



PM asks giving priority to merit in promotion of forces

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday directed members of the Navy and Air Force Selection Boards to ensure that officers are considered for promotion based on professional competence and merit, keeping political ideology and personal likes or dislikes aside. He said professional skills, leadership qualities, discipline, integrity, loyalty and overall suitability for appointment should be given priority in

evaluating officers for promotion. The Prime Minister gave the directive while inaugurating the Navy and Air Force Selection Boards-2026 at the Bangladesh Air Force Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment. Eligible officers of the Bangladesh Navy, including Captains, Commanders and Lieutenant Commanders, and Bangladesh Air Force officers holding the ranks of Group Captain, Wing Commander and quadron Leader, will be considered for promotion by the

boards, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Jahidul Islam Rony. Tarique Rahman said the Navy and Air Force have been playing an important role not only in safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty but also in supporting the civil administration in maintaining internal peace and stability and responding to disasters. He thanked the chiefs and all members of the two forces for their contributions and sacrifices in serving the country. In his address

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Andaleeve vows to support media, not control it

Staff correspondent

Newly appointed Information and Broadcasting Minister Andaleeve Rahman on Sunday pledged to take the media forward through cooperation rather than control, stressing the importance of ensuring credible communication of government activities to the people. He made the remarks at a view-exchange meeting with officials of the min-

istry and its subordinate departments and agencies at the Secretariat on his first working day after assuming office. "The responsibility of credibly communicating all government activities to the people is a very big one for us. At the same time, we have to keep in mind our relationship with the people and the issue of national unity," the minister said. He said the ministry also has a responsibility to preserve the country's

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Two Youth Detained Over Killing of 4 Members of a Family in Rangpur

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Two youth identified as Siddhartha and Mugdha, have been detained by law enforcement agencies in connection with the killing of four members of a family, including former teacher of Rangpur Zilla School Ganapati Chakraborty, in Machuapara area of Rangpur city. Information available until early Sunday (August 23) indicated that the two youths from the area had been detained. They are reportedly residents of Machuapara. A reliable police source said that law enforcement agencies launched an operation in the area, immediately after receiving information about the killings. At one point, Siddhartha and Mugdha were detained.

According to the source, one of the detainees fled after noticing the law enforcement operation and hid in the nearby mulberry garden of the Bangladesh Sericulture development Board. He was later detained from Dakkhinganj cremation ground adjacent to the garden. The source also said that evidence of yaba consumption was found inside the building after the killings. A group of local youths is suspected of being involved in the incident. Initial suspicion suggests that they may have entered the house with the intention of robbery and subsequently committed the killings. Earlier, on Saturday (August 22) night, police recovered the bodies of four members of the same family

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Nusrat Murder Case Verdict Today

Tight Security Enforced Around Family and Village

Staff Reporter

Police have significantly beefed up security at the village home of Nusrat Jahan Rafi, a madrasa student from Sonagazi, Feni, ahead of the High Court's verdict on the death reference and appeals of the accused in her murder case. Police personnel have been deployed to her home in Ward 5 of Sonagazi Municipality to protect her family and prevent any untoward incidents.



A High Court bench comprising Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty and Justice K M Rasheduzzaman Raja is scheduled to deliver the verdict in this widely discussed case on Monday (August 24). Local and police sources stated that round-the-clock police patrols are in place to

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Local govt elections to be held as per constitution: Moyeen Khan

Staff correspondent

Newly appointed LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan today said the BNP government will arrange local government elections by strictly following the constitutional rules. He said this while exchanging greetings and views with heads of various organisations and department under the ministry and media personnel at the Secretariat here. State Minister Mir Shahe Alam were present. Moyeen Khan said, "We are called a cantonment party, but the Awami League killed democracy. Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman restored it." He said this incumbent democratic government will not hold elections like the ones held during the fallen government. Regarding corruption, the minister said the government will not tolerate any corruption, and action will be taken against those involved in graft through the Anti-Corruption Commission, following proper process. He said BNP does not believe in the politics of revenge, and "we want to establish a legal system".

Skilled manpower crucial for safer, modern aviation: CAAB

Staff correspondent

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) today launched a 27-week Air Traffic Control (ATC) Basic Course to develop skilled air traffic controllers amid the country's growing aviation activities. "Skilled and properly trained manpower is essential to make the country's aviation system safer, more modern and efficient," Civil Aviation Academy Director Prashanta Kumar Chakraborty said at the inaugural ceremony. ATC Basic Course No. 36 commenced at the Civil Aviation Academy with 14 trainees, including eight personnel from the Bangladesh Air Force and six from CAAB. CAAB Member (ATM) Air Commodore Md Noor-E-Alam formally inaugurated the course at 10 am, according to a CAAB press release. Speaking at the ceremony, Noor-E-Alam said air traffic control is one of the

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President Mirza Fakhrul moves to Bangabhaban, begins official duties

Staff correspondent

New President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir moved to Bangabhaban and began his official activities there on Sunday for the first time since taking oath as the head of state. The President arrived at Bangabhaban at 11:00am, where a smartly dressed mounted police contingent welcomed him at Gate-2. Later, a smartly turned-out contingent of the President Guard Regiment (PGR) accorded him a guard of honour at the Credential Field. After the guard of honour, the President was welcomed with bouquets at the Octagonal of Bangabhaban by his Military Secretary Major General ASM Bahauddin, Public Division Secretary AJM Salahuddin Nagari, Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam and PGR Commander Brig Gen Golam Arikul Alam. After the formalities, the President

went to his office and exchanged greetings with senior officials before beginning his formal activities in his chamber. Veteran politician Mirza Fakhrul was sworn in as the 23rd President of Bangladesh on Friday evening. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban at 7:30pm in the presence of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, cabinet members, and hundreds of distinguished guests.

President Mirza Fakhrul moves to Bangabhaban, begins official duties BNP candidate Mirza Fakhrul was elected the President defeating his lone rival Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad, the candidate of the 11-party opposition alliance led by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, in the presidential election held on August 20. Before moving to Bangabhaban, Mirza Fakhrul had been staying at the

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Ex-schoolteacher among four members of a family found dead in Rangpur

Staff correspondent

Four members of a family, including a former schoolteacher, were found dead at their home in the Machuapara Mandir area of Rangpur city on Saturday night, with police suspecting that they were killed three to four days ago. Police recovered the bodies from different places of the house – one on the rooftop, two in the terrace and one inside a room – around 11:30pm, said acting Superintendent of Police of Rangpur Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police Sumit Chowdhury. Police also said they detained three people for questioning in connection with the incident. However, their identities were not disclosed. The deceased were identified as Ganapati Chakraborty alias Jewel, 65, a former teacher of Rangpur Zilla School, his wife Pritilata Chakraborty, 50, their daughter Parthi Chakraborty, 25, and son Priyam Chakraborty, 12. Police said the rooms of the house were found ransacked, while places where cash and gold ornaments were reportedly kept appeared to have been broken open. Ganapati Chakraborty, after retiring from teaching, had been running a homeopathic treatment chamber at his residence. His daughter Parthi was a master's student at Carmichael College, while Priyam was a fifth-grade student at Rangpur Zilla School. The family's ancestral home is in Mirzapur union of Mithapukur upazila. According to police, relatives became suspicious after failing to reach any member of the family over the phone. They went to the house on Saturday night and found the main entrance locked from inside. With the help of local residents, they entered the premises by climbing over a wall from a neighbouring house and opened a window. They found the

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Govt prioritises creative economy to raise GDP contribution to 1.5pc

Staff correspondent

The government has given special priority to the creative economy, aiming to unlock its economic potential, bring the sector into the mainstream economy and raise its contribution to 1.5 percent of GDP while creating 500,000 new jobs. The government's creative economy strategy seeks to open up new opportunities for young people, artists, artisans, content creators

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Macron pledges air defence as 13 killed in Russia, Ukraine strikes

International Desk

France on Saturday promised to deliver new interceptor missiles to Ukraine amid a surge in Russian strikes that have pushed civilian deaths in the four-and-a-half-year war to their highest since the first months of Moscow's invasion. At least 13 people were killed in strikes overnight and through Saturday – seven in Ukraine, four in Russia and two in Russia-annexed Crimea. The latest deadly attacks come as rescuers in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rig were sifting through the rubble of a part-destroyed shopping centre, where 16 were killed a day earlier in a Russian drone attack. Ukraine's allies in the Coalition of the Willing – an initiative led by France and Britain – will meet on Monday to look at how to ramp up pressure on Moscow to halt its invasion. Diplomacy has stalled with the United States, which had brokered several rounds of direct talks between Kyiv and Moscow. Washington is now distracted by its war on Iran and frustrated the conflict has not been as easy to solve as President Donald Trump once touted. Announcing the new missile interceptors, French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X: "It is crucial to provide Ukraine with all the necessary means to defend its skies and thwart this aggression." Russia has pounded Ukraine – the capital Kyiv especially – with ballistic missile attacks in recent months. The hard-to-intercept

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Acting Editor



Md. Neyamul Hossain
Acting Editor

THE Daily Bangla © Sky Newspaper
Appointing hearty with the finest with to e ageness
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Let there be no impunity for sexual harassment

We are deeply concerned by the allegations made against the former superintendent of the government’s Child Development Centre for girls in Konabari, Gazipur. Reportedly, six residents of the centre accused Md Setaruzzaman of sexual harassment, including calling them alone into his room, touching them inappropriately and forcing them to watch pornography. There were also allegations of threats, bribery, and an attempt to make a pregnant girl undergo an abortion. The residents submitted a written complaint against him last July. Setaruzzaman was eventually suspended following an investigation, only to be cleared of the allegations at a subsequent departmental hearing on the grounds that the allegations were not proven beyond doubt.

