch this special bus service has been taken as part of the implementation of the government's election manifesto. One of the main features of this service is that the buses will be operated by women drivers and conductors, a press release said. Through the service, steps have been taken to increase the participation of women in public transport and create a safe and comfortable environment for women passengers. BRTC sources said the women's bus service operation activities will be inaugurated at the BRTC's Dhaka Truck Depot premises in Tejgaon here at 10 am tomorrow. Senior officials of the relevant ministries and departments of the government will be present at the event. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam will be present as the chief guest at the inaugural event. State Minister for Road Transport and Bridges Habibur Rashid and Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary Dr Mohammed Ziaul Haque will be present as special guests. BRTC Chairman Abdul Latif Mollah will preside over the event. A large number of women of all walks of life travel in the capital's public transport every day.

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Phantom exports must not be ignored

The recent report on fake export consignments worth Tk 24 crore might not be large in scale, but it raises concerns about the integrity of Bangladesh's export system. It is troubling, particularly because this practice has persisted for years despite occasional media commotion and subsequent nugatory efforts by the authorities to curb the trend.

A phantom export is a fraudulent practice through which companies exploit duty-free access to raw materials intended for export-oriented companies and divert the finished products into the local market instead of exporting. Ideally, when bonded goods are diverted back to the domestic market, the said companies have to pay duties and taxes ranging from 89 percent to 159 percent. The seven companies allegedly connected.

In the latest case of phantom export, this daily identified at least 29 fake consignments associated with at least seven companies between January and June this year. A phantom export is a fraudulent practice through which companies exploit duty-free access to raw materials intended for export-oriented companies and divert the finished products into the local market instead of exporting. Ideally, when bonded goods are diverted back to the domestic market, the said companies have to pay duties and taxes ranging from 89 percent to 159 percent. The seven companies allegedly connected with the latest incident managed to evade these duties and taxes, while claiming the government's 2 percent export

cash incentive. All this was accompanied by fictitious paperwork, and the empty consignments were shown as "cleared" in the customs system, ready to be exported. This raises a serious question about how such consignments could have been in the clear without help from someone inside the customs infrastructure. Phantom exports have both micro and macro levels of implications for the economy. For instance, it deprives the state of revenues from duties and taxes, while the state loses money in export incentives. Additionally, it contributes to the longstanding unreliability of export statistics in the country. For instance, there is a gap of nearly \$4 billion between export figures declared by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and the Bangladesh Bank for the first 10 months of FY2025-26, which negatively impacts the country's data credibility and chips away at confidence in the country's institutions. It is promising that the authorities have started reviewing export records and launched a probe on a small scale. However, there should be a more comprehensive investigation to identify insider networks that possibly function under the cushion of political impunity. There should also be a forensic audit of the Asycuda World system to minimise the chances of digital fraud. We strongly advise the government not to view these cases as isolated incidents, but to look into the historical patterns of fraudulent shipments to stop such practices once and for all. Given the government's emphasis on ease of doing business, it needs to ensure a trade environment free of corruption. Furthermore, the authorities must ensure that cases filed in relation to ghost shipments in the past are expedited and those responsible are brought to justice.

To make doing business easier, simplify procedures before digitalising them

About a decade ago, I attempted to export recycled jute sacks to Australia and the United States. Obtaining a jute export licence required collecting multiple documents from several offices, completing a multi-stage procedure, and securing approvals from several officials. The process was so cumbersome that I abandoned the project. Having recently reviewed the licensing requirements, I found that little has changed, other than the partial digitalisation of the same cumbersome procedures.

I witnessed a similar experience with an Australian entrepreneur who planned to establish an export-oriented opal jewellery factory in Bangladesh. Although he had already leased premises and installed machinery, he abandoned the investment after becoming entangled in the company registration and licensing process. The factory he later established in the Philippines now exports millions of dollars' worth of opal jewellery worldwide.

These are anything but isolated stories. They are unfortunate illustrations of how unnecessarily complex administrative procedures can discourage entrepreneurship, drive away investment, and deprive Bangladesh of valuable employment, exports, and economic growth. In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, Bangladesh stood around 168th out of 190 economies. Starting or expanding a business often requires multiple approvals, repeated office visits, and extensive paperwork, making the process slow and costly. The result is higher business costs, reduced foreign direct investment (FDI), and greater opportunities for corruption through unnecessary delays and discretionary approvals. To overcome these challenges, Bangladesh needs three interconnected reforms: Business Process Redesign (BPR), comprehensive digitalisation, and a genuine One-Stop Service (OSS). Digitalisation alone cannot fix a broken system. A common mistake is to move existing bureaucratic procedures online without first questioning whether they are necessary. If a business must submit multiple documents containing the same information and obtain several similar approvals from different agencies, automating those requirements merely digitises inefficiency.

Before digitalisation, every process should therefore be mapped from beginning to end and tested against three basic questions: whether the step protects a genuine public interest, whether the information or approval is duplicated elsewhere, and whether each required document provides genuinely necessary information that is not already available from another source. Procedures and documentation requirements that fail these tests should be eliminated, merged, or simplified. Regulation should also be risk-based. Low-risk businesses should receive simplified or automatic approvals, while greater scrutiny should be reserved for activities that pose genuine risks to public safety, health, revenue, or the environment. New Zealand illustrates the benefits of this approach, where straightforward business registration can be completed in minutes, while activities carrying greater public risk—such as liquor licensing and food safety—are subject to more rigorous regulatory scrutiny. Any new regulation should undergo a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to ensure that its pub-

Md. Neyamul Hossain

lic benefits outweigh the compliance costs it creates. Wherever possible, regulatory checks should be consolidated under a single responsible agency rather than duplicated across multiple authorities.

Another essential reform is clear task ownership backed by decentralised authority. Instead of passing a task through multiple officials and layers of approval, each case should, wherever practical, be assigned to a single designated officer or unit with the authority, expertise, and access to information needed to coordinate with other agencies and deliver a deci-

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Digitalisation is central to improving the ease of doing business and reducing corruption. But it must mean more than replacing paper forms with online forms. A truly digital system should cover the entire journey—from application and verification to payment, approval, and final delivery. Government databases should be integrated so agencies can securely exchange verified information rather than repeatedly

asking businesses for the same data. A national digital document vault should store verified licences, certificates, and records for retrieval by authorised agencies. Routine applications should use rule-based decision-making. Where clearly defined legal conditions are met, approvals should be automatic, with human intervention reserved for complex or high-risk cases. Access should be role-based, ensuring officials can access only the information required for their responsibilities, while every action—from viewing and editing to approving or rejecting an application—is automatically logged. Digital signatures and verifiable electronic certificates should replace physical stamps and paper documents, and all payments should be made through secure digital channels. Public dash-

boards should display processing times, pending cases, and compliance with service standards. Together, these measures would enhance transparency and accountability while significantly reducing opportunities for corruption.

A central goal of business-service digitalisation is a genuine One-Stop Service: one portal, one account, one application, and one coordinated response. Applicants submit information once, while the system routes applications to relevant agencies for parallel processing, and delivers a single decision within a defined timeframe. This is not a theoretical model. Estonia's X-Road infrastructure and digital identity system allow businesses to draw on verified information from existing registries rather than repeatedly supplying the same data. Singapore's GoBusiness platform follows a similar logic for regulated activities, and enables applicants to access and apply for relevant licences through an integrated digital service.

Consider a jute export licence application. The applicant submits the required information online, after which the system automatically validates the application, verifies information against existing databases, and routes the case electronically to relevant agencies or specialists for parallel processing. Any request for additional information is sent by email or SMS, while the final decision, together with reasons and appeal options, is communicated to the applicant online. A designated officer remains accountable for coordinating the process and ensuring a timely decision.

The reforms outlined here—process redesign, comprehensive digitalisation, and a genuine one-stop service—are achievable with sustained political commitment. Bangladesh already has the foundations, including digital identity, electronic payments, and growing experience in online public services. This transformation need not involve a sweeping overhaul of the entire system of governance. It can be implemented gradually—sector by sector and service by service—starting with high-impact areas and expanding as public servants and citizens adapt to the new approach. The cost of inaction extends far beyond a poor international ranking; it is reflected in lost investment, lost jobs, and the continued normalisation of corruption.

‘We never want our friendship

opinions from experts.“The opinions of almost all experts were very important to us. Based on these opinions, the detailed study which is very much needed will help us in taking visible steps,” Anee said.He said Bangladesh has significant geographical potential but also faces many challenges, which the government is working to turn into tangible realities.“Since we have grown up through grassroots politics and as field-level political workers, we try to take these challenges into account and perform our responsibilities by thinking about the country,” he said.The minister described the Teesta project as a major challenge because of the high expectations of people in five to six northern districts.“There is huge demand and very high expectations particularly among the people of five or six districts in the northern region. If we fail to implement it, the damage and problems faced by families in those areas will continue to increase. We have to overcome this challenge anyhow,” he said.Anee said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman regularly discusses the project and that departmental and inter-ministerial meetings are held to review its progress.“He wants to know frequently what stage it is at and how it is progressing. He is paying special attention to making it visible,” he said.“We need a coordinated solution. Based on that solution, we want to show the people that this is feasible for us at this moment, that it has been designed and planned, and that we want to implement it,” he said.He said the government's ultimate objective was to fulfil its commitment to the people of northern Bangladesh who have suffered from river erosion and other problems for years.Referring to Professor Ainun Nishat's long involvement in discussions and meetings on the Teesta, Anee said the water expert has stressed that a Teesta treaty is urgently needed. “Whether it is called the Teesta treaty or the Teesta master plan, or whatever is necessary to implement this project, we will move towards implementation,” he said.

Solar power to be introduced in

and Cooperatives Divisions.Shahe Alam said these committees will decide on relevant issues, including the method and potential cost of introducing solar power in government offices based on talks with organisations involved in the solar power sector such as Walton, PRAN-RFL and Grameen Shakti.The Cabinet Division issued an instruction on August 10 to implement the decision to increase the use of solar power in government offices. The meeting was also attended by Secretary of the Local Government Division Md. Shahidul Hassan, Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Mohammad Showkat Rashid Chowdhury, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA Md Aminul Islam, Registrar and Director General of the Department of Cooperatives Md Selim Fakir, Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board AKM Tareque, Chief Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department Md Abdul Awal, Chief Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Md Belal Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Academy (BARD)-Cumilla Saif Uddin Ahmed, and heads of various departments, organizations and institutions under the ministry.

Measles: Death toll hits

measles have been hospitalised across the country, of whom 120,913 have recovered, according to DGHS data.