The decision deserves careful scrutiny. Allegations involving vulnerable children cannot simply be dismissed without a transparent and credible investigation. Child development centres are meant to rehabilitate children and adolescents in conflict with the law and help them return to mainstream society. There are currently two centres for boys, in Jashore and Tongi, and one for girls, in Konabari, Gazipur. Concerns have long been raised about whether the environment, management, education, food, security, and healthcare of these centres adequately serve the needs of children. The latest allegations further expose serious weaknesses in oversight at these centres. Previous investigations into deaths, violence, and other incidents have produced several recommendations, but many have not been implemented. As experts have pointed out, those responsible for running these institutions need proper training and a more child-centred approach. The official who conducted the recent investigation in the case reportedly said that clearing Setaruzzaman was not justified. This makes an independent review of the case essential, ensuring that all relevant evidence, including the accounts of the girls and staff members, is properly examined. The investigation must also ensure that complainants are not intimidated or pressured. Allegations against other personnel, including a house parent who was also accused of sexual harassment, must be investigated as well. The Ministry of Social Welfare and the Department of Social Services must strengthen oversight of these institutions through regular independent inspections and prompt probes into complaints against officials and staff. Most importantly, every child development centre must have a functional and confidential mechanism through which residents can report sexual harassment, abuse, threats or other misconduct. A complaint cell staffed by trained female personnel or other trusted professionals could help create a safer environment for girls to report. The authorities must also review the security arrangements in these centres and ensure that staff members follow the codes of conduct. The state cannot continue to falter on its responsibility to protect these vulnerable children.

PM asks giving priority

to the Selection Boards, the Prime Minister paid tribute to late President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.He also remembered with gratitude the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War, those killed in the 2024 student-led mass uprising, and all those who were killed or injured in various movements between 1971 and 2024 for democracy and the rights of the people.PM calls for fair, merit-based promotions in Navy, Air Force

Tarique Rahman paid tribute to the martyrs, wounded freedom fighters and all valiant freedom fighters of the Liberation War, particularly the fallen members and other servicemen of the Armed Forces, including the Navy and Air Force, whose sacrifices, he said, the nation will remember with enduring gratitude.Earlier, the Prime Minister was received at the venue by his Defence Adviser Brigadier General (ret'd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam, Chief Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan.He inaugurated the Navy and Air Force Selection Boards-2026 and later visited several key operational and research installations of the Bangladesh Air Force at its headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.Before the inauguration of the board, the Prime Minister formally adorned the newly appointed Navy chief with the rank badge of Admiral and congratulated him.he Navy chief expressed his sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Bangladesh Navy.He sought the Prime Minister’s valuable advice and guidance in further developing the Navy into a more modern, capable and time-responsive force.The Prime Minister’s Defence Adviser, the Army and Air Force chiefs, and the Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division were also present during the badge-adornment ceremony.PM calls for fair, merit-based promotions in Navy, Air Force.Later, Tarique Rahman visited the Air Defence Operations Centre (ADOC), where he unveiled the inaugural plaque of the Air Defence System Integration (ADSI) and observed its various air defence activities.

President Mirza Fakhrul

government residence at 35 Hare Road, where he had lived in his capacity as the local government minister after the BNP was formed following the 13th parliamentary elections. His wife Rahat Ara Begum and other family members also moved to Bangabhaban.

No compromise on

(AI) and super-specialization, it will be difficult to meet the growing healthcare needs of the country without keeping pace with technological advancements,” he said. The minister said the government has accorded the highest priority to the health sector, allocating the second-highest share of the national budget to it.He stressed the need for efficient and optimal utilization of the allocated funds to ensure quality medical education and healthcare services, strengthen disease prevention and improve overall service delivery.

Andaleeve vows to

cultural and religious values, the spirit of the Liberation War and other sources of national pride.Describing the current period as one of the most difficult times in Bangladesh’s history, Andaleeve said the government is making every possible effort under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.“Everyone can make mistakes. But from the standpoint of ethics, we are in a very strong position,” he said, adding that the government’s instruction under the prime minister’s leadership is to serve the country and advance the interests of the people.Describing the media as one of the most

Why our ports need a sustainability scorecard

Md. Neyamul Hossain

Bangladesh is investing heavily in ports, with private operators increasingly entering the sector. But as our port infrastructure expands, one pertinent question that remains largely unanswered is: how should we judge whether ports are becoming genuinely sustainable? For years, this debate has often focused on capacity, congestion, emissions, dredging, or “green port” initiatives. These issues are important, but none covers the full spectrum of sustainability. A modern port must be environmentally responsible, economically efficient, and socially accountable. We, therefore, need to move from broad sustainability language to a port sustainability scorecard to measure real progress.

A useful basis for this comes from the latest research of Mohammed Mohajid Hossain Chowdhury, conducted along with Wenming Shi and Wei Zhang. In the study, the researchers reviewed 302 sustainability projects reported in the World Ports Sustainability Program (WPSP) database between 2014 and January 2025—of which 292 were used for detailed analysis. They identified 45 sustainable port management practices under the Triple Bottom Line framework: 18 environmental, 12 social, and 15 economic practices.

If applied to our ports, such an approach can help us assess what they are doing to become more sustainable. Instead of asking whether a port is “green” or “smart,” we can ask what it is actually doing, why it is doing it, and whether the results are measurable.

If we dig further into the study, we see that 38 percent of the analysed projects concerned environmental sustainability, 37.7 percent social sustainability, and 24.3 percent economic sustainability. Globally, sustainability is, therefore, no longer simply an environmental agenda. Community engagement, occupational safety, workforce welfare, operational resilience, digitalisation, and connectivity increasingly belong to the same conversation. For Bangladesh, that has immediate relevance. We often treat environmental compliance, port efficiency, labour conditions, digitalisation, and logistics connectivity as separate policy subjects. But a port does not function in compartments. A cleaner terminal that remains inefficient is not sustainable. A highly automated terminal that ignores its surrounding community is not sustainable. Nor is a commercially successful port sustainable if its hinterland connections remain unreliable or costly.

The study’s economic findings are especially striking. Of the 71 projects classified under economic sustainability, 50 concerned digitalisation and smart-port technologies, including integrated Port Community Systems, AI and big-data applications, blockchain and IoT, automation, cybersecurity, terminal-management systems, and advanced digital infrastructure. That should change how we think about port digitalisation: it is not merely an IT project or a convenience for users. Done properly, digitalisation becomes an integral part of economic sustainability because it reduces uncertainty, improves productivity, and strengthens coordination. A Port Community

System, for example, can reduce duplication, improve cargo visibility, and connect the port with customs, shipping lines, terminal operators, freight forwarders, inland depots, etc. The research also contains a warning highly relevant to us: sustainable hinterland and foreland connectivity was among the least represented areas in the global dataset.The researchers observed that economic sustainability initiatives frequently remain concentrated inside port boundaries rather than extending across port-centric logistics systems. This is a mistake that Bangladesh should avoid. Chattogram port cannot be judged only by what happens at the berth, in the yard, or at the port gate. The performance of off-docks, inland container depots, road corridors, rail links, inland waterways, customs processes, and cargo-information flows ultimately

A common scorecard would not mean identical targets for every port, however. Chattogram, Mongla, Payra, Matarbari, and future terminals are naturally expected to operate under different physical, commercial, and institutional conditions. But they can still report through a common architecture that allows comparison over time and makes accountability visible. Each port could publish an annual sustainability statement against common indicators, with targets and year-on-year progress. This would help policymakers identify investment needs, operators assess their performance, and the public see whether port expansion is producing balanced outcomes.

determines whether a port investment creates wider logistics efficiency. Bay Terminal and Matarbari should, therefore, be viewed as parts of the larger freight system, not merely as terminal projects.

Perhaps the most practical contribution of the research is its sustainability driver matrix. The 45 identified practices are linked to three broad motivations: regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and social commitment. Different sustainability problems, therefore, require different management responses. Regulation-driven practices need monitoring, inspection, and reporting. Efficiency-driven practices need investment, optimisation, and performance benchmarking. Socially driven practices need collaboration, consultation, and transparent engagement. Bangladesh often relies heavily on regulation, even where incentives, technology, or stakeholder cooperation may be more effective. This is where a national port sustainability scorecard could help. We should not mechanically copy all 45 global sustainable practices; indicators must reflect our regulatory environment, port size, geography, institutional capacity, and stakeholder priorities. The framework could begin with three pillars: environmental performance, social responsibility, and economic-logistics performance. Environmental indicators could include energy efficiency, emissions, waste reception, water management, and biodi-

versity protection. Social indicators could cover occupational safety, workforce development, community engagement, and grievance handling. And economic-logistics indicators could include vessel turnaround, yard efficiency, digital integration, interoperability, cargo visibility, hinterland connectivity, resilience, and customer satisfaction.

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Bangladesh’s changing port-governance model makes such a framework even more important. The country is moving towards greater private participation and a landlord-style model: Patenga Container Terminal is operated by RSGTI, Laldia Container Terminal is being developed under a long-term concession with APM Terminals, while negotiations over New Mooring Container Terminal continue with DP World. As Bay Terminal and Matarbari take shape, international operators are likely to play a larger role. Sustainability, therefore, cannot remain an obligation of the port authority alone. Future concession agreements and performance frameworks should require operators to work against common sustainability indicators and publish annual sustainability statements. Global expertise should bring not only productivity and technology, but also measurable environmental, social, and economic accountability.The research itself cautions against simplistic ranking. The World Ports Sustainability Program database is based on voluntarily reported projects and does not represent the complete performance of every port. Nor does the study claim that particular practices automatically cause better performance. The framework should, therefore, be treated as a starting point for assessment and prioritisation, not an automatic league table.Bangladesh is entering a new phase of port development involving larger vessels, new terminals, private operators, deeper channels, automation, and greater integration with global supply chains. Measuring success only by annual throughput or berth productivity is no longer sufficient. We also need to ask, are our ports becoming cleaner, safer, better connected, more efficient, more transparent, and more beneficial to the communities and businesses that depend on them? A sustainability scorecard would not answer every question, but it would force us to ask the right ones and, more importantly, to measure the answers.

death. Subsequently, the documents were sent to the High Court for approval of the death sentences (death reference), while the defense filed appeals. Following the conclusion of the hearings, the High Court fixed Monday for the delivery of the long-awaited verdict.

Macron pledges air

super-fast weapons reach their target within minutes, making it virtually impossible for locals in Kyiv to reach an underground shelter in time. - 'Prolonged and combined' -Among the deadly attacks on Saturday was a Ukrainian drone strike on a house in southern Russia, killing two children and wounding their parents, the head of the Krasnodar region said.'This morning, civilian infrastructure and residential buildings in the Yeysk district came under a drone attack,' Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said.

"As a result of yet another vile and cynical strike ... two children were killed, and two adults are in the hospital," he added.Russia fired a ballistic missile towards Kyiv in the middle of the day -- while the German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl was visiting for talks with his Ukrainian counterpart and President Volodymyr Zelensky.Two were killed and several wounded in the Boryspil district, on the eastern outskirts of the city.In a statement, Russia's defence ministry insisted it had struck at trucks outfitted for transporting long-range drones near Kyiv, as well as targets linked to the Ukrainian army in the Odesa region on the Black Sea.The Odesa region's governor Oleg Kiper said three people had been wounded, including a 16-year-old girl, in a "prolonged and combined strike" that hit a house and grain silos.

At least four were killed in a series of strikes on the frontline region of Zaporizhzhia, Ukrainian officials said.- 'Cynical' mall strike -Ukraine has for weeks faced a critical shortage of advanced missile interceptors -- chief among them, US-made Patriots.Kyiv's own weapons are not able to shoot down the high-arching ballistic missiles that Russia has been firing in their dozens.

In Zelensky's home city of Kryvyi Rig, three people were still missing after Russian drones smashed into a busy shopping centre on Friday afternoon, the regional governor said.

Govt prioritises creative

and creative entrepreneurs, while broadening the country’s economic growth drivers and enhancing Bangladesh’s cultural and creative footprint in global markets.According to the budget document, the government has also planned to strengthen coordination between the public and private sectors by formulating time-bound short, medium and long-term action plans for the sustainable development of the creative industries.The government is planning to establish Creative Hubs at national and regional levels featuring cultural venues, bookstores with reading facilities, cineplexes, small cafeterias and dedicated spaces for showcasing and marketing region-specific products.A 10-year investment strategy and time-bound action plan are being formulated to develop regional Creative Hubs across the country. A feasibility assessment is also being undertaken on an urgent basis to establish a world-class Central Creative Hub on 160 acres of land in Purbachal under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.The government is also assessing the feasibility of establishing Creative Hubs on unused land at Karwan Bazar, adjacent to the Office of the Survey General in Tejgaon, and on vacant industrial plots under the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).Initiatives are being taken to establish Creative Hubs at divisional, district and upazila levels, as well as at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.Innovation Hubs have already been established at engineering and technology universities.



Bangladesh sheltered Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds: Law Minister

Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman today said Bangladesh extended shelter to the Rohingyas fleeing persecution in Myanmar purely on humanitarian considerations. "Rohingya crisis is an internal problem of Myanmar, while Bangladesh is viewing the issue from a humanitarian perspective and has extended shelter and support to the Rohingyas purely on humanitarian grounds," he said. The law minister

made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled Rohingya Crisis: Current Reality and Future Course of Action, organized by the Policy Research Centre at National Press Club here today. Calling for the Rohingya issue to be taken up as a matter of national unity beyond political differences, the law minister said safeguarding the territorial integrity of Bangladesh is the country's foremost priority. He said Bangladesh may have given importance to the security perspective in protecting its territory, but it

has never bypassed the diplomatic and social dimensions of the issue. At the same time, he said, the government is attaching the highest priority to human rights to ensure that there are no allegations of human rights violations against the Rohingya community, while the growing trend of crime in the camps also needs to be addressed. "Bangladesh wants to make it clear that the Rohingyas are not Bangladeshis and do not belong to the population of this territory. But the Rohingyas are human beings, and

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\$7 billion jewellery export target set for 2030-31

Staff correspondent

The minister said the government is committed to creating a favourable business environment and supporting sectors that have the potential to contribute significantly to the national economy. BAJUS President Enamul Haque Khan, in his written speech at the event, said the association wants to transform the jewellery sector into the country's second-largest foreign exchange-earning sector by 2030-31. He said policy ambiguity is one of the major obstacles to the development of the industry and called for facilitating gold imports through a non-discriminatory policy

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International community must share responsibility for Rohingya crisis

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said resolving the protracted Rohingya crisis is a political and moral responsibility that the international community must collectively bear, stressing that Bangladesh cannot be left alone to bear the burden. "Bangladesh will continue to stand with them, but Bangladesh should not have to stand alone," she said. "That is not merely a humanitarian imperative. It is a political responsibility. It is a moral responsibility, and it is a responsibility that the international community must shoulder together," Shama said. The state minister made the remarks while addressing a dialogue as the chief guest titled "Rohingya Crisis Entering



10 Years: From Humanitarian Response to Sustainable Solutions", jointly organised by the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) and Oxfam in Bangladesh here today. Calling the Rohingya crisis' approaching 10-year mark a moment for "reflection", "reckoning" and, most importantly, "renewed

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No compromise on quality in food production: Agri Minister

Staff correspondent

Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid today said there will be no compromise on quality in food production. "Food production will have to be increased to meet the growing demand of the people, but there can be no compromise on the quality of food while increasing its production," he said. The agriculture minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at an event at a city hotel here. Fitech BD Limited arranged the event marking the 'Aquaculture Knowledge Day-2026'. Aminur Rashid said agricultural products will be Bangladesh's largest items in its export basket in the coming days. He said Bangladesh is an agricultural country where about 75 percent of its people are directly or indirectly involved in the agriculture and fisheries sector. If this sector can be strengthened economically, the overall economy of the country will be sustainable, he said. So, the minister said, the government is putting

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Ziaur Rahman Foundation provides free eye care to almost 1000 slum-dwellers in Dhaka

Staff correspondent

Nearly 1,000 underprivileged people from the Bhashantek, Korail and Sat Tola slum areas received free eye examinations, medical consultations and other healthcare services at a day-long programme in the capital on Saturday. Dr Zubaida Rahman, vice-president of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation, inaugurated the programme as chief guest. BNP Standing Committee member and Executive Director of the Ziaur Rahman Foundation Prof Farhad Halim Donar, Foundation Director (Programme) and orthopedic surgeon Prof Shah

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Swapon calls for expanding social movement for tree plantation

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Political Adviser Zahir Uddin Swapon on Sunday called for expanding the ongoing social movement or tree plantation and greenery under the leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to address environmental risks posed by climate change and make the country more liveable for future generations. He made the call while addressing, as the chief guest, a discussion at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute auditorium in Gazipur, organised by the Agriculturists Association of Bangladesh (AAB) as part of a tree-planting programme. It was Swapon's first formal event after being appointed political adviser to

the prime minister. "Taking care of the environment and ecosystem is our moral responsibility. We depend on the environmental balance of the earth, the only planet in the universe known to sustain life. So, instead of limiting ourselves to mechanical development, we must work with intellect and conscience to ensure a liveable planet for future generations," he said. Highlighting the global context of the climate crisis, the adviser said rising carbon emissions caused by excessive use of fossil fuels are increasing temperatures and putting low-lying coastal areas at risk of inundation. "There is no alternative to greening and afforestation to overcome this global crisis," he said. Swapon recalled that Shaheed

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Joyous Rally Held in Rangpur as Mirza Fakhru Becomes President and Rizvi Acting Secretary Generala

Mohinul Islam Sujon

A joyful rally and gathering were held in Rangpur after Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir became President and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi was elected Acting Secretary General of the BNP. The procession began on Saturday (22 August) at noon from the party office at Grand Hotel intersection in Rangpur city and marched through various streets of the city. It was led by Rangpur Metropolitan BNP Convener and Chairman of the Rangpur Development Authority, Shamsuzzaman Samu, along with Member Secretary and Rangpur City Corporation Administrator, Advocate

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Let the ideal of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) be one of the main forces in leading life - Pir Saheb of Charchina

Syed Bashir Ahmed

A Milad and Doa Mahfil was held at Shaheed Park Jame Masjid in Mohammadpur Town Hall, Dhaka on the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi (PBUH). Pir Saheb Ameer-e-Hizbullah Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Shah Abu Nasr Nesaruddin Ahmed Hussain (M.A.G.A.) of Charchina Darbar Sharif was present as the chief guest in this Mahfil organized on

Saturday (August 22).