Integrated efforts needed to devel

The minister stressed the need to modernise the country's textile institutes and vocational education system in line with the requirements of the modern world.“To this end, initiatives will be taken to review the curricula of Bangladesh's textile institutes and align them with

China's modern textile education system,” he continued. He also said opportunities would be created for skills development through raining by experienced Chinese teachers and experts, as well as by sending Bangladeshi faculty members to China for advanced training.The commerce minister said Bangladesh's readymade garment sector currently earns around US\$38-39 billion from exports. However, he noted that there is a significant scope to earn more foreign currency from the same volume of exports by producing high-value and value-added textile products.“Bangladesh's textile sector needs to move towards man-made fibres and value-added products,” he said.Muktadir said the textile sector had played an important role in the economic development of industrialised countries. Although many countries moved from textiles to other sectors as their economies transformed, Bangladesh still has considerable scope to further develop the textile industry.“China's experience and technology can be utilised to accelerate this transformation in Bangladesh,” he said.On the jute sector, Khandakar Abdul Muktadir said jute is an important roduct deeply connected with Bangladesh's heritage and emotion.

He stressed the need to raise jute productivity, develop new products and produce high-value jute goods to take the sector to a new level.“Joint research initiatives with China can create opportunities to increase jute productivity, introduce new technologies and develop value-added products,” he added.The minister said the potential of the jute sector could increase manifold if

raw jute is transformed into blended fibre fabrics and other high-value products instead of being exported or used primarily in raw form.He also said higher jute productivity would benefit farmers and encourage them to cultivate more jute.The bilateral symposium titled “Costume, Culture, and Connection: A Bilateral Symposium on Traditional Attire and Cultural Exchange” was organised by Zhejiang Sci-Tech University at JDPC in Dhaka.The secretary of the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Director General of the Department of Textiles, representatives of Zhejiang Sci-Tech University and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Vice-Chancellor of BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, academics, researchers and entrepreneurs from the textile and apparel industries attended the event.

Construction Work of Bagerhat

volunteers of Latif Master Foundation, trainees of Rocket Football Academy, and dignitaries from different classes and professions.During the inauguration, Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP expressed hope that the construction work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation would be completed properly and assured necessary cooperation for launching the institution's activities. He praised the various public welfare activities of Latif Master Foundation and wished for its continued success.The Bagerhat Medical Foundation has been initiated with the goal of ensuring quality, affordable, and humane healthcare for the people of Bagerhat.It is expected that the institution will play an important role in healthcare services for the people of the area in the future.The Latif Master Foundation has been carrying out various activities for public welfare in education, health, skill development, sports, and social development. This initiative of the Bagerhat Medical Foundation will further expand the foundation's public welfare activities.

Protest Rally in Chattogram

and bank loans of state-owned industries were allegedly looted in the name of privatization.“If state-owned enterprises are handed over to corporate groups in this manner, the country will become increasingly dependent on imports and foreign capital in the future,” the leaders said. “Privatization is not the

solution to the crisis of state-owned industries. What is needed is modernization, effective production and marketing plans, and a long-term roadmap for national industrialization.”They further alleged that preparations are also underway to privatize strategic sectors, including electricity distribution, fuel imports and the railway. “As a result, the prices of fuel and electricity will rise, while railway fares will also increase, causing the greatest hardship to ordinary people,” they said.The leaders also alleged that the government is seeking to hand over the profitable New Mooring Container Terminal at Chattogram Port to DP World, warning that such a move could adversely affect the country's economy, national security and sovereignty.They also criticized the proposed increase in the price of water supplied by Chattogram WASA.“Ordinary people are already struggling with rising prices. Amid this situation, Chattogram WASA has proposed a 5 percent increase in water prices,” the leaders said. “Around 93 percent of WASA's customer connections in Chattogram are residential. Therefore, ordinary people will suffer the most if water prices are increased.”They pointed out that WASA had previously increased water prices by 38 percent in 2022. Despite repeated price increases, they alleged, the quality of WASA's services has not improved.“Many areas of the city still do not receive adequate water supply, while complaints about dirty, foul-smelling and saline water have persisted for years,” they said.The leaders argued that there would be no need to increase water prices if effective measures were taken to prevent water theft and reduce system losses.

IU students Jubaer, Faisal secure

sources, a total of 247 teams participated in the GAVE-2 challenge. Following the preliminary evaluation, the top 15 teams were selected for the final round, with Team PixelPulse securing 11th position.The challenge featured three tasks. The first task involved using different machine learning models to identify and segment retinal arteries and veins separately from Colour Fundus (CF) images.The second task required participants to analyse Colour Fundus and Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) images together to separately identify retinal arteries and veins.In the third task, participants had to analyse the results obtained from Task 2 to quantify retinal vascular biomarkers, including the width of major arteries and veins, their relationship, and the proportion of retinal area occupied by the vessels.Team leader Jubaer Rahman said, “MICCAI was my dream conference. I am extremely happy to have been selected for on-site participation.I am proud to represent the ICT Department and Islamic University on such a prestigious global research platform.”“Researchers from leading universities around the world will attend the conference. By the grace of Allah, if there is no problem regarding the visa, I hope to attend the main conference in France,” he added.Team member Faisal Ahmed said many universities and research institutions from around the world participated in the MICCAI 2026 GAVE-2 Challenge. A“After competing with them, Team PixelPulse from Bangladesh was the only team from the country selected for the final round.We are working on retinal blood vessel analysis using artificial intelligence and machine learning models, which could have significant applications in medical image analysis in the future.” He said, “Achieving this recognition with such limited opportunities and resources is a matter of great pride for us”.

BORDER KILLINGS, SMUG

Meeting:Strict Adherence to Zero Line Policy: Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to prohibit any illegal construction or infrastructure within 150 yards of the border's zero line.?No Taking the Law into Own Hands: If any land dispute arises between citizens of the two countries, both forces agreed that the parties should not resolve it independently; instead, it must

be mediated through BGB and BSF.?Ensuring Security: Both forces agreed to act responsibly to curb border crimes and guarantee the safety of residents living on both sides of the border.?Experts believe that such regular bilateral meetings will help minimize misunderstandings at the field level and facilitate the swift resolution of minor border disputes before they escalate into major tensions.

DSCC administrator orders

(DCCI) on Sunday to discuss local business and trade, law and order, traffic congestion and improvement of trade licence services.At the meeting, Moulvibazar Business Association President Mohammad Ali Bhutto alleged that during an on-the-spot trade licence renewal camp held on June 23 and 24, the licence supervisor collected cash from businesspeople on the assurance of renewing 22 trade licences for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

However, despite more than one and a half months having passed, the licences were not renewed. When the businesses later contacted him by phone, he continued to delay the matter on various pretexts.Immediately after hearing the allegation, the DSCC administrator ordered stringent action. Following an initial verification of the allegation, Mostafa Nuruddin Ahmed was relieved of his duties with immediate effect. SCC Chief Revenue Officer Jonaed Kabir Sohag said the city corporation would maintain a “zero tolerance” policy towards irregularities, corruption and harassment in citizen and business services. He said further legal action would be taken against the accused after receiving his written response to the show-cause notice.

16-Year-Old Girl Found

cause of death would be determined after the autopsy report and police investigation. Necessary legal action would be taken accordingly.The girl's death has sparked concern and discussion in the local community. Several locals alleged that she had previously been subjected to scolding and physical punishment over family disputes. Some residents said that Sani had left home with a boy a few days earlier and was later brought back. They alleged that she had been subjected to repeated reprimands and punishment since then.According to local residents, Sani had breakfast on Sunday morning and went into a room. She was later brought out of the room dead. However, what exactly happened inside the room remains unclear.Following the incident, some locals have pointed fingers at Sani's father, Abul Hashem. However, there is currently no conclusive evidence confirming the allegations of beating, strangulation, or murder, and police are investigating the matter.The family and local residents are awaiting the police investigation and autopsy report to determine the actual cause of the teenager's death. Police said that if the allegations are substantiated through the investigation, appropriate legal action will be taken against those responsible.

1,802 cartons of foreign

value of Tk 74.08 lakh. Based on a total tax incidence (TTI) of 621 percent, the applicable customs duties and taxes on the cigarettes amount to around Tk 4.60 crore.The 13 iPhones have an estimated value of Tk 12.35 lakh, while the applicable duties and taxes, calculated at a TTI of 58 percent, amount to around Tk 7.24 lakh. Including applicable duties and taxes, the total value of the seized cigarettes and mobile phones is estimated at around Tk 5.54 crore.

BRTC's 'Pink Bus Service' to be

In initiatives to ease the everyday hassle, the launch of a separate bus service for women is being seen as an important step, the BRTC sources said.It is expected that as a result of the launch of this new service by BRTC, female passengers will get the opportunity to travel with comparative comfort.



“Mob culture” will not be tolerated: PM’s Adviser

Staff correspondent

The government will not tolerate “mob culture” in the country and will enforce law to prevent such incidents, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Public Administration Affairs Ismail Zabihullah said on Monday. “Mob culture is undesirable whenever it occurs. We hope there will be no mob culture, and it should never happen,” he said while responding to questions from journalists at an exchange of views at the Prime Minister’s Office in Tejgaon

to mark 180 days of the government. Asked about allegations that mob incidents continued after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina and that law enforcement agencies remained largely inactive in dealing with such incidents, the adviser said he had no clear example of a recent incident of the kind seen during the final period of the interim government. “There is no such mob culture as was seen toward the end of the interim government. However, we can assure you that this kind of mob culture will not be tolerated,” said Zabihullah, also a

BNP Standing Committee member. e stressed tht the country would be governed according to law and that the government would enforce it. Prime Minister’s Political Adviser and another BNP Standing Committee member Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, who joined the discussion, said the extent of mob culture has declined significantly. He said such a culture emerged partly because of political support and that there had often been an indirect political influence behind such incidents. “As the rule of law

Law and order improves visibly over past 180 days: Home Minister

Staff correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed today said the country’s law and order situation has witnessed visible improvement over the last six months, or 180 days. “The people of the country will assess whether they are satisfied with the law and order situation. However, from the government’s perspective, we can certainly say that there has been visible improvement over the last six months,” he said. The minister made the remarks while briefing journalists after a meeting of the committee formed to make recommendations on the report of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Pay Commission, 2025, at the Ministry of Finance at the Secretariat this afternoon. He said more time would be needed to further consolidate the situation in line with people’s expectations. “We have completed only six months. During this period, we have carried out many reform initiatives, and you have seen several commendable initiatives by the law enforcement



Dhaka urges Lithuania to set up visa centre in Dhaka

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister’s Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir today urged Lithuania to recruit more skilled workers from the country and establish a visa centre in Dhaka to facilitate visa processing for Bangladeshi citizens. He made the call when Lithuania’s non-resident Ambassador to Bangladesh Diana Mickeviciene paid a courtesy call on him at the Prime Minister’s Office in Tejgaon, said a foreign ministry’s press release here. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of issues of mutual

interest, including bilateral relations, expansion of trade and investment, cooperation in education and information technology, exchange of skilled human resources and establishment of a Lithuanian visa centre in Dhaka. highlighting Bangladesh’s pool of skilled and trained human resources, Humaiun urged Lithuania to recruit more skilled workers from Bangladesh. He also requested the Lithuanian side to establish a visa centre in Dhaka to make the visa application process easier for Bangladeshi citizens. The Foreign Affairs Adviser appreciated the continued engagement and

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DMP files 1,329 cases for traffic law violations in Dhaka

Staff correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Traffic Division filed 1,329 cases against traffic law violators during a crackdown across different areas of the capital on Saturday, said a press release issued on Sunday. According to the DMP Traffic Division, the Traffic-Ramma division filed 90 cases involving seven buses, two trucks, five covered vans, eight CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 30 motorcycles. Traffic-Lalbagh division filed 135 cases against violators, including 28 buses, four trucks, one covered van, 17 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 66 motorcycles. Motijheel division filed the highest number of cases among the divisions, with 230 cases involving 18 buses, three trucks, 17 covered vans, 58 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 86 motocy

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ADB to help Bangladesh become a trillion-dollar economy by 2034: Yingming Yang

Staff correspondent

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Yingming Yang has said the Manila-based lending agency is ready to help Bangladesh realize its ambition of becoming a trillion-dollar economy by 2034. “Our vision is to help Bangladesh realize its ambition of becoming an upper-middle-income country and a trillion-dollar economy by 2034. ADB remains committed to supporting a more productive, investment-driven, and resilient economy that creates opportunities across the country and improves the lives of all Bangladeshis,” he said. The ADB Vice-President for South, Central and West Asia said this in an exclusive interview with BSS after concluding his visit to Bangladesh from August 9 to August 13. During his visit, Yingming Yang held senior-level consultations on ADB’s next Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), on key reform and investment priorities, and supporting the operationalization of the Integrated Growth Network Development (IGND) initiative. He said Bangladesh has demonstrated considerable resilience, supported by strong remittance inflows, sustained services activity, and a dynamic private sector. “The next opportunity is to translate this resilience into a deeper economic transformation,” he said. As macroeconomic conditions stabilize, inflation moderates, and investor confidence improves, Yingming Yang said ADB expects growth to gradually strengthen, with GDP projected to expand by 3.7% in FY2026 and 4.5% in FY2027. He said maintaining this momentum will require continued progress on structural reforms.

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Fish output must meet quality standards to boost exports: Fisheries Minister

Staff correspondent

Fisheries, Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid on Monday said the world is now facing a bigger demand for safe and quality food rather than a shortage of food, stressing the need to ensure safe and

quality fish production in Bangladesh. Downloading Interactive Geographic Maps The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar styled “Fisheries Resources in Building a Self-Reliant Bangladesh: Present Context and Future Tasks,” organised by Bangladesh

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Agri, rural credit target rises 53.85pc to Tk 60,000cr for FY27

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has set a target of disbursing Tk 60,000 crore in agricultural and rural credit in the 2026-27 fiscal year, marking a 53.85 percent increase from the Tk 39,000 crore target fixed for the previous fiscal year. The central bank announced the Agricultural and Rural Credit Policy and Programme for FY2026-27 at a programme held at its headquarters in the city today, with a view to increasing agricultural production, employment and rural incomes while ensuring adequate credit flow to the sector. Of the total target, Tk 20,495 crore has been allocated for state-owned commercial

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Construction Work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation Inaugurated by Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Bridges, and Railways

Masum Hawladar, Bagerhat

The construction work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation, an institution of the Latif Master Foundation, has been formally inaugurated. On Monday, 17 August, Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP, Minister of Railways, Shipping, and Road Transport & Bridges inaugurated the construction work. Those present at the time included, Dr. Md. Faridul Islam, Former Secretary of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, President of the Officers Forum and Founder of Latif Master Foundation; Administrator of Bagerhat District Council Barrister Sheikh Mohammad Zakir Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat, SP Bagerhat, along with other officials of the district administration and

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Four Chhatra Dal Leaders Resign in Feni’s Parshuram Citing Evaluation Gaps and Family Issues

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter.

Citing a lack of proper evaluation by party leadership and pressing family difficulties, four leaders of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Parshuram have stepped down and announced their retirement from politics. Over the last two days, four top leaders from two separate madrasa committees under Parshuram upazila in Feni resigned from their posts, officially bidding farewell to political activities. Apologizing for any past mistakes, the outgoing leaders urged their junior colleagues, “Do not ruin your career by letting emotions drive you.” The leaders who submitted their resignations are: Md. Ilyas, General Secretary, Parshuram Islamia Fazil Madrasa Chhatra Dal; Md. Abdul Aziz, Organizational Secretary, Parshuram Islamia Fazil Madrasa Chhatra Dal; Md. Belal Hossain, Senior Vice-President, Subar

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Taslima Khandaker (Nusrat), Sarail, B. Baria.

In Azabpur village of Chunta Union, Sarail Upazila, Brahmanbaria, where repeated attempts are being made with government-funded geo-bags to prevent river erosion, a group of land grabbers are running amok in defiance of administrative orders. Flouting government laws, large steel boats (cargo) are being used to illegally cut and remove soil day and night from agricultural land and river-bank areas. According to local sources, work to place geo-bags with government allocation is ongoing to protect the village and agricultural land from river erosion. However, indiscrimi

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Police Recover 50kg of Cannabis Along with Private Car in Jorarganj

Jewel Nag, Mirsarai, Chattogram

Jorarganj Police have recovered 50 kilograms of cannabis along with a private car during an anti-drug operation in Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram. The operation was conducted at around 4:30pm on Monday (August 17) on a road near the RCL Field in Bedep para area of Madhyam Sonapahar under Ward No. 8 of Jorarganj Union No. 3. According to police, acting on a tip-off, a team led by Sub-Inspector Md. Saddam Hossain conducted a search operation in the area. During the search, police found 50 kilograms of cannabis inside a silver-colored private car bearing

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



A meeting on conservation of fisheries resources and sustainable production was held in Kaukhali

Pirojpur Correspondent

A meeting on conservation of fisheries resources and sustainable production of the upazila was held in Kaukhali, Pirojpur, on the occasion of the National Fisheries Day.The meeting was organized by the Upazila Administration and Fisheries Department at 11 am on Monday (August 17) in the meeting room of the Upazila Parishad.Upazila Fisheries Officer Md. Hafizur Rahman presided over the meeting, and Upazila Executive Officer Md. Asaduzzaman spoke as the chief guest. Upazila Rural Development Officer Md. Masum Mia and Upazila Social Service Officer Md. Jahangir Hossain spoke as special guests.At this time, fish farmers Abdur Jalil, Md. Alauddin and other concerned spoke. Various aspects of conservation of fisheries resources of the upazila, increasing fish production, proper use of water bodies and making the fisheries sector more sustainable were discussed in the meeting. Later, a documentary on conservation of fisheries resources and sustainable production was shown.Upazila Executive Officer Md. Asaduzzaman said, "Fisheries are one of the most important sources of our country's economy and human nutrition. To protect fisheries resources, government initiatives alone are not enough, fish farmers, fishermen and the general public must also be involved. Through this exchange of views, everyone is being made aware of the conservation of fisheries resources and sustainable production.It is very important to protect the biodiversity of rivers, canals and water bodies, stop the use of illegal nets and refrain from fishing during the breeding season. In addition, fish farmers should be encouraged to cultivate fish in modern and environmentally friendly ways.Upazila Fisheries Officer Md. Hafizur Rahman said, there are many water bodies including rivers, canals and ponds in Kaukhali. There is ample opportunity to further increase fish production in these water bodies by using proper management and modern technology. We are helping fish farmers increase their production by training them and providing necessary advice.The environment for breeding and growing must be protected. Everyone should refrain from using prohibited nets, killing small fish and fry, and harmful activities in water bodies.



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 ncluded,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.



A madrasa student was killed after being hit by an easybike in Sadarpur

Faridpur Biplal Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A madrasa student named Fardin (7) was killed by a battery-powered easy bike in Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur. The deceased is said to be the son of Abul Bashar Matubbar of Dangi village in Madhu mandal of Bhashanchar union of Fardin upazila. Relatives said that he was a student of Qumi Madrasa next to the house. The accident took place on Monday (August 17) at 11:30 a.m. on the road in Dangi area of ??Karirhat Madhu Mandal in Bhashanchar Union of the upazila. According to local and police sources, Fardin was standing on the side of the road in front of Hasmat Pramanik's house in Dangi Karir Hat area of ??Madhumandal. A speeding easybike hits Fardeen and he falls under the wheels of the easybike. He was hit on the head and seriously injured. The locals rescued him and quickly took him to the Upazila Health Complex where the doctor on duty, Dr. Sumaiya Parvez, declared him dead. This incident has cast a shadow of mourning on the area. Confirming the truth of the incident, the officer in charge of Sadarpur police station Abdullah Al Mamun Shah said that the police have been sent to the scene. The post-mortem has been prepared and legal proceedings are under process.

“Mob culture” will

becomes stronger, mob violence will decline,” Rizvi said, adding that the government’s commitment to the rule of law would help create an environment in which such incidents would decrease further.Prime Minister’s Office spokesperson Mahadi Amin presented statistics on the government’s activities and achievements over the past 180 days.The event was moderated by Prime Minister’s Press Secretary Saleh Shibli. PM’s Political Adviser Nazrul Islam Khan, Political Adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan and Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon also spoke at the programme.Ministers and advisers responded to questions from journalists on various issues. State Minister for Local Government Mir Shahe Alam, State Ministe for Information and Broadcasting Yaser Khan Chowdhury, Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir, Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman, Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Health SM Ziauddin Haider, Special Assistant on Environment, Forest and Climate Affairs Saimum Parvez and Chief Coordinator at the Prime Minister’s Office Prof SM Abdul Awal, among others, attended the programme.

Law and order improves

agencies,” he said.Ahmed said various initiatives and programmes, undertaken and implemented by the government during the past 180 days, had received appreciation from the people.Referring to the government’s broader performance, he said several commendable and people-oriented initiatives had been taken during the first 180 days in line with the roadmap announced by the Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.He said the government had faced a series of global and domestic challenges since assuming office but had dealt with them efficiently and successfully.On the global energy crisis stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war, the minister said the government did not immediately increase fuel prices despite the sharp rise in global energy prices.“To protect the interests of farmers during the Boro season, the government deferred the price hike for nearly a month and later decided to make an adjustment at a tolerable level,” he said. Fuel prices in the global market and neighbouring countries had risen almost twofold during the period, he continued.The minister said the longstanding gas and energy crisis inherited from the previous government could not be resolved overnight. The present government, he said, was working on sustainable and long-term plans to overcome the crisis.Ensuring adequate primary energy supply is essential to attracting global investors, expanding trade and business and maintaining production, he said.

Dhaka urges Lithuania to

cooperation between Bangladesh and Lithuania and underscored the potential for further expanding bilateral ties. The Lithuanian Ambassador expressed her country’s interest in further broadening cooperation with Bangladesh in the education sector. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Bangladesh-Lithuania bilateral relations and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation.