In his speech as the chief guest at the Mahfil, he said that the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the best ideal for the entire mankind. Only following his holy life, character, morals and Sunnah can establish peace, order and welfare in the life of an individual, family and society. Therefore, the ideals of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) should be accepted as

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Higher education on the international stage opening up for RU students

Staff correspondent

A new horizon of higher education on the international stage is opening up for the students of Rajshahi University (RU). This year, 10 students and former students from various departments of the university have received the prestigious MEXT Scholarship from the Government of Japan for higher education in Japan. Some of them are going for PhD, some for Masters, and others are joining direct doctoral programs. Among them is Mithun Kumar, a student of the 2010-11 academic sessions of the Department of Information and Communication Engineering of Rajshahi University. He is

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Mobile Court in Mirsharai Against Illegal Sand Extraction, 9 Shallow Machines Destroyed

Special Correspondent, Mirsarai, Chattogram

A mobile court was conducted in Olinagar Mollarghat and Chowdhuryghat areas of Karerhat Union, Mirsharai Upazila, Chattogram, against illegal sand extraction. Joraganj Police Station assisted during the operation. During this time, approximately 1,200 feet of pipe and 9 shallow machines used for illegal sand extraction were destroyed. Extracted sand was also seized. According to related sources, the administration's crackdown against illegal sand extraction will continue.

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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

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

সিরিয়ালের জন্য যোগাযোগ :
01675-271725
01815-092341

সীতাকুণ্ড ডক্টরস চেম্বার

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

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

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

Bangladesh sheltered

they have human rights,” he said, adding that the Rohingyas are culturally and ethnically indigenous to Myanmar and are entitled to certain protections under international law.The discussion was moderated by Policy Research Centre Trustee Member Prof SK Toufiq M Haque, while former Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mohammad Sufiur Rahman presented the keynote paper.Policy Research Centre Executive Director Dr Shakil Ahmed delivered the welcome address.Prof. Dr Ishrat Zakia Sultana of North South University, journalist Parimal Palma, Rohingya women's rights activist Razia Sultana and teacher of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Mohammad Esha Ibn Belal took part in the discussion as panelists.

No compromise on

emphasis on increasing agriculture and fisheries production, keeping in mind the two goals of meeting the country's needs and creating a position in the international market.Regarding food quality, he said, "Currently, there is no shortage of food in the world, but there is a shortage of quality food. We have to get out of the dependence on harmful pesticides and antibiotics that pollute the soil, water and air and cause harm to human health."Noting that the presence of heavy metals in soil and water is increasing at an alarming rate due to the indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides, Aminur Rashid said the government has already started research to identify whether these heavy metals are coming from groundwater, fertilizers or pesticides.

He also highlighted the plan to use river water for irrigation in the context of the decline in groundwater levels.bout the potential of fish export, the fisheries minister said if the hatchery production and breeding success rate of crabs can be increased, its export to the world market can be increased manifold.Stating that the crab market is expanding in Europe and the Middle East, he urged researchers to tap this potential.At this time, the minister also highlighted the demand for eel in the European market and the potential for the country's hilsa export.Aminur Rashid said foreign buyers are interested in eel and canned processed hilsa, and the government is working to expand the breeding grounds of hilsa by dredging rivers.

Urging new entrepreneurs to come forward in the agriculture and fisheries sector, the minister said agriculturists, who have passed out of the university, should not just run after jobs but become entrepreneurs.

He said the incumbent government is fully ready to provide all-out support to new entrepreneurs in this sector.However, he said, priority should be given to producing quality products instea of making money as the sole goal.

Aminur Rashid said all should contribute to building a beautiful state by remaining honest in their respective position and encouraging others to be honest.Chaired by Fitech BD Limited Chairman Khandaker Farhad Hossain, the meeting was attended, among others, by Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Md Delwar Hossain and Director General (in-charge) of the Department of Fisheries Dr Md Khaled Kanak. Teachers, researchers from various universities, aquaculture entrepreneurs and marginal farmers participated in the event.

Swapon calls for

President Ziaur Rahman had taken far-sighted initiatives to protect the environment and launched a tree-planting movement alongside efforts to ensure food security.“Following that legacy, the present government, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has undertaken a mega plan to plant 25 crore trees over the next five years. The target set for this year has already been successfully achieved,” he said.The adviser urged families, educational institutions and social organisations across the country to take part in expanding the greening campaign under the theme “One Child, One Tree.”He also called on the country’s agricultural scientists and professionals to play a leading role in making the social movement a success. Mohammad Nurul Islam, MP, Md Shohidul Islam, MP, Agriculture Secretary Salim Khan and other leaders of the association also spoke at the event with AAB Convener Dr Kamruzzaman Kaiser in the chair.

\$7 billion jewellery export

framework. According to BAJUS, easier gold imports could reduce the price of jewellery in the domestic market by at least Tk 30,000 per bhoiri. The association said implementation of the proposed ‘Gold Policy-2018 (Amended)-2026’ could generate Tk 2,000-2,500 crore in annual government revenue from the sector. It also proposed allowing undisclosed gold to be declared against a one-time fee, saying the measure could generate an additional Tk 500-700 crore in revenue and facilitate the creation of a digital database of the country's total gold stock. BAJUS has set a target of establishing 500 new modern jewellery factories by 2030 to make the industry export-oriented. The proposed factories are expected to create direct employment for 50,000 people and indirect employment for another 100,000. The association also demanded 10 bighas of land in Dhaka to establish a specialised economic zone named ‘Swarnapalli’, which would include a diamond processing unit. It said updating the 2006 Rough Diamond Import-Export (Control) Rules and reducing additional duties on diamond imports in line with neighbouring countries would help develop the diamond processing industry. BAJUS projects that Bangladesh could export around \$2 billion worth of diamond jewellery annually by 2031 if the necessary policy reforms are introduced. Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, former National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, representatives of different government agencies and diplomats, among others, attended the programme. BAJUS said around 2.8 million people are directly and indirectly dependent on the jewellery sector, which represents around 40,000 jewellery businesses and four lakh artisans. The association also thanked the government for providing tax and VAT concessions to the jewellery sector in the national budget for fiscal year 2026-27 and urged speedy implementation of further policy reforms.

International community

action", Shama warned against allowing another decade to pass without a sustainable solution. "For a government, it is a policy cycle. For an institution, it is a planning horizon. But for a child growing up in a refugee camp, 10 years is a childhood.For a young person, it is an education lost. For a family, it is a decade without a home, and for an entire community, it is a generation living in uncertainty," she said."We must not allow 10 years to become 20," she added.Since the massive influx in 2017, Shama said, Bangladesh has kept its borders and hearts open and is now sheltering more than 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas despite its own development challenges, limited land and high population density.She said hosting such a large displaced population has put enormous pressure on Bangladesh's infrastructure, environment, public services and host communities, but the country continues to provide food, shelter, healthcare, education and protection as a humanitarian and moral responsibility.Bangladesh's humanitarian generosity, however, must not become an excuse for international inaction, she said."Bangladesh can provide shelter. Bangladesh can provide humanitarian assistance. Bangladesh can help preserve dignity, but Bangladesh cannot resolve the crisis that Bangladesh did not create," Shama said. Referring to declining international funding, the state minister said humanitarian needs remain immense despite despite reductions in funding under the 2026 Joint Response Plan.Food, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and protection are "not luxuries" but lifelines, she

said, warning that any major funding gap would have consequences for the Rohingyas, host communities, camp stability and, ultimately, regional stability."We therefore urge our international partners: do not let humanitarian fatigue become humanitarian abandonment," she said.Shama also highlighted the extraordinary burden shouldered by the people of Cox's Bazar, saying their livelihoods, environment and public services have come under severe pressure over the years.Support for host communities, she said, must therefore be treated as an essential component of the humanitarian response rather than an optional addition.While appreciating contributions from the European Union and other international partners, the state minister said humanitarian assistance alone could never provide a lasting solution."The crisis originated in Myanmar. Its sustainable solution must ultimately be found in Myanmar," she said.Shama reiterated that the ultimate objective remains the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Rakhine State."This is not simply a policy preference. It is the only sustainable way forward," she said, adding that Rohingyas themselves have repeatedly expressed their desire to return home."A camp should never become a permanent substitute for a homeland," she said.The state minister also called for expediting the verification process on the basis of agreed bilateral instruments, taking into account children born in the camps as well as Rohingyas who arrived from Rakhine after 2017.