Fish output must meet

Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.He said quality control and prescribed standards must be strictly maintained at every stage of fish production to boost exports.“We have to determine our course of action keeping in mind the current problems facing the fisheries sector, future prospects, people’s demand, and the international market’s need for quality fish,” the minister said. "If we can identify the problems and resolve them on a priority basis, rapid progress is possible."The minister said adequate sanctuaries must be ensured for fish to boost their natural breeding and production, adding that the government has already taken various initiatives in this regard and begun work on fish conservation.He said excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture, along with various environmental pressures, is hampering the natural production and breeding of fish, calling for a shift towards eco-friendly and modern production methods to overcome the problem.Aminur also called for tapping the opportunity to produce more fish using modern technology in limited spaces.Highlighting the potential of Bangladesh’s fisheries products in the international market, the minister said the country’s freshwater fish have a large market among expatriate Bangladeshis living in various countries, and exports could be boosted by tapping into their demand.He said earning foreign currency from the international market would require producing fish according to the preferences and demand of the people in the importing countries, not just fish consumed by Bangladeshis.Referring to the export potential of shrimp, crab, eel and other aquatic animals, he said fry and breeding systems need to be developed alongside production in these areas, adding that production and exports in this sector could be multiplied manifold if fry could be artificially produced and reared using modern technology. Stressing coordination among quality fish production, food safety, environmental protection, modern technology, research and international market demand, the minister said effective advice from relevant scientists, researchers and professionals in these areas would help the government.Speaking as special guest, Fisheries and Livestock State Minister Sultan Salauddin Tuku, said a favourable environment for the growth and breeding of fish must be ensured to increase fish production.He said the natural movement and breeding grounds of fish are being disrupted due to encroachment on rivers and canals, navigability crises, and water pollution from industrial waste. Tuku said restoring the navigability of rivers and canals and re-establishing the connection between rivers and canals are essential to bring back fish habitats.He recalled that President Ziaur Rahman took initiatives to restore river navigability and re-excavate canals, and after a long hiatus, incumbent Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has again taken up initiatives to re-excavate canals and rivers.Excavation work has already been carried out in various areas, and if the plan to re-excavate around 20,000 kilometres of canals and rivers is implemented, it will create a favourable environment for fish breeding and movement, he added.

xpressing concern over the unregulated use of antibiotics in fish farming, the state minister said their unnecessary use is causing economic losses to farmers on one hand and putting food safety at risk on the other.

Tuku said district-level seminars and workshops would be organised to raise awareness among farmers in this regard. BFRI senior scientific officer Dr Moshiru Rahman presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Agri, rural credit target rises

and specialised banks, while Tk 39,505 crore has been set for private and foreign commercial banks. BB Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman highlighted the key aspects of the new policy at the programme, which was also attended by senior officials of the central bank, including executive directors, deputy executive directors and directors, as well as representatives of scheduled banks.The policy has incorporated a number of new measures to make agricultural credit more inclusive and responsive to the needs of farmers and rural communities.Under the new policy, local agricultural extension officers, sub-assistant agricultural officers, fisheries officers and livestock officers may provide information from their records or government-issued farmer cards to help identify genuine farmers.The policy also directs banks to provide agricultural loans alongside fisheries and livestock loans

in crop and crop-related areas and sets limits on the number of members in farmer groups eligible for such credit.For fisheries and livestock sectors, banks have been instructed to provide loans of up to Tk 5 lakh without collateral. Banks have also been advised to explore alternative forms of security, including personal, social and group guarantees, particularly to facilitate financing for women and marginal farmers.The mandatory requirement for maintaining passbooks or similar records for agricultural borrowers has been relaxed. The policy also simplifies the process of obtaining Bangladesh Bank’s prior approval for lending under contract farming arrangements.The policy has revised operational guidelines for the Bangladesh Bank Agricultural Development Common Fund (BBADCDF), allowing greater flexibility in agricultural financing.It also allows banks to provide loans to farmers or entrepreneurs engaged in fish farming and livestock activities, either individually or through groups, subject to applicable conditions.Measures have also been incorporated to support honey production, mushroom cultivation, salt-tolerant crop production and other emerging agricultural activities.The policy includes provisions for re-financing schemes involving Tk 10,000 crore and Tk 3,000 crore, with corresponding policy provisions incorporated into the policy summary. In response to climate change, Bangladesh Bank has included provisions to bring insurance facilities to agricultural borrowers based on the relationship between banks and farmers/customers and the terms of lending.The new policy also includes financing provisions for organic fertiliser produced from materials such as neem leaves, ash, mixed grains, rice bran, jute sticks, tree leaves, banana peels and eggshells, along with provisions for crop production, documentation and loan repayment.For crops such as chilli, vegetables, banana, papaya, mango, lemon, guava and lychee, the policy provides for determining loan disbursement and crop-cutting periods and fixing repayment periods based on the harvesting period.At the programme, Bangladesh Bank also formally launched its Web Based Agri-Credit MIS Software to strengthen monitoring of agricultural and rural credit programmes and improve policy implementation.The central bank said the new policy has been formulated in line with the government’s objective of ensuring sustainable development of rural areas, creating employment and increasing the incomes of marginal and poor people.

It expects timely and adequate credit flow to the agricultural and rural sectors to help boost domestic agricultural production and supply, contain inflationary pressure and contribute to sustainable economic development.

DMP files 1,329 cases for traffic

cles.Wari division filed 98 cases involving 14 buses, seven trucks, five covered vans, four CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 37 motorcycles. Tejgaon division filed 122 cases against six buses, seven covered vans, 20 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 45 motorcycles.Mirpur division filed 334 cases — the highest among all traffic divisions — involving 16 buses, 17 trucks, 37 covered vans, 49 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 146 motorcycles.Uttara division filed 204 cases involving 17 buses, seven trucks, six covered vans, 26 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 81 motorcycles. Gulshan division filed 116 cases involving 17 buses, five trucks, seven covered vans, six CNG-run auto-rickshaws and 27 motorcycles.During the drive, a total of 493 vehicles were dumped and 338 vehicles were towed away, the DMP said. The Traffic Division said such drives will continue in different parts of the capital to maintain traffic discipline in Dhaka metropolitan areas.

ADB to help Bangladesh

Recent steps to strengthen tax administration, improve banking sector governance, address non-performing loans, enhance financial sector discipline, and move towards a more market-based exchange rate framework are encouraging, he said."Looking ahead, Bangladesh can unlock stronger and more inclusive growth by improving the investment climate, expanding reliable and affordable energy, strengthening public investment management, diversifying exports, building workforce skills, creating opportunities for women and young people, and enhancing resilience," added the ADB Vice-President.He noted that central to this agenda is private sector development and making markets investable so that private capital can flow into productive sectors, create jobs, and drive sustainable growth.

For the people of Bangladesh, Yang said this means better jobs, more competitive enterprises, improved services, and wider opportunities beyond traditional growth centers. These reforms will be critical for raising productivity, attract investment, and support sustainable long-term development.When asked about the new Country Partnership Strategy for Bangladesh, he said ADB's partnership with Bangladesh has always evolved with the country's aspirations."As we prepare the next Country Partnership Strategy, our focus is on helping Bangladesh move toward a more diversified, competitive, inclusive, and resilient economy, anchored in private sector-led economic diversification and stronger resilience to shocks. In essence, our future partnership will support Bangladesh's move from resilience to transformation," he said.

Four Chhatra Dal Leaders

Bazar Islamia Fazil Madrasa Chhatra Dal?Md. Abdur Rahman, Literature and Publication Secretary, Subar Bazar Islamia Fazil Madrasa Chhatra Dal?According to party sources, the leaders highlighted financial hardship within their families and expressed regret over not receiving due recognition within the organization. In their resignation letters, they formally announced a permanent retirement from politics and requested everyone to forgive any past shortcomings in their political journey. Based on their personal experiences, they also advised junior activists to control their emotions and prioritize their future and career development.?The back-to-back resignations of four leaders within two days, along with copies of their resignation letters, quickly spread on social media, sparking widespread speculation and discussion in Parshuram's political landscape. However, statements from local or top-tier Chhatra Dal leaders regarding this matter are yet to be obtained.

Govt working relentlessly

overall activities, major achievements and future development plans at a special views exchange meeting at PMO in Tejgaon today marking the completion of six months of the present government in office.The PMO spokesperson said the government is enjoying unprecedented public support, which was constituted through a 15-year-long struggle against discrimination and fascism. “The historic homecoming of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the huge crowd at the funeral of Deshnetri Begum Khaleda Zia, and people’s participation in post-election programmes manifested that the BNP government firmly stands on huge public support,” he said.

Ignoring the administration's

nate soil cutting in the same area every day is making the river erosion situation even more severe.The massive waves created while the large, soil-laden steel boats ply the river have caused new erosion in local houses and agricultural land. As a result, acres of farmland are being destroyed, and people living along the riverbank are spending their days in intense fear. Affected farmers said, "Because of the influence and fear of



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.



Parents-Teachers Meeting Held at Zafar Imam Adarsha High School,Chagallniya

A.N.M.Nurul Amin. Chagallniya,Feni

A parents-teachers meeting was held at Zafar Imam Adarsha High School in Chagallniya, Feni. ?The event was presided over by Mr. Niamat Ullah Chowdhury Arif, Chairman of the School Managing Committee, who attended as the chief guest. Mr. Mazarul Haq, Headmaster of Zafar Imam Adarsha High School, was present as the special guest.?The program was anchored by Maulana Mijanur Rahman, while speech presentations were delivered by Maulana Mostafizur Rahman, Shah Alam Master, Arshad Ullah Mojmunder and other distinguished guests.?During the meeting, the chief guest highlighted various educational techniques, teaching methods, and emphasized the importance of showing care and kindness toward students. He concluded by extending his warm wishes for the school's continuous growth and bright future.

the land grabbers, we do not dare to speak out publicly. Our last resort, the farmland, is being wiped out before our eyes." Through journalists, the farmers have called for prompt and strict intervention by the administration to stop this destruction.It is learned that although miking was done to stop soil cutting in the area on the orders of the Sarail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), the land grabbers are paying no heed to that ban. They have continued their activities even after the miking.Meanwhile, a reliable confidential source said that this land grabber syndicate had recently submitted an application to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) for permission to cut soil. They are now using that application as a pretext to carry out this illegal work right under the administration's nose.

Police Recover 50kg of Cannabis

registration number Chattogram Metro-Ga-12-9964.The cannabis was packed in 25 separate packets kept inside three plastic sacks, with each packet containing two kilograms of cannabis.Police said that upon sensing the presence of law enforcement, three to four unidentified suspected drug dealers fled the scene.

Jorarganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Halim said the police campaign against drugs is continuing. Acting on confidential information, police recovered the 50 kilograms of cannabis and seized the private car allegedly used to transport the drugs.He added that efforts are underway to identify and bring those involved in the incident to justice. A case is in the process of being filed in connection with the recovery.

Construction Work of Bagerhat

police, various political and social personalities, doctors, volunteers of Latif Master Foundation, trainees of Rocket Football Academy, and dignitaries from different classes and professions. During the inauguration, Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam MP expressed hope that the construction work of Bagerhat Medical Foundation would be completed properly and assured necessary cooperation for launching the institution's activities. He praised the various public welfare activities of Latif Master Foundation and wished for its continued success. The Bagerhat Medical Foundation has been initiated with the goal of ensuring quality, affordable, and humane healthcare for the people of Bagerhat.It is expected that the institution will play an important role in healthcare services for the people of the area in the future. The Latif Master Foundation has been carrying out various activities for public welfare in education, health, skill development, sports, and social development. This initiative of the Bagerhat Medical Foundation will further expand the foundation's public welfare activities.



Massive wildfire in eastern Belgium forces hundreds to evacuate

International Desk

Firefighters were battling a massive wildfire in eastern Belgium on Sunday after flames swept through about 30 square kilometers (12 square miles) of the High Fens nature reserve, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Authorities ordered around 600 people living in the nearby municipalities of Waimès and Bütgenbach, in Liège province near the German border, to leave their homes Saturday as shifting winds pushed smoke and flames closer to populated areas. Tourists were also advised to leave the region, while a local gymnasium was opened as an emergency shelter for evacuees. More than 250 emergency personnel, including over 100 Belgian and German firefighters, were deployed to tackle the blaze, according to Liège provincial governor Hervé Jamar. Police, military personnel and civil protection teams were also assisting the operation. Firefighting helicopters operated by Belgium's federal police and the Netherlands were supporting crews on the ground. René Dahmen, chief engineer at the Department of Nature and Forest, said the fire continued to spread Sunday in difficult terrain that was challenging for firefighters to access. He said a stretch of the fire line at least one kilometer long was slowly moving toward a municipal forest, making it a priority for firefighting teams. "The situation is extremely difficult," Dahmen said, stressing the need for continued helicopter support. No homes had been damaged as of Sunday morning, officials said. However, the fire remained near residential areas and thick smoke continued to blanket parts of the region. Authorities urged residents and visitors to stay away from the affected area, warning that unnecessary traffic could obstruct emergency vehicles and hamper firefighting efforts. European countries provide assistance Belgium activated the European Union's civil protection mechanism to seek international assistance as firefighters struggled to contain the blaze. EU crisis management commissioner Hadja Lahbib said Belgium was receiving support from other European countries. Sweden sent two water-bombing aircraft, while three helicopters — two from the Netherlands and one from the Czech Republic — were also being deployed to assist Belgian and German crews. The wildfire comes after weeks of unusually hot and dry weather in Belgium. The High Fens, which contains large areas of heathland and peat bogs, has proved particularly difficult to fight because of the terrain and dry vegetation. Another intense heat wave affected Belgium this week, with temperatures reaching around 37 C (98.6 F) in parts of the country on Friday.



Death toll from Indonesia's 7.7-magnitude quake rises to 54

International Desk

The death toll from a 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) province has risen to 54, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said Monday. BNPB chief Suharyanto said authorities were continuing to assess casualties and damage, while rescue teams were providing medical assistance to hundreds of injured people. As of Sunday, more than 12,000 people had been left homeless, with the earthquake damaging homes and public facilities. The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said aftershocks were continuing. Authorities have deployed land, sea and air transportation, including 11 aircraft and helicopters, to deliver relief supplies and support evacuation efforts in remote areas, including Palu Island in Sikka regency. A field hospital is also being prepared at Golo Dukal Stadium after the earthquake damaged Manggarai Regional Hospital and disrupted local health services.

Fires near Greek capital controlled after claiming two lives

International Desk

Two fires on the Greek island of Salamis near Athens that claimed two lives and led to the evacuation of nearly 600 people have been largely extinguished, the fire service said Monday. "The situation is better, there is no active front," a fire department spokesman told AFP, adding that two helicopters and over 200 firefighters remained in the area. The fires broke out Sunday near packed beaches in the south and east of the island just west of Athens that is popular with day travellers. The evacuations were carried out by boat. Though the civil protection agency quickly issued evacuation orders, the fire department said the fires spread in just seven minutes owing to strong winds, trapping an elderly couple near their home. Three people remained hospitalised with burns on Monday. After largely escaping the heatwave temperatures that blanketed much of Europe, Greece has been hit with several major wildfires since late July, fuelled by strong winds. Thirty-six blazes have broken out over the past 24 hours around the country, according to the fire department. Five firefighters have died so far, including a Danish pilot killed in a mid-air collision between two helicopters while battling a blaze near Athens earlier this month.



12 more bodies recovered in Zimbabwe's ferry disaster: Death toll rises to 84

International Desk

Authorities on Sunday searched for more bodies from an over loaded ferry that capsized on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe last week as the death toll in the disaster rose to more than 80 people. The ferry capsized in strong waves on Tuesday. Police on Sunday said the death toll had risen to 84, from 72 the previous day as more bodies were recovered. Zimbabwe's disaster management agency has said 77 people were rescued. Estimates had put the number of passengers as high as 153 on a ferry authorized to carry 90 people, but the latest official figures now suggest the number of passengers could be even higher. Police in the southern African country said "search efforts are still underway in a bid to recover victims identified as missing." The aging ferry was traveling from the town of Kariba to rural and fishing communities in the country's northwest, where roads are damaged and public transportation is scarce. Among the dead are 18 children, with the youngest just 1 year old. According to police, 16 of the victims were aged 10 or younger. Kariba is the world's largest human-made lake by volume, created by damming the mighty Zambezi River in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It stretches more than 200 kilometers (124 miles) and is up to 40 kilometers (25 miles) wide in places. Zimbabwe and Zambia share the lake, with their border running through its middle.



14 Killed in temple stampede and hotel fire in eastern India

International Desk

A stampede at a Hindu temple and a hotel fire in eastern India have left 14 people dead and several others injured. The stampede occurred Monday near Ashok Dham Temple in Lakhisarai, Bihar, where thousands of devotees had gathered during the holy month of Shravan. Seven people died and more than a dozen were injured. Preliminary reports suggest that an electrical wire may have snapped outside the temple, causing panic among worshippers who feared electrocution. As the crowd rushed to safety, part of a barricade collapsed, resulting in a deadly crush. Hours earlier, a fire broke out at a four-story hotel in Tarapith, West Bengal, where many guests were pilgrims visiting nearby temples. The fire started on the ground floor while most people were asleep. At least seven people were killed, while several others suffered serious injuries, including burns and breathing difficulties caused by smoke. The hotel management suspected that an electrical component may have triggered the fire, but authorities are still investigating. Crowd-related deaths are not uncommon in India during major religious gatherings, where huge numbers of worshippers often gather in limited spaces. Similar tragedies have occurred during religious festivals in recent years, including the Maha Kumbh festival in 2025, when at least 30 people died in a crowd crush.

Foreign media explore Shandong's innovation and development

International Desk

A five-day foreign media delegation visited China's Shandong Province from August 10 to 14 under the theme "Opportunities in China, Innovation in Qingdao", giving international journalists and friends a closer look at the province's technological innovation, cultural heritage, ecological protection and high-quality development. The visit was organised by CRI Online of China Media Group, the Information Office of the Qingdao Municipal People's Government and the Information Office of the Dongying Municipal People's Government. During the visit, the participants travelled through Qingdao and Dongying, engaging with local communities, enterprises, cultural institutions and development projects. Through first-hand experiences and exchanges, they gained a broader understanding of Shandong's efforts to promote innovation, preserve cultural heritage, improve people's well-being and pursue green development. The programme covered a wide range of themes, including artificial intelligence, intelligent manufacturing, biotechnology, healthcare, marine industries, rural revitalisation, traditional culture, urban renewal and ecological conservation. In Qingdao, participants witnessed the city's growing momentum in technological innovation and saw how emerging technologies are being applied to industry and everyday life. They also explored how traditional culture is being integrated with modern tourism and experienced the coastal city's distinctive cultural atmosphere. The delegation also gained insights into rural revitalisation and the development of cultural tourism and wellness industries. Traditional food and tea culture, as well as historic neighborhoods, gave international visitors opportunities to see how local heritage is being preserved while finding new life in contemporary society. Dongying offered another perspective on Shandong's development. Located at the mouth of the Yellow River, the city gave participants an opportunity to explore the relationship between the river, local culture, industrial development and ecological protection. The Yellow River was a central theme of the Dongying leg of the visit. Participants learned about the river's cultural significance and witnessed efforts to protect and make sustainable use of its ecological resources. They also gained an understanding of the region's industrial heritage and its ongoing transition towards more innovative and sustainable development. The visit highlighted the close connection between economic development and environmental protection. From the innovative use of saline-alkaline land to the conservation of the Yellow River Delta wetlands, the delegation observed efforts to turn ecological challenges into opportunities for sustainable development. "This visit allowed me to see China at the local level and experience its development directly," said a Bangladeshi media representative. "What impressed me most is the combination of modern technology, traditional culture and green development. I believe these experiences will help me tell a more vivid story about China to international audiences." GeographicReference A participant from Pakistan also spoke positively about the journey, saying, "Shandong has shown us that development does not mean leaving tradition behind. Technology and innovation are creating new opportunities, while culture and the environment are being protected. The visit gave us a deeper understanding of how China is pursuing modernisation and improving people's lives."

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Ayub Bachchu's 20 songs released on his birthday

Entertainment Desk

Twenty of Ayub Bachchu's most beloved songs were released in new musical arrangements, performed by eight Bangladeshi bands and 12 artists as part of a tribute project titled 'Uttoradhikar'.

The double-CD album was released on August 16, coinciding with the legendary musician's birth anniversary. The songs are also be available on digital platforms.

Proceeds from the project will be used to establish the Ayub Bachchu Guitar Museum, a long-standing dream of the late musician's family and the Ayub Bachchu Foundation. Details of the project was announced at a press conference



held at The Daily Star office yesterday.

Ferdous Akhtar Chondona, Ayub Bachchu's wife and chairperson of the Ayub Bachchu Foundation, spoke at the event. Bachchu's family and the Ayub Bachchu Foundation are planning to establish a museum featuring around 50 of his guitars, including his cherished Fender Stratocaster and Ibanez JEM 77. The guitars are currently preserved at his home in Moghbazar, with his wife Chondona carefully looking after the memorabilia. All the songs have been mastered by Iqbal Asif Jewel.

Dalchhut has performed 'Rupali Guitar', Arbovirus 'Neel Bedona',

Shonar Bangla Circus 'Gotokal Rate', Shuvojatra 'Cholo Bodley Jai', Calypso 'Chand Mama', RockSalt 'Ochena Jibon', Dopamine 'Madhobi', and AK Rahul 'Mon Chaile Mon'.