Accurate data and a credible verification process are essential and could serve as an important confidence-building measure between Bangladesh and Myanmar, she said.Shama said Bangladesh would continue constructive engagement through bilateral channels, the United Nations, regional mechanisms and international partners to facilitate repatriation.Referring to China's role, she expressed hope that commitments made by the Chinese leadership during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit would be reflected through concrete actions."Responsibility sharing must mean more than expressions of sympathy, more than statements of solidarity. It must translate into action, predictable financing, sustained diplomacy, political engagement and accountability, and ultimately into a durable solution," she said.The state minister said Bangladesh had responded to a humanitarian emergency nearly a decade ago, but the situation had now evolved into a "protracted political crisis".She expressed confidence that the present government would be able to pursue repatriation successfully, recalling Bangladesh's previous experiences of Rohingya repatriation in 1978 and 1992.Addressing journalists, Shama said the media have an important role in ensuring that the Rohingya crisis does not disappear from the international agenda."You are not merely reporting the crisis. You are helping shape how the world understands it," she said, adding that responsible journalism, evidence and facts matter.She called for a transition "from relief to resilience, from solidarity to responsibility sharing, from humanitarian management to political action, and ultimately from displacement to dignified return"."The Rohingya people deserve more than survival. They deserve a future, they deserve a home, they deserve safety, they deserve dignity, and they deserve the right to return to their homeland in peace," she said.Earlier, DCAB President AKM Moinnuddin and Oxfam in Bangladesh Interim Country Director Anil Pant delivered opening remarks.efugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Ambassador Asad Alam Siam, European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation Michael Miller, Chinese Deputy Chief of Mission Liu Yuyin, IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Dr Laura Tomm-Bonde, Centre for Alternatives Executive Director Professor Imtiaz Ahmed and Cox's Bazar Civil Society President Abu Murshed Chowdhury, and DCAB general secretary Emrul Kayesh, among others, addressed the dialogue.The programme also featured presentations on a decade of the Rohingya crisis and WASH systems, risk and resilience in the Rohingya response, a documentary screening, a book launch and a technical panel discussion.

Ziaur Rahman

Mohammad Aman Ullah, Director (Programme) Engineer Md Mahbub Alam, Director (Programme) agriculturist Dr Khandaker Mahfuzu Haque Bachchu, Director Engineer AKM Zahirul Islam, lifetime member Rezaur Rahman Chowdhury Sumon, Dr Saeed Mehebab Kadir and Soheli Ahmed, along with doctors, officials and volunteers, attended the programme.Women, men and children received free eye tests, treatment advice and necessary healthcare services. Ziaur Rahman Foundation provides free eye care to almost 1000 slum-dwellers in Dhaka. Medicines and spectacles were provided based on doctors' recommendations, while patients diagnosed with cataracts were identified and arrangements were made for free surgery where necessary.Organisers said many low-income people cannot receive timely eye care because of financial constraints, particularly those suffering from cataracts and vision problems. The initiative was organised to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent anyone from receiving necessary eye treatment, they said. Ziaur Rahman Foundation provides free eye care to almost 1000 slum-dwellers in Dhaka They added that the Ziaur Rahman Foundation would continue providing healthcare and other humanitarian services to underprivileged people as part of its public welfare activities. Patients and local residents expressed gratitude to the organisers for arranging the free medical services.

Joyous Rally Held in

Mahfuz-un-Nabi Chowdhury Don. Among those participating were Metropolitan BNP Senior Joint Convener Shahidul Islam Mizu, BNP leader Abdus Salam, and several hundred leaders and activists from Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, and Swechhasebak Dal. A large number of female activists also took part in the rally. A joyful rally and gathering were held in Rangpur after Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir became President and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi was elected Acting Secretary General of the BNP. The procession began on Saturday (22 August) at noon from the party office at Grand Hotel intersection in Rangpur city and marched through various streets of the city. It was led by Rangpur Metropolitan BNP Convener and Chairman of the Rangpur Development Authority, Shamsuzzaman Samu, along with Member Secretary and Rangpur City Corporation Administrator, Advocate Mahfuz-un-Nabi Chowdhury Don. Among those participating were Metropolitan BNP Senior Joint Convener Shahidul Islam Mizu, BNP leader Abdus Salam, and several hundred leaders and activists from Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, and Swechhasebak Dal. A large number of female activists also took part in the rally.

Ashik Chowdhury

joining, in accordance with sub-section (5) of Section 4 of the Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026. The appointment is subject to the condition that he relinquishes any other profession, business, or employment with any government, semi-government or private institution or organisation. The notification said other terms and conditions of his appointment would be determined through a contract. The order was issued in the public interest, it added.

Invest Bangladesh begins

the transition towards a unified national investment platform."This is more than an institutional merger. It is about organising the government more effectively around the investor," Invest Bangladesh Chairman Ashik Chowdhury said."By uniting our capabilities, we aim to provide clearer accountability and more coordinated support across the invest-

ment journey. We will continue to respect our heritage while forging new chapters as a bigger and stronger team," he added.The new agency is expected to provide domestic and foreign investors with a single point of access to investment opportunities, approvals, services and facilities across Bangladesh.The Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026 provides for an integrated framework covering economic zones, free-trade zones and other declared industrial areas. It also enables underused government land, facilities, shares and rights to be put to productive use.The Act further provides clearer approval frameworks for public-private partnership projects, including simplified procedures for smaller PPP projects.Invest Bangladesh will also facilitate the digitisation of investment and business services through a single digital platform.It will continue operating BanglaBiz, Bangladesh's single digital platform for investment services, providing online and time-bound access to business licences and permits.The agency is working to implement a 14-day business licensing framework as part of the government's efforts to establish a faster and more predictable business environment.As the 180-day period for implementing the government's commitments made in March nears its end, Invest Bangladesh said it would publish a progress report on delivery against those commitments before the period ends.Investors are expected to benefit from more coordinated access to approvals, registrations, import-export services, incentives, industrial zones and other government services.Economic zones will remain a priority as they offer advantages in terms of utilities and transport connectivity.However, Invest Bangladesh will also facilitate projects outside economic zones, including through the utilisation of unused state assets, depending on the nature of projects and investors' requirements.The merger will not disrupt existing investor services. Instead, the institutional integration is intended to create a single front office and provide more coordinated support throughout the investment lifecycle.Regarding manpower, regular officers and employees of BIDA, BEZA and PPPA will be absorbed into Invest Bangladesh in equivalent positions, with continuity of service and existing benefits protected.Consultants, outsourced personnel and daily-wage workers will continue under their existing contracts or orders.The formation of Invest Bangladesh is aimed at simplifying the investor journey and creating a more coordinated and predictable investment environment in the country.

Let the ideal of the Holy

one of the main forces in leading life. He further said that love for the Prophet (PBUH) is not just a matter of lip service; rather, that love should be expressed by following his Sunnah, implementing his justice, honesty, humanity and good character in our own lives. Muslims should build their lives in the light of the Holy Quran and Sunnah and play a role in establishing peace, harmony and moral values in the society.

Various aspects of the holy life and deeds of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) were discussed in the gathering. Later, special prayers and supplications were offered, seeking peace, prosperity and welfare of the country, nation and Muslim Ummah and the welfare of people from all walks of life.

Sylhet Border, Contraband

Mrigal fish, were also seized. The estimated seizure value of the confiscated goods is Tk 225 million. Lieutenant Colonel Nazmul Haque, commanding officer of Sylhet Battalion (48 BGB), said that BGB operations and intelligence activities are continuing to maintain border security and prevent smuggling and drug trafficking. Necessary legal action will be taken regarding the seized goods, he added.

Higher education

going to Japan for a PhD program with the MEXT Scholarship.Akif Mahdi of the same department, from the 2014-15 sessions, has also got the opportunity for higher education in Japan. He has been admitted to the doctoral program at Yamagata University.Tamanna Akter from the Department of Mathematics, 2018-19 session has got the opportunity to do a PhD under the MEXT Scholarship.Iffat Farhana from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, 2013-14 sessions, is also going to Japan for a PhD program as a MEXT scholar.Sohel Rana from the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of Rajshahi University has also received the MEXT Scholarship. He will also pursue higher education in a PhD program in Japan.Similarly, Md. Saydur Rahman Akash from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 2017-18 session, has got the opportunity to do a PhD with the MEXT Scholarship.The achievement of Samuil Basir from the Department of Information and Communication Engineering, 2019-20 session, is also noteworthy. He is going to Japan to study in a Master's program with the MEXT Scholarship.And Abdullah Al Siyam, a former student of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Rajshahi University, is currently an Assistant Professor and Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Netrokona University.Siyam, who completed his BSc and MSc from Rajshahi University, is also going to Japan for a PhD program with the MEXT Scholarship.Siddiqui Rahman from the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, 2017-18 session, has also got the opportunity to do a PhD in Japan as an MEXT scholar this year.On the other hand, Md. Mahadi Hasan from the Department of Pharmacy has also got the same opportunity. He is also going to Japan for a PhD program with the MEXT Scholarship.The achievement of these 10 individuals from different departments of the same university is not just a story of personal success; it also presents a larger picture of the advancement of Rajshahi University students in international higher education. RU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Faridul Islam said students from diverse fields such as engineering, computer science, mathematics, biology, animal sciences, pharmacy and biotechnology have got the opportunity for higher education in Japan this time, specially by achieving a competitive government scholarship like the MEXT Scholarship, they have proven their academic capability and preparation for higher education at the international level. Their journey is also an inspiration for the current students of Rajshahi University.Starting their journey from a public university of the country, these 10 young men and women are now stepping into universities and research laboratories in Japan.Ahead of them is a new chapter - to create new possibilities for the country as well as for themselves through higher education, research and skill development.VC Prof Faridul Islam also said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Student Exchange Agreement have already been signed between the Faculty of Engineering of RU and the Faculty of Engineering of Yamagata University, Japan.Under the signed MoU and agreement, there will be opportunities for the exchange of 5 students each year between the two universities, exchange of teachers and researchers, joint research and publications, exchange of academic information, and implementation of joint education and research-based initiatives.Through the student exchange agreement, participating students will get the opportunity to study at Yamagata University for one semester to one academic year, and a tuition fee waiver will be applicable at the host university.