Among solo artistes, Babna Karim and Russell Ali have performed 'Hashte Dekho', Romel Ali 'Ekhon Onek Raat', Chandan Zaman Ali 'Meye', Kaniz Subarna and Sazzad 'Koshto Pete Bhalobashi', Palash 'Apon Keho Nai', Joy Shahriar 'Koshto Kake Bole', Adit 'Ghumonto Shohore', Bakhtiar Hossain 'Rater Tara', Atika Yamin 'Ferari Mon', Autumnal Moon 'Hawker', Kanak Acharya 'Nirobe', and Towfique Ahmed 'Bangladesh'.

Selena Gomez faces fraud lawsuit

Entertainment Desk

Pop star Selena Gomez founded Wondermind Global, an organisation she founded with her mother Mandy Teefey in 2021 to work on mental health.

However, just a few years after its founding, the organisation has been embroiled in legal complications.

Recently, five investors in Wondermind Global filed a fraud lawsuit against Selena, alleging institutional mismanagement and breach of promise.

The BBC reported that the investors, based in New York and Florida, claim that Selena's negligence has led to the company's bankruptcy.

In the lawsuit, they are demanding the return of their investment of about \$1.2 million, as well as compensation.

According to the investors' complaints, Selena had agreed to play an active role in the expansion of the brand and act as the chief marketing officer.

The investors invested money in it, trusting her words and promise of active participation.

However, Selena did not play any effective role in expansion of

Liza's new song captivates audience



Entertainment Desk

After a break of several months, a new original song titled 'Tumi Bihon' has been released in voice of this generation's popular singer Sania Sultana Liza. The song was released 10 days ago on Liza's own YouTube channel, 'Liza'.

Since the song was released on Liza's own YouTube channel. The views of this song may not increase like other professional YouTube channels in the country; many viewers have already enjoyed the song.

And Liza is very happy about that because the artiste

releases her original songs on her own channel with great expectations. The artiste is happy that those expectations are fulfilled by releasing new songs.

The song 'Tumi Bihon' was written and composed by Jisan Khan Shuvo. Its music was arranged by Adib Kabir.

The music video for the song was directed by Raj Biswas Sankor.

Regarding talking about her new released original song, Liza told this correspondent, "After a break of several months, a new original song of mine was released. Those who regularly listen to my songs also wanted me to release new songs. Let's say I released this song out of that urge. I like the lyrics and melody of this romantic song a little better than my other songs. I'm getting a pretty good response after the song was released. Many people have called me who have listened to the song many times after hearing it once. Thank you to the listeners.

To be honest, as an artiste, I always want to release beautiful songs. But I don't always find the lyrics I like. And so it takes a while to release a song."

Meanwhile, Liza also said that she is working on several new songs.

Once the audio work for the songs is complete, the music video will be completed quickly and the songs will be released on her own channel.

Other notable songs by Liza released on her YouTube channel are: 'Chai Tomay', 'Pakhi', 'Jabi Kotodur', 'Pagli Suraiya', 'Tumi Ashbe Bole', 'Tomar Rodela Akashe', 'Meghe Meghe', 'Sara Akash Take Likhe Debo', etc.

'Heroes' star Hayden Panettiere dies at 36

Entertainment Desk

Hayden Panettiere, star of popular television series including "Heroes" and "Nashville," has died. She was 36.

Panettiere's father, Skip, announced the actor's death in a statement provided to ABC News on Sunday.

"It is with profound sadness that we share the tragic passing of our beloved Hayden. She was an incredible light and a force of nature who brought immeasurable love and joy to all who knew her — and to the millions who watched her onscreen," his statement said.

No cause of death was announced, and a publicist for Hayden Panettiere did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

Panettiere, who would have turned 37 on Friday, began her career as a child actor in commercials and soap operas.

Her role as a cheerleader with superpowers in "Heroes" propelled her to fame in 2006, with the series revolving around the mantra "Save the cheerleader, save the world."

"I think 'Heroes' is really hot because it's just a really great combination of everything that people love — they love reality, they love sci-fi and things like X-Men where they get to dream of something bigger," Panettiere told The Associated Press in 2008. "And at the core of it are these human stories that people can relate to, very rugged. And it's just grabbed everyone in every age group."

She went on to win three Teen Choice Awards for that role and was a Grammy Award nominee for a children's spoken word album recorded a few years after the release of the animated movie "A Bug's Life."

Panettiere later played a brash country upstart opposite Connie Britton on "Nashville," which aired on ABC for four seasons before being canceled and revived on CMT. She did her own singing in the show, which scored some hits on country charts, spawned U.S. tours and earned Panettiere two supporting actress Golden Globe nominations.

Panettiere had 11 songs recorded for "Nashville" appear on Billboard's Hot Country Songs charts during the show's run, including two featuring Britton.



Panettiere's younger brother, Jansen, who was also an actor, died of a heart condition in 2023, at age 28.

She had been open about her struggles with alcohol addiction and depression, including after the birth of her daughter with Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko in 2014.

In an interview with podcaster Jay Shetty after her memoir came out in May, Panettiere talked about the custody arrangement for her 11-year-old daughter, who lives full-time with Klitschko in Ukraine. News of the 2018 decision prompted headlines about Panettiere giving up

custody of her daughter.

"I think there's been this very common misconception that I just gave up my child," she said. "That could not be farther from the truth."

Panettiere said Klitschko suggested their daughter live with him full-time when the child was 2, as Panettiere struggled with mental health challenges and addiction. She said she was in a "horrible cycle for years of battling depression and anxiety and alcoholism and substance abuse" while "just trying to find my way back, my way out of the darkness."

She entered rehab in 2015, while filming "Nashville."

"I was the one who put myself in the first treatment center. I was drowning," she said in a 2023 interview with Women's Health magazine.

On Shetty's podcast, Panettiere recalled the explosion of her fame when she was cast on "Heroes," including the first time she was tracked by the paparazzi. When she'd imagined the moment as a younger actress, she'd planned to look chic.

Instead, she said, "it was just sheer terror."

Panettiere also appeared in two of the "Scream" movies, starred as the title character in the 2009 film "I Love You Beth Cooper" and played the young daughter of a football coach in "Remember the Titans."

She had spoken positively about her experience filming "Remember the Titans," saying she felt so similar to the character she played — Sheryl Yoast, the opiated, football-loving daughter of Will Patton's Coach Bill Yoast.

Shimu-Totini's 'Firey Ashar Golpo' to start from Oct 7

Entertainment Desk

Tanjim Saiyara Totini and Sumaiya Shimu.

After a long time in the world of Bengali serials, director Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz's 'Eta Amaderi Golpo' had captivated the audience.

After this family drama that received a huge response, the director is now returning with a new serial, titled 'Firey Ashar Golpo'.

The director released its announcement and first look last month.

At that time, it was known that the serial will feature the popular actress Sumaiya Shimu.

In this drama, the main character along with Sumaiya Shimu will be played by this generation's actress Tanjim Saiyara Totini.

Naturally, after this news was released, the audience's interest in this series peaked. The audience started counting the hours of waiting, when will it come.

Although the details of the drama were kept secret,



director Mostafa Kamal Raz finally announced the release and gave details, ending all the wait.

He said that the series 'Firey Ashar Golpo' will start airing from October 7.

Viewers will be able to watch it on the YouTube channel of the production company 'Cinemawala' every Wednesday and Thursday at 12 noon.

The poster of this series says, "Where relationship is the greatest strength", to convey the depth of the relationship.

Recently, the series 'Eta Amaderi Golpo' directed by Raz gained immense popularity.

It is learnt that Raz has created 'Firey Ashar Golpo' to maintain the continuity of that popularity.

Meanwhile, viewers are eagerly waiting for Sumaiya Shimu's return after a long time and to see her on-screen chemistry with Totini. The various reactions of the viewers in the comment section of the post indicate this.

Concert 'Soccerama' in Dhaka, 4 bands to perform today

Entertainment Desk

A special concert 'Soccerama' combining football and music is going to be held in Dhaka.

World Cup-winning Argentine footballer Claudio Caniggia will be the main attraction of the event at the United Convention Centre in Dhaka on Tuesday (August 18), said a press release.

Chirkutt, Artcell, Nemesis, and Odd Signature will perform on the same stage at the event.

The concert, jointly organized by Link 3 and Affordable Venture Limited, will begin at 3:00pm.

The participating bands have expressed great excitement about performing in the presence of world football star Caniggia.

The band wrote on social media, "Argentine superstar Claudio Caniggia, who shook the World Cup in 1990 and 1994, is coming to Dhaka on August 18.



What an incredible determination and aura he played with! I will perform for him, very excited.

Concert 'Soccerama' is being organised to celebrate this glorious icon of world football."

The band Odd Signature wrote, "The day will be festive with the combination of music and football.

Caniggia is joining this event as one of the biggest attractions. Everyone is invited to this unforgettable celebration."



Cameroon crowned African women’s champions for first time



Sports Desk

Three goals for three lost finals. Cameroon finally won the Women's Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday with a 3-0 victory over tournament debutant Malawi. Marie Ngah Manga headed two goals and Naomi Eto scored the other while Cameroon kept Malawi's Chawinga sisters in check to claim its first win in the final at the fourth attempt. The Indomitable Lionesses, who failed to qualify for the previous edition of the tournament, had lost on their last three appearances in the final – all to 10-time winner Nigeria. "I feel like it's a dream because you know Cameroon have been working hard to have this moment and today

for us to be champion of Africa is a very, very wonderful thing," Ngah Manga said. FIFA's under-fire president, Gianni Infantino, attended the game along with CAF President Patrice Motsepe. ExecutiveBranch Infantino later helped Motsepe hand out medals to the top three teams. Algeria defeated Morocco in the third-placedecider on Saturday. Infantino also posed with Motsepe and Samuel Eto'o, the president of the Cameroon Football Federation, for a photo with Cameroon forward Monique Ngock after she received the player of the tournament trophy. Cameroon too strong Malawi made the better start but suffered a double blow when Ngah Manga headed the opener from

close range in the 21st minute, shortly before Eto – who had her back to goal – turned brilliantly to send the ball inside the right post. Eto was also involved in the first goal, forcing a save from Malawi goalkeeper Mercy Sikelo before Ngah Manga scored. Malawi failed to muster a response and Ngah Manga effectively sealed the result on a break when Eto got to the ball before Sikelo and produced a perfect cross for her teammate to head her second goal of the game and fifth overall in the tournament.

Cameroon substitutes ran onto the field to celebrate with their team-mates. The Chawinga sisters had pushed Malawi after the break. Tabitha Chawinga felt she should have had a penalty, but a VAR check deemed otherwise. Then she drew a good save from Michaela Bihina, and her sister Temwa went close from the rebound. Cameroon veteran Gabrielle Aboudi Onguéné went on in stoppage time and duly scored, only to have the goal ruled out for offside. The 37-year-old Onguéné was part of the Cameroon team that lost the final at home to Nigeria in 2016. Despite her disallowed goal, this time she could celebrate.

Marchand storms to second gold of European championships

Sports Desk

French swimming star Leon Marchand powered to his second gold of the European championships in Paris on Sunday, easing to victory in the 400m freestyle, an event he rarely races. Clocking 3min 43.14sec, he won by a margin of 1.32 seconds over Hungary's Oliver Papai. The bronze went to Germany's Lukas Martens, the world record holder.

Four-time Olympic champion Marchand had already won gold in the 200m butterfly final in Paris. "It was a new race for me, so I really enjoyed it," said Marchand, who then helped France to bronze in the men's 4x100m medley relay later Sunday. He also won a silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay earlier in the week. "Basically I tried to keep my blinders on for the first 200 metres," he explained.

"Then I realised the field was going to come back strong, so that's when I gradually started kicking harder. "I could see I was well ahead, and the crowd cheering was really spurring me on, so I fed off that energy. The last 25 metres were a bit of a struggle though. "I think there are plenty of things I can improve, but being European champion in the 400m freestyle, I couldn't ask for much more."

Marchand was one of the stars of the 2024 Paris Olympics, winning gold in the 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke, as well as the 200m and 400m individual medleys. The 24-year-old was racing a reduced schedule at the Europeans as he continues to recover from a thigh injury. Earlier, Hungarian Hubert Kos won his third men's 200m individual medley Euros title, in the absence of Marchand, for his third gold of the championships. Kos completed the four-length race in 1:54.24 to add to his gold medals in the 200m backstroke and men's 100m freestyle relay. The 23-year-old built a significant lead during the backstroke leg before seeing Spain's Hugo Gonzalez charge towards



him. Kos held firm in the final metres to secure the win. He finished two-tenths of a second ahead of Gonzalez, while 18-year-old Russian Mikhail Shcherbakov, competing under a neutral flag, took the bronze. - Golden finale for Britain - Britain won two more gold medals on the final night of competition to finish top of the medals table with eight golds and 14 medals in total. Keanna Macinnes won the 200m butterfly and then helped Britain seal the women's 4x100m medley relay title ahead of Italy. Italian teenage star Sara Curtis got her country off to a blistering start but an exceptional finish by Freya Colbert gave Britain the spoils.

Italy were second with 20 medals, of which six were gold. Keanna Macinnes won the 200m butterfly and then helped Britain seal the women's 4x100m medley relay title ahead of Italy. Italian teenage star Sara Curtis got her country off to a blistering start but an exceptional finish by Freya Colbert gave Britain the spoils. Italy were second with 20 medals, of which six were gold. Keanna Macinnes won the 200m butterfly and then helped Britain seal the women's 4x100m medley relay title ahead of Italy. Italian teenage star Sara Curtis got her country off to a blistering start but an exceptional finish by Freya Colbert gave Britain the spoils.

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India dismissed for 462 in first Sri Lanka Test

Sports Desk

India were bowled out for 462 after facing just four deliveries on the third morning of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Monday. Resuming from the overnight score of 460-9, India added just two runs as last man Prasidh Krishna was caught down the leg-side by wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella to give Asitha Fernando his second wicket. Spin bowlers Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha shared seven wickets between them. Top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal was the mainstay of the Indian innings with a career-best 167.



The left-hander batted for over five and a half hours and faced 230 deliveries, hitting 15 fours and a six. It was Padikkal's first Test in almost two years and he made it count with a memorable knock. It was the fourth highest score by an Indian batter on Sri Lankan soil, behind Sachin Tendulkar's 203, Virender Sehwag's unbeaten 201 and Shikhar Dhawan's 190. K.L. Rahul with 82 and Dhruv Jurel with 51 provided solid support. The pitch is already offering plenty of assistance to spin bowlers. The first two days of the Test were hit by rain with only 73 overs possible on day one and 43 overs bowled on day two.

PSG beaten by Lens in French Champions' Trophy

Sports Desk

Ten-man Lens denied Paris Saint-Germain a second trophy in five days as Florian Thauvin's first-half goal secured a 1-0 victory in the French Champions' Trophy on Sunday. Lens were worthy winners in their first match under new coach Dino Toppmoeller, adding to the French Cup title they won under previous boss Pierre Sage in May. PSG, who beat Aston Villa on Wednesday in the UEFA Super Cup, struggled to find their flow at Lens' Stade Bollaert-Delelis, despite their hosts having Kyllian Antonio sent off in the first half. "I think we deserved more," insisted PSG coach Luis Enrique. "But I have to congratulate Lens-- they won, and they played very well, with their usual intensity..."

"We played a very good match, but we didn't have the luck we needed." Paris will turn their attentions to the start of their Ligue 1 title defence at home against Rennes in a week's time. They will be without Portugal defender Nuno Mendes for that match, after he was also dismissed late on. Lens, runners-up in Ligue 1 behind PSG last season, qualified for this match by winning their first ever French Cup with a 3-1 final win over Nice.

Luis Enrique named a strong side, making just three changes to the team which won the Super Cup, including giving Lucas Digne his second debut after the France left-back rejoined the club from Villa. But Bradley Barcola, widely linked with a possible move to Liverpool, was not in the squad. - Dominated possession - The visitors dominated possession in the opening stages but struggled to create clear-cut chances, with



Lens goalkeeper Robin Risser making a comfortable save from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. Lens grew into the contest and grabbed a 32nd-minute lead when PSG failed to clear before Thauvin slotted home at the back post from Matthieu Udol's cross-shot. But Toppmoeller's men were dealt a big blow six minutes before half-time when Antonio was dismissed for a studs-up tackle on Maghnes Aklouchche. PSG almost made the most of their man advantage before the break but Desire Doue's effort from a tight angle bounced off the crossbar. The European champions continued to labour after the restart, though, and Thauvin flashed a strike wide as Lens continued to threaten on the counter. PSG substitute Mendes came close to an equaliser, drilling a dipping long-range shot narrowly over the bar. Luis Enrique also brought on Fabian Ruiz and Ousmane Dembele off the bench, with the latter drawing another simple save from Risser. PSG were reduced to 10 men themselves with three minutes remaining, as Mendes was shown a straight red card for elbowing Lens wing-back Michal Skoras in the face off the ball.

Jacquet scores on Liverpool debut in friendly win over Como

Sports Desk

Jeremy Jacquet scored on his Liverpool debut as Andoni Iraola's Reds ended their pre-season campaign with a 2-0 win over Serie A side Como at Anfield on Sunday. After agreeing a reported £60 million (\$81 million) transfer for Jacquet in January, the 21-year-old Frenchman's move was confirmed on July 1. But a niggling knee injury had kept him on the sidelines until the visit of Cesc Fábregas's Como. The centre-back impressed in the early stages with some well-timed challenges and rounded off a fine first appearance for Liverpool with a tap-in from Cody Gakpo's cross that gave the Merseysiders a 2-0 lead in the 44th minute. France Under-21 international Jacquet was replaced by another debutant, Ronald Araujo, at half-time, with Gakpo having given Liverpool the lead in the 23rd minute after good work from Jeremie Frimpong. "I think Jeremie played really well," Iraola said. "Also Ronald played really well when he came in. When you have two new faces, first game for both, they do so well."

"It was also a very good performance of



Jeremie Frimpong, playing 90 minutes as a right-back, helping us offensively but closing very well his side also. So some good performances at the back." Ryan Gravenberch came closest to scoring in a lacklustre second half when he clipped the top of the crossbar following fine play by Victor Munoz. "I think we need a little bit this feeling of finishing with a clean sheet, winning the game," said former Bournemouth boss Iraola, who has succeeded the sacked Arne Slot. "Still, the first half has been better than the second, but at least we kept our organisation, our composure and we found a way to finish with a clean sheet, 2-0. I think we needed this feeling before we start." Liverpool begin their Premier League campaign away to Newcastle a week on Sunday.

Top-ranked Scheffler powers to PGA St. Jude Championship victory

Sports Desk

World number one Scottie Scheffler powered to an eight-stroke victory in the St. Jude Championship on Sunday, capturing his first PGA Tour title since January. The American launched the tour's FedEx Cup playoff series in convincing style, shrugging off an early bogey to card five birdies in a four-under par 66 for a 17-under par total of 263 at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee. South Korean Kim Si-woo carded a two-under 68 to finish second on nine-under. "I've had some close calls this year," said Scheffler, who had five runner-up finishes and four other top-fours during the extended dry spell that followed his season-opening victory at La Quinta, California. "I feel like I kept saying at the end of each tournament 'Man, I feel like I'm playing pretty good. It's just the little things aren't going my way.'" Scheffler started the day with a two-shot lead, his first 54-hole lead in more than a year, but quickly got another unwelcome taste of little things going wrong when his shot out of a greenside bunker at the third hole hit a sprinkler head and bounced into the water for a bogey. Scheffler responded with a 10-foot birdie at the fifth, then rolled in 20-foot birdie putts at six and 11 before draining a 22-foot birdie at the 13th.



A six-foot birdie at the 16th was just an exclamation point as those chasing systematically fell by the way-side. Scheffler's good friend Sam Burns, who started the day tied for second and played in the final group, took a double-bogey at the third and bogeyed the fifth. He finished with a three-over 73 and finished tied for third with Sweden's Alex Noren on eight-under. South Korean Im Sung-jae, who shared second overnight, fired a four-over 74 for a share of fifth. That was good enough to see Im move into the top 50 in the FedEx Cup standings and book his spot in next week's BMW Championship. Four-time major-winner Scheffler, whose week included a superb 61 on Friday, claimed his 21st PGA Tour title. The more than six-month gap since his last victory was the longest he's gone between titles since 2023, when he won the Players Championship in March and didn't return to the winner's circle again until the Hero World Challenge in December. Although he's enjoyed a statistically superb year, missing just one cut, Scheffler admitted that couldn't compare with hoisting a trophy. "Statistics are one thing, but being able to win golf tournaments is another," said Scheffler, who had nine wins in 2024 and six in 2025. "This is a lot better feeling than having statistically another good week."



Mahasnan Yatra festival concludes peacefully in Dinajpur

Dinajpur Correspondent

The three-day 52nd Mahatripurari Kailashpati Mahasnan Yatra festival of the Hindu community concluded peacefully in Dinajpur on Monday amid religious rituals, devotional songs and prayers. Thousands of Hindu devotees gathered at the Bol Bom Sri Sri Goshtodham Shiva Temple beside Anand Sagar in Dinajpur town to offer holy water to the Shiva lingam and collect sacred water as part of the religious observances. Temple priest Thakur Jagannath Brahmachari told BSS that the festival is observed every year on the Monday between Jhulan Yatra and Rakhi Purnima to pray for peace and prosperity for the country and its people and to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva. Thousands of devotees from Dinajpur and surrounding areas gathered at the temple premises. On Sunday evening, devotees carrying sacred water arrived at the temple after collecting it from the north-flowing waters of the Punarbhaba River near the cremation ground temple in Mahuagaon village of Birganj upazila, about 34 miles from Dinajpur town. The devotees had travelled there by buses and trucks on Saturday night. They participated in all-night kirtans, prayers and religious rituals before collecting holy water from the river after sunrise on Sunday. After taking a ritual bath in the river, the devotees offered prayers to the Sun God and collected sacred water. They then poured the water at a local Shiva temple, where it was sanctified by a priest before being carried back to Dinajpur. Another group of devotees collected sacred water from the north-flowing Atrai River near Kaugaoon-Sahebganj Hat, about seven miles east of Anand Sagar. They also made the journey to the Shiva temple barefoot after collecting the holy water.