Nandini killing: Man sentenced to death in Lalmonirhat

Staff correspondent

A Lalmonirhat court on Sunday sentenced the prime accused to death for the much-talked-about killing of seven-year-old girl Nandini Kanta Roy in Aditmari upazila.The condemned

convict is Bidhan Chandra, son of Ranjit Kumar of Folimari village in the upazila.Lalmonirhat District and Sessions Judge Haider Ali also sentenced Ranjit and his wife Mamata Rani to five years’ imprisonment each, fined them Tk 5,000 each. In case of failure to pay the fine, they will have to serve three more months in jail.According to the prosecution, Nandini, daughter of Nalini Mohon Barman, went missing from Folimari village on June 16, 2026.Police recovered her body, packed in a sack, from a maize field of the village the following day. They also arrested Bidhan and his father Ranjit in connection with the incident.A clash broke out between police and agitated villagers when police were taking the two suspects to the police station from the scene, leaving 30 people, including 18 policemen, injured.During the violence, seven vehicles, including those used by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Superintendent of Police (SP), were also vandalised.The victim's father filed a murder case naming Bidhan, Ranjit and Mamata. Expressing satisfaction at the verdict, Nandini's father demanded its quick execution.

HSIA 3rd terminal soft opening on Dec 16

Staff correspondent

Newly appointed Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat today said the government is working to hold the soft opening of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's (HSIA) Third Terminal on December 16 next.The minister said this while talking to journalists in his office at Bangladesh Secretariat on the first day of his office after taking charge of the ministry.Responding to journalists’ queries, the minister also outlined a series of priorities for the country’s aviation sector, including operationalising the Third Terminal, resuming Dhaka-New York flights, expanding Biman’s fleet and advancing airport development projects.Millat said steps are being taken to sign an agreement with a Japanese company in September in connection with the Third Terminal. He said the government is also working to launch Dhaka-New York flights next year and expressed optimism that 10 leased aircraft could soon be added to the fleet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.Regarding Ishwardi Airport, the minister said the government is considering resuming flight operations soon to facilitate transportation of radioactive materials for the nuclear power plant in Pabna.On Jashore Airport, Millat said he had spoken with US-Bangla Airlines regarding flight operations following a decline in commercial flights at the airport.He said a feasibility study for construction of Bogura Airport is underway, while the government is hopeful for commissioning of the Cox’s Bazar International Airport in October.Earlier in the morning today Millat formally joined the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and was received by officials and employees of the ministry with flowers.Later, he attended an exchange-of-views meeting with officials of the ministry and departments under the ministry.Addressing the officials, Millat said his first priority would be to remove coordination gaps between the ministry and departments under the ministry, and build an effective team to inject greater momentum into the country’s aviation and tourism sectors.“I am grateful to Honourable Prime Minister Tarique Rahman for entrusting me with the responsibility of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. Reshuffling is a normal process. Under the new leadership, we want to move the ministry’s activities forward by building a team,” he said.For greater efficiency and coordination, Millat said he intends to work from either the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) or Biman Bangladesh Airlines office one day in every five working days.“My first task will be to eliminate the lack of coordination between the ministry and its departments,” he said. The minister told officials that good performance would be rewarded while poor performance would face consequences, stressing that they must move beyond “conventional bureaucracy” to make the ministry’s activities more dynamic.He also underscored the need for innovative planning to move the aviation and tourism sectors forward.

STAR Cancer Centre launches guidance centre for Bangladeshi patients

Staff correspondent

STAR Cancer Centre, a specialised unit of STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad, India, on Sunday launched a dedicated Free Second Opinion Clinic and Guidance Centre for citizens of Bangladesh, aiming to help cancer patients make informed treatment decisions and access specialised oncology care.The initiative is designed to provide patients with expert case reviews, treatment-plan assessments and guidance on advanced, organ-specific cancer treatment before they travel to India for medical care.Cancer remains a major health concern in Bangladesh and across South Asia, with more than 167,000 to 187,000 new cases reportedly diagnosed in Bangladesh each year, said a press release.As awareness of early diagnosis grows, patients and families are increasingly seeking specialised treatment options for common cancers, including breast, lung, cervical, oesophageal and gastrointestinal cancers, it said.ndia has emerged as a major regional destination for advanced medical treatment and receives hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi patients each year.Learning Indian hospitals offer access to specialised surgical, medical and radiation oncologists, along with advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.These include TrueBeam Linear Accelerators, digital PET-CT imaging, 3T MRI, robotic surgery and multidisciplinary tumour board evaluations.Under the initiative, Bangladeshi citizens will be able to access free second opinions based on complete medical records and treatment plans, which will be reviewed by senior oncology specialists.Patients may also receive multidisciplinary tumour board evaluations involving organ-specific medical, surgical and radiation oncology specialists.The centre will additionally provide end-to-end medical travel assistance, including treatment planning, estimated costs, expected duration of stay and visa-related guidance.

Prince Harry: royal misfit making unlikely UK return

International Desk

Prince Harry, who relocates back to Britain shortly with his family, will open a new chapter in his ever-eventful life which once seemed improbable amid royal feuds, battles over security and lawsuits against UK tabloids. The 41-year-old royal misfit has long struggled with the monarchy's strictures, shaking off the angry young man and "playboy prince" tags only to find himself at loggerheads with his closest relatives. He and wife Meghan Markle -- who together swapped Britain for California six years ago -- return still estranged from Harry's heir-to-the-throne brother William and wife Princess Catherine. Whether their ties can be repaired -- as appears to have occurred with Harry and his cancer-battling father, King Charles III -- was just one of many questions swirling as their self-imposed United States exile ends. "I think one of the motivating factors for this return ... is reconciliation with the king and with the wider family," royal historian Ed Owens told AFP."If those wounds are not healed it can have a really detrimental impact, not only on the people concerned but also on the reputation of the institution." 'Lack of trust' -The feud has tarnished the family's image.



Kazakhstan votes in parliamentary election expected to tighten president’s grip on power

International Desk

Voting began Sunday in Kazakhstan's parliamentary election, which is expected to further consolidate President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's power in the largest country in Central Asia. The ruling pro-presidential Adilet party is widely expected to secure a large majority, while several smaller parties aligned with Tokayev are also likely to win seats in parliament. Tokayev, 73, a former Soviet official and Kazakh diplomat who previously worked at the United Nations, has served as president since 2019. The election is the first to choose members of the country's new single-chamber parliament, known as the Kurultai. Sunday's vote follows a constitutional overhaul launched by Tokayev in March. Some 87% of voters backed a referendum to abolish the two-chamber parliament and replace it with a single chamber. The changes also give the president authority to appoint key officials, subject to parliamentary approval, and restore the position of vice president. Tokayev, who has tried to balance relations with Moscow and the West since Western sanctions were imposed on Russia over its war in Ukraine, has defended the reforms as necessary for faster decision-making amid a rapidly changing global environment. Last month, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court ruled that the constitutional amendments effectively reset the limit on Tokayev's previous presidential terms, allowing him to potentially seek another seven-year term. The election is taking place amid economic difficulties. Inflation reached 10.2% in February, while tax increases have contributed to growing public dissatisfaction. Analysts say the economic pressure has raised concerns among authorities about a possible repeat of the unrest in January 2022, when protests over fuel prices

escalated into deadly violence that killed dozens of protesters and police officers. Tokayev has sought to prevent such unrest by concentrating greater power in his hands. Tokayev described the election as a "truly historic event." "Without a doubt, these elections will be remembered as perhaps the most interesting in our country's history," he said Friday. "Amid unprecedented geopolitical tensions and mounting global challenges, we must firmly and consistently implement our strategy to transform Kazakhstan into a truly developed state." The election is also being held amid growing concerns over restrictions on press freedom. Media organizations have called on Tokayev to drop criminal cases against several journalists under house arrest and amend laws to strengthen press freedom. Authorities have opened about 10 criminal cases against independent journalists and prominent bloggers. The latest case involves independent journalist Lukpan Akhmedyarov, host of the YouTube program "Prosto Zhurnalistika," or Simply Journalism. Akhmedyarov told The Associated Press that authorities opened a criminal case against him in August on charges of "disseminating false information" after he published a list of Kazakh citizens fighting in Ukraine. He could face up to seven years in prison. "In the run-up to these parliamentary elections, repression has intensified sharply, with attacks on independent media, cyberattacks, and criminal cases launched against independent journalists and popular bloggers," Akhmedyarov told AP from Almaty. He said the authorities appeared determined to silence media outlets they do not control, including those with which they failed to reach an agreement. Akhmedyarov also said major cities across Kazakhstan were filled with advertisements and posters promoting the pro-presidential Adilet party. "It is not very difficult to predict the outcome of these elections," he said.