On Sunday evening, devotees began a barefoot procession from the Bol Bom Sri Sri Goshtodham temple premises toward the Shiva temple, chanting "Bol Bom, Bol Bom," filling the area with a festive atmosphere. The devotees spent the night at the temple premises, where they participated in kirtans and prayers. The formal ritual of pouring sacred water over the Shiva lingam began at 4am Monday. Thousands of devotees offered holy water their while praying for their own well-being, the welfare of their families and the peace and prosperity of the country. Prasad was distributed among the devotees on Monday morning, marking the conclusion of the festival. Devotees Ranjan Bhattacharya, Sulekha Ghosh and Prashanta Kumar told BSS that they participated in the rituals to earn religious merit and pray for the welfare of their families and the country. Some devotees also joined the festival seeking fulfillment of personal wishes, success in education and prosperity in life. Ashok Agarwala, general secretary of the Dinajpur Bol Bom Seva Committee, told BSS that the Mahatripurari Kailashpati Mahasnan Yatra festival was first introduced at the temple beside Anand Sagar in 1974. Since then, the festival has been held every year. He said devotees believe that sincere prayers to Lord Shiva can fulfill their wishes, and the annual festival is organized based on that faith. This year, too, the festival was held peacefully and without any untoward incident. Dinajpur Police Superintendent Md Zedan Al Musa told BSS that special security measures were taken to ensure the safety of the thousands of devotees attending the religious festival. Adequate police personnel were deployed around the temple premises, helping the event conclude peacefully with the distribution of prasad this morning.



Nilphamari Sadar declared child marriage, child labour free

Nilphamari Correspondent

Nilphamari Sadar Upazila has been declared free of child marriage, child labour and school dropouts. The declaration was made at a programme held at the Sadar Upazila Parishad auditorium this afternoon, organised by World Vision Bangladesh. Government officials, elected representatives, religious leaders, Nikah registrars and representatives from different professions attended the programme. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mubashira Amatullah attended the programme as the chief guest, while World Vision Bangladesh Nilphamari Area Manager Anukul Chandra Barman presided over it. Sadar Upazila Education Officer ATM Nurul Amin Shah, Sadar Upazila Union Parishad

Chairmen Association President Abdur Rouf, former general secretary of Nilphamari Press Club Nur Alam and Imam of Natkhana Jame Mosque Ramzan Ali, among others, spoke at the programme. Anukul Chandra Barman said 16 child marriages had already been prevented and 54 children had been brought back to school in the upazila. He said awareness had been raised through meetings and courtyard gatherings involving people from different sections of society. Chief guest UNO Mubashira Amatullah said people were aware of the negative consequences of child marriage, child labour and school dropout. "If awareness is created within families, children can be protected from child marriage, child labour and dropping out of school," she said.

Two Children Drown While Bathing in Teesta Canal in Dimla, Mourning Grips Area

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter Two children drowned while bathing in an irrigation canal in Dimla, Nilphamari. The tragic incident occurred at around 10:00am on Monday (August 17) in an irrigation canal in South Kakra village under Nautara Union of the upazila. The deceased were Pakhi Akter, 11, daughter of Abul Hossain of South Kakra village under Nautara Union, and Minha Akter, 4, daughter of Selim of Nijpara (Sonamonir Danga) village in the same union. They were aunt and niece. The incident has cast a pall of grief over the area. According to the family and local residents, the two children went to the irrigation canal to bathe. At one point, Minha fell into the water. When her aunt Pakhi Akter entered the canal to rescue her, she also drowned. A passerby heard their

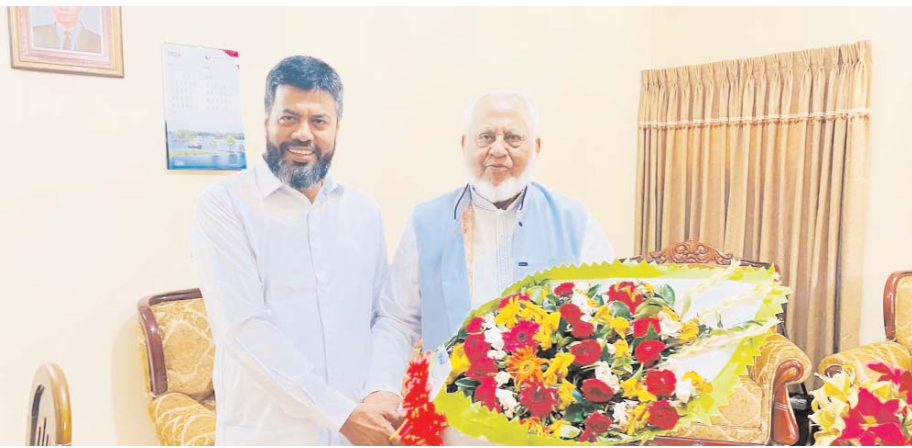


cries and raised the alarm. Hearing the cries, people from nearby areas rushed to the spot and rescued the two children. They were taken to Dimla Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor declared them dead. Dimla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shawkat Ali Sarkar confirmed the incident.

Content Creator killed in Gaibandha road accident

Gaibandha Correspondent

A 32-year-old content creator, identified as Shawon Mia, was killed in a road accident in Gobindaganj upazila of the district today. The accident occurred around 11.00 am in Islampur Current More area on the Gobindaganj-Raja Birat Road. sShawon, a resident of Daridah Sardar Para village in Mokamtola upazila of Bogura district, had been working as a content creator on Facebook for a long time. According to police, he was riding a motorcycle while making video. At one point, he reportedly took both hands off the motorcycle's handlebar. After travelling some distance, he lost control of the motorcycle and crashed into a roadside tree. Locals rescued him in an injured condition and were taking him to the Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex when he died.



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

A.N.M.Nurul Amin Chagalniya

FENI — 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.



Pledge of Development, Rampal-Mangla Agrajatra

S A kalam,Special Correspondent, Bagerhat.

"I came to Rampal-Mongla from Dhaka only for development - the hanging bridge over the Mongla river, economic zone, gas production from the sea, employment of lakhs of people and the development of Khulna-Mongla highway was sent here by the patriotic Prime Minister Mr. Tarek Rahman" said Mr. Sheikh Rabiul Alam, Minister of Shipping, Road Communication, Bridges and Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Jwel Nag, Mirsarai Chattogram. On 17/08/2026 at 5:00 PM, an anti-drug rally and gathering was organized with local leaders and civil society members at Baraiyarthat Bazar under Jorargassanj Police Station.

Road blockade in Amtali demanding arrest of those involved in the murder of school student Emon. 24-hour ultimatum for arrest. Otherwise, students declare strict movement



Amtali (Barguna),Correspondent

On Sunday, a blockade was placed at the AK School Point on the Patuakhali-Kuakata highway demanding the arrest of those involved in the murder of Javed Emon, a meritorious student of the ninth grade of Amtali AK Government Secondary School. School students and ordinary people blocked the road. The road was blocked from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. This created a long traffic jam. Later, the students withdrew the road blockade by giving the police administration a 24-hour ultimatum to arrest those involved in the incident.School students including deceased Emon's classmates Hira, Mehedi, Jisan, Mishkat and Rakib alleged that even after 20 days of the incident, the police have not been able to unravel the mystery of Emon's murder and arrest those involved. They announced that if the police cannot arrest those involved in the incident within 24 hours, they will issue a strict action plan.Amtali Police Station OC Md. Yakub Hossain said, it is not possible to arrest the accused as they are unknown. Investigation is underway. We will be able to arrest those involved in the incident and bring them under the law as soon as possible. He also said that the students have lifted the road blockade to ease the suffering of the

people.Family and local sources said that Javed Emon Amtali, the younger son of Awal Pyada of Madhya Arpangashia village in the upazila, a ninth-grade student of the government secondary school, went to the Arpangashia market on the afternoon of July 26. Imran Talukder (Hridoy), a businessman in the market, called the school student Emon and took him to his shop. Eyewitnesses and his family said that Imran took the school student Emon to an unknown place after leaving Emon's friend Sajid at the shop. Since then, there has been no trace of Emon. The next day, on July 27, the expelled Chhatra Dal member secretary of Arpangashia Union, Sagir Biswas, demanded 10,000 taka from his father to find Emon and told him that Emon was in Baliatoli. Emon's father, Awal Pyadar, alleged that Sagir had harassed Emon's family in various ways for three days. On the evening of July 29, the Amtali police recovered the body wrapped in a sack on the banks of the Payra River in central Arpangashia. But the family could not identify it as the body was decomposed. On July 30, the police sent the body to the Barguna General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. After the autopsy that day, the body was buried in Barguna as an unclaimed body. On July 31, the Amtali police called the father of the deceased school student, Awal Pyada, to the police station and showed him the clothes worn by the bagged body. Seeing the clothes, he identified the body as his son Javed Emon. On August 5, the father of the deceased Emon, Awal Pyada, filed a general diary with the Amtali police station. The Amtali police station has assigned Inspector Sagar Bhandar of the Nidra Sakina Naval Police to investigate.



4 held with drugs in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat

Rangpur Correspondent

In the last 24 hours till this morning, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-13, in separate drives, seized 258 pieces of Yaba tablets and arrested four persons from different places in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts. The seized drugs included 258 pieces of Yaba tablets and 164 bottles of phensedyl-like Eskuf syrup. A press release signed by RAB-13's Senior Assistant Director (Media) and Additional Superintendent of Police Biplab Kumar Goswami confirmed the information here today. On a tip-off, a RAB-13 team from Rangpur seized 258 pieces of Yaba tablets. It arrested Md Soheli, 43, of Cumilla and Fuad Hossain, 39, of Sadar upazila in Rangpur, from Islampur village under Mithapukur police station of Rangpur district. Another team of RAB-13 from Nilphamari Camp arrested Md Belal Hossain, 41, of village Dhajian Putimari with 18 bottles of Eskuf syrup from Uttar Bherveri villages under Kishoreganj police station of Nilphamari district. In a separate operation, a RAB-13 team from Rangpur arrested Md Moniruzzaman, 23, from Khamarbhathi village under Kaliganj police station of Lalmonirhat district with 147 bottles of illegal Eskuf syrup. After filing three separate cases, the elite force handed over the arrested persons and seized the drugs to Mithapukur, Kishoreganj and Kaliganj police stations, respectively, for further legal action.