US and Canada fall deeper into trade war as talks collapse

International Desk

The United States and Canada, longtime allies separated by an undefended border, sank deeper into a trade war Saturday as negotiations collapsed amid angry exchanges and new tariffs expected to increase prices for consumers and businesses in both countries. The two sides blamed each other for the breakdown of talks in Washington late Friday. The United States imposed 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods, while Canada announced that retaliatory tariffs would take effect Sept. 8. The new U.S. tariffs will affect about 5% of Canada's annual exports to the United States, including products ranging from hockey sticks to tongue depressors. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Ottawa would respond with targeted tariff measures to protect industries affected by the new U.S. duties, including certain steel products. He also cited the dairy, appliance, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics sectors. No further negotiations were scheduled, and the dispute appeared to have inflicted significant damage on trust between the two countries. Carney accused Washington of turning economic integration into a weapon and said Canada's longstanding relationship with the United States would not return to its previous form. Describing the tariffs as an attack, he said Canada had the reserves, resilience and a plan to respond. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, however, said Washington was forced to act after a year of Canadian retaliation. "We've said enough, and so we've taken countermeasures. Our interest is in protecting American workers and protecting American supply chains," Greer told Fox News' "Fox & Friends Weekend." Canada cites unacceptable demands Carney said Canada had offered to remove its remaining retaliatory tariffs on steel, aluminum and automobiles if the United States significantly reduced its own tariffs. Ottawa was also prepared to encourage provinces to restore access for U.S. alcohol products. But Carney said Washington's final demands went too far, arguing that Canada was being asked to give too much in exchange for too little. Greer said the Trump administration had offered to reduce tariffs on steel, automobiles and lumber, areas that are particularly important to Canada. Carney said the United States introduced additional conditions at the last minute that would have limited tariff relief for Canadian-made vehicles, restricted Canada's ability to negotiate trade agreements with other countries



and weakened protections for language, culture and sovereignty. He called the demands unacceptable. The collapse of the talks was a sharp reversal from just two days earlier, when officials from both countries had indicated that a compromise was within reach. Ontario Premier Doug Ford supported Carney's decision to reject the proposed deal, saying it could have harmed the province's auto, steel and manufacturing industries. He called for Canada to use every available measure to counter the U.S. tariffs. The dispute also raises questions about the future of the North American trade agreement involving the United States, Canada and Mexico. Carney said the breakdown was "certainly not good news" for the agreement's upcoming review and had given Canada a new understanding of Washington's broader economic demands. Longtime alliance strained The political consequences of the dispute could prove greater than its immediate economic impact. The United States and Canada exchanged about \$880 billion in goods and services last year. The latest tariffs were initially scheduled to take effect early Wednesday, but Trump extended the deadline by three days to give negotiators more time. The talks ultimately failed to produce an agreement. The two countries have disagreed over trade for decades, including disputes involving Canadian softwood lumber and U.S. access to Canada's protected dairy market. Despite those disagreements, they have remained close allies and trading partners. Canadian and U.S. troops fought alongside each other in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Their 5,525-mile border remains undefended, with nearly 330,000 people and about \$2 billion worth of goods crossing it every day. Around 800,000 Canadians also live in the United States. Trump's trade policy toward Canada represents a major break from the traditionally cooperative relationship. He has imposed tariffs in an effort to encourage manufacturing in the United States and has repeatedly suggested that Canada could become America's 51st state. Carney said Canada had accepted that "America has changed" and that the two countries would not return to their previous relationship. Pressure grows for compromise Public frustration is also rising in Canada. A petition calling for the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Pete Hoekstra, a Trump ally, had gathered nearly 248,000 signatures since July 21. The petition criticizes Hoekstra for what it describes as normalizing Trump's comments about annexing Canada.

Iran president backs US memorandum as way out of stalled war

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way to end the current deadlock in the nearly six-month-old war, while Tehran's new security chief warned neighboring countries against supporting further US sanctions on Iran. Meanwhile, Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir is scheduled to visit Tehran on Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional peace efforts, Iranian state media reported. In the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian man said an Israeli settler beat him outside his home, while the Israeli military said it was pursuing a suspect following a separate stabbing incident. Pezeshkian, in remarks published by state-run IRNA on Sunday, described the recent US-Iran memorandum as the best available option for moving the country beyond a situation of "neither war nor peace." He said members of Iran's Supreme National Security Council considered the memorandum the best agreement possible based on national dignity, wisdom and interests. "There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," Pezeshkian said, adding that Iran would follow policies set by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The memorandum, signed by US President Donald Trump in June, set a 60-day deadline for ending the war and reaching an agreement over Iran's nuclear programme. The deadline expired last week, but Washington and Tehran remain divided, particularly over reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil and other shipping. Pezeshkian said Iran would not surrender to its adversaries but stressed that the prolonged



standoff was damaging the economy and discouraging investment. "Capital and money are extremely sensitive to risk," he said, stressing the need to remove risks from the country. Iran's economy has been under growing pressure from US sanctions and a naval blockade that has made it difficult for Tehran to export oil, its main source of revenue. Pakistan's Munir will lead an official delegation to Tehran on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said, adding that the visit would focus on strengthening bilateral ties and Pakistan's efforts to promote peace and security in the region. The announcement followed a phone conversation between Munir and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Pakistan has previously undertaken several mediation efforts aimed at ending the Iran war. Separately, Mohsen Rezaei, the newly appointed head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, issued a stronger warning to neighboring countries against joining the latest US campaign to pressure Tehran economically. "If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," Rezaei said in an interview broadcast by Iranian state television on Saturday. Rezaei, appointed earlier this month as part of senior leadership changes seen as strengthening Tehran's hard-line stance, said Iran could target oil-shipping routes outside the Strait of Hormuz if neighboring countries joined what he called the economic war against Iran. He warned that countries supporting the US campaign would be treated as enemies and that Iran would target their interests. Trump has vowed to impose an "unprecedented" level of economic pressure and isolation on Iran as Tehran has faced US sanctions for years.

Zelenskyy says dismissed defense minister took ‘wrong’ steps amid growing rift

International Desk

Zelenskyy also pointed to problems with defense spending and inaccurate information from the Defense Ministry that contributed to an awkward exchange with U.S. President Donald Trump over Ukraine's use of Starlink in Russia. He made the remarks during a two-hour meeting with reporters Saturday, with a transcript released Sunday. Zelenskyy said he still has a positive view of Fedorov, whom he credited with helping modernize Ukraine's military and expand its use of technology and drones. But he said Fedorov had become involved in issues he considered inappropriate. Fedorov was dismissed last month following reports of tensions with Ukraine's top military commander. His removal triggered weeks of protests, while he later called for elections. Zelenskyy said he offered Fedorov four options to remain in government, but he rejected all of them. On the Starlink dispute, Zelenskyy said the Defense Ministry had told him earlier this year that SpaceX had agreed to allow Ukraine to use Starlink over Russian territory for deep-strike operations, subject to political approval. Based on that information, Zelenskyy said he discussed the proposal with Trump and told him that Elon Musk had confirmed it. However, Musk later rejected the proposal, saying it could lead to dangerous escalation. Trump subsequently accused Zelenskyy of misleading him. Zelenskyy said he did not directly accuse Fedorov of providing false information but indicated that the incident was among the reasons for taking action against him. He also defended former army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi and current Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Yevhen Khmara against protesters who had harshly criticized them, saying such attacks went too far. Meanwhile, Zelenskyy said Ukraine faces a \$27 billion shortfall in its defense budget after funds originally planned for the second half of 2026 were spent earlier in the year. He also said anti-corruption investigators had found no evidence of his involvement in a money-laundering case involving a deputy head of the presidential office. On the battlefield, Zelenskyy claimed Ukrainian forces had nearly retaken the entire Dnipropetrovsk region, with only about 10 square kilometers and three small villages remaining under Russian control. He said Ukraine expected another military operation to produce results by the end of August. He predicted that by the end of 2026, Ukraine could achieve near parity between territory seized by Russia and territory retaken by Ukrainian forces. According to him, Russia has occupied about 990 square kilometers since the beginning of the year, while Ukrainian forces have regained roughly 820 square kilometers. Zelenskyy said Russia's main military objective remained the Konstantynivka-Sloviansk-Kramatorsk axis and that Moscow continued to demand Ukraine's withdrawal from Donbas as part of any settlement. The Ukrainian president also highlighted a growing shortage of Patriot air-defense missiles. Ukraine received 675 Patriot missiles in 2023, compared with 364 in 2025, while only about 264 are expected in 2026. He said Ukraine wants to secure another 300 Patriot missiles before winter, although its air force has requested 360. Zelenskyy said he hoped Ukraine could obtain even 5% to 10% of U.S. reserves and was prepared to pay for them. He warned that Russia could eventually produce up to 1,300 ballistic missiles annually, compared with an estimated current capacity of about 600. Ukraine is also exploring alternatives to Starlink, including a European communications project, as Russia and China develop competing satellite communication sys-



Moderate earthquake hits Japan, injuring more than 20 in Tokyo region

International Desk

A moderate earthquake struck eastern Japan, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, early Sunday, injuring at least 23 people, mostly with minor injuries, officials said. There was no tsunami threat. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9, with its epicenter in southern Ibaraki prefecture at a depth of about 70 kilometers (42 miles). The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at magnitude 5.8. Officials in four prefectures reported 23 injuries — nine each in Saitama and Kanagawa, four in Chiba and one in Ibaraki. Most of those injured fell or struck furniture or doors after being startled by the earthquake while sleeping and getting out of bed in panic, officials said. A woman in her 80s suffered a serious hip injury after falling from her bed in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture, the Yomiuri newspaper reported. A 23-year-old man told the Asahi newspaper that he felt a strong vertical jolt moments after receiving an earthquake alert while shopping at a discount store in Tokyo's Taito district. He said he became concerned that products might fall from high shelves as the building shook. The earthquake disrupted express train services connecting Tokyo with Narita Airport, as well as some local train services in northeastern areas. However, Shinkansen bullet trains continued operating normally, East Japan Railway Co. said. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said the government had established a task force to assess the extent of any damage. The earthquake triggered emergency alerts on mobile phones and caused significant shaking in Tokyo. NHK public television showed traffic moving normally on roads in nearby cities, including Mito and Saitama. An underground water pipe burst in Tokyo's eastern Koto Ward, sending water onto a roadway, according to NHK footage. The pipe was later repaired and the leak stopped. The Nuclear Regulation Authority said no abnormalities were reported at about a dozen nuclear power plants and other facilities handling nuclear materials. Last month, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the Kumamoto area on Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island, killing 38 people and injuring 364.

7-year-old left alone on Mount Fuji for hours as father continues hike

International Desk

A father in Japan has been reprimanded by police after leaving his seven-year-old son alone on Mount Fuji for several hours while continuing his climb with his older child. The boy was found sitting on a bench near the sixth station of the Fujinomiya hiking route at around 7:30am local time on Thursday. The area, more than 2,000 metres above sea level, was experiencing fog and rain, reports BBC. Police said the 48-year-old father told his younger son to wait after the boy complained of being tired, then continued towards the summit with his elder son. The child was left with only a drink and a snack. Workers at a mountain hut noticed the boy and contacted police. Officers later located his father between the seventh and eighth stations, reportedly around a three-hour hike from where the child had been left.



Suresh Oberoi recalls going door to door to help son Vivek land debut



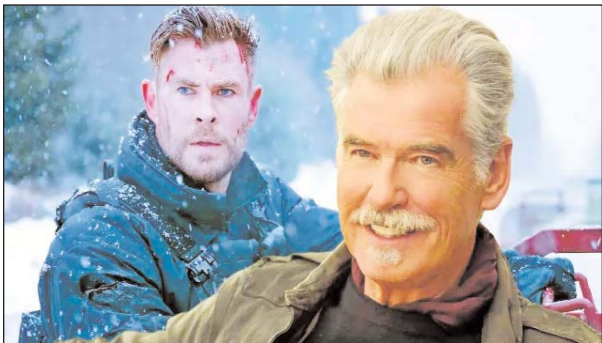
Entertainment Desk

Vivek Oberoi made a memorable debut with Company, but securing his first opportunity in Bollywood was far from easy. His father, veteran actor Suresh Oberoi, recalled how he personally went from one door to another in search of work for his son and eventually approached filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, who gave Vivek the breakthrough that launched his career. Speaking in an interview with Nidhi Vasandani on her YouTube channel, Suresh said he had to struggle to find opportunities for Vivek just as he had done at the beginning of his own career.

"I had to struggle for him again, went door to door. Like I used to take my pictures, now I was taking Vivek's pictures," Suresh said. He recalled that he was working with Ram Gopal Varma when the filmmaker was looking for an actor for Company. Varma asked to see a recording of Vivek's acting. Suresh remembered that his son had a tape from his acting institute and arranged for the filmmaker to watch it. According to Suresh, Varma came over to view the tape and was immediately impressed by Vivek's performance. The filmmaker subsequently cast him in Company, which became a major turning point in the

young actor's career.

Vivek has since appeared in numerous films, but Suresh said Saathiya remains his personal favorite among his son's movies. He also recalled becoming extremely proud and emotional, even shedding tears, after watching Vivek's performance in Company. On the work front, Vivek Oberoi was last seen in Rohit Shetty's OTT action series Indian Police Force and the comedy film Mastii 4. He is currently preparing for his role in Nitesh Tiwari's multi-part epic Ramayana. He is also set to appear in Vishal Ranjan Mishra's Grey, alongside Nithya Menen and Ashish Vidyarthi.



Pierce Brosnan joins Chris Hemsworth's 'Extraction 3'

Entertainment Desk

Pierce Brosnan has joined Chris Hemsworth in the cast of Netflix's upcoming action film 'Extraction 3'. Brosnan is among five new additions to the film, alongside Don Lee, Joe Taslim, Chi Lewis-Parry and Siena Agudong. The roles of newly announced cast members are being kept under wraps, as is the film's plot. 'Extraction 3' is currently filming in Australia. Hemsworth will return as Australian mercenary Tyler Rake, with Idris Elba and Golshifteh Farahani also set to reprise their roles in the franchise. The 'Extraction' films are based on the graphic novel 'Ciudad' by Ande Parks and illustrator Fernando León González. The franchise follows Tyler Rake as he undertakes high-stakes rescue missions around the world. Sam Hargrave, who directed the first two films, is returning to direct the third instalment. David Weil has written the screenplay based on a story by Parks, Joe Russo and Anthony Russo.

Jaafar Jackson to return as Michael in biopic sequel

Entertainment Desk

Michael, the authorised biographical film of pop icon Michael Jackson, became the biggest biopic of all time at the box office. With a sequel underway, Michael star (and MJ's nephew) Jaafar Jackson has stated it will delve into the cavalcade of child abuse allegations that sullied the icon's image. "I think the second film will give even more insight from his point of view, because at the end of the day, (the allegations) are always from someone else's (point of view)," Jaafar shared with GQ Middle East on Thursday. "It's someone else's story. It's someone else's idea of what it is, and it's mainly driven by an agenda. And that's really the issue we've been having as a family – not having Michael's voice being heard. I think that's very, very important, especially in the late years." Jaafar Jackson Teases Michael 2 "This first film focuses on Michael from his roots. So you get that idea of who he was before he had all the success and became the icon that people are familiar with, you understand who he was as a human being first, because at the end of

the day, that's who he was in the '90s until he passed," Jaafar said. "He never changed that purity, that sense of always wanting to find the good in other people. And no matter all the stuff he went through, how he was treated, what things were said about him, he never stopped treating people with kindness. He never stopped believing in and wanting to look for the good in people... even though he was broken, his heart still stayed the same... I hope that this is felt in the second movie." Jaafar also sought to dismiss speculation that Janet Jackson, whose music career is almost as highly regarded as her brother's, felt bitter towards the film and its portrayal of Michael. Her absence in the film has made critics wonder that she actively did not want to participate. "I don't want to speak too early, but Janet has ideas of maybe doing her own film," Jaafar explained, insisting that she may not have wanted an actress to be selected to play her when she had not yet selected who she wanted to portray her in her own film. The sequel reportedly begins filming later this year.



Arjun Rampal marries longtime girlfriend

Entertainment Desk

After eight years of love, Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal and his partner Gabriella Demetriades officially registered their marriage on August 21 in an intimate ceremony in Goa, marking a new chapter in their journey together. As the two prepare to begin their new life as husband and wife, here's a look back at their long-standing love story, from their first meeting and growing romance to parenthood, engagement, and finally marriage. It is believed that after Arjun Rampal's divorce from his previous wife, Mehr Jesia, in 2018, he met Gabriella through mutual friends. After a casual conversation and getting to know each other, they quickly moved in together and built a close bond. The couple welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Arik Rampal, on July 18, 2019, at Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai. The news was first publicly shared on Twitter by Nidhi Dutta, the daughter of filmmaker JP Dutta. The Rampal family expanded when the couple welcomed their second baby, another boy named Ariv, on July 20, 2023. During the days of Dhurandar in December, Arjun Rampal, along with his long-standing partner Gabriella, appeared on Rhea Chakraborty's podcast. During the conversation, the actor made a shocking revelation about his engagement, leaving the host and the viewers shocked.



Weeklong film festival at Modhumita Cinema Hall

Entertainment Desk

Dhaka South City Corporation is organising a week-long special film festival titled "Hridoye Dhaka 416" at Modhumita Cinema Hall in the capital's Motijheel, marking 416 years of Dhaka city, in which 13 Bangla films will be screened. Abdus Salam, Bir Muktiyoddha and administrator of the city corporation, presented the details of the festival at a press conference held at Modhumita Cinema Hall on Wednesday. The festival starts from today (August 22). Zahir Uddin Swapan, Information and Broadcasting Minister, will inaugurate the festival, while Ali Newaz Mahmud Khaiyam, State Minister for Culture, and Hamidur Rahman, member of parliament for Dhaka-7, will be present as special guests. On the opening day (August 22) Bangladesh's first full-length talkie film "Mukh O Mukhosh" will be screened at 6pm. The next day (August 23) "Nawab Sirajuddaula" will be shown at 3pm and "13 Number Fekustagar Lane" at 6pm. On August 24, "Jibon Theke Neya" will be screened at 3pm and "Nantu Ghotok" at 6pm. On August 25, "Oshikkhito" will be shown at 3pm and "Rangbaaz" at 6pm. On the fifth day of the festival (August 26) "Sobuj Sathi" will be screened at 3pm and "Nacher Putul" at 6pm. On August 27, "Durdesh" will be shown at 3pm and "Dohon" at 6pm, and on the final day, August 28, "Dost Dushman" will be screened at 3pm and "Bodhu Bidaay" at 6pm.

Miss World Bangladesh's 'Hygiene for Health' campaign gains momentum

Entertainment Desk

Miss World Bangladesh 2026 Samanzar Sayeed's "Hygiene for Health Bangladesh" advocacy campaign is rapidly growing into a nationwide movement, attracting support from major organisations, NGOs, government representatives and thousands of young volunteers. Since its launch on 22 July with Gulshan Society, supported by Dhaka North City Corporation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the campaign has made remarkable progress. In a major development, JAAGO Foundation Executive Director Korvi Rakshand has pledged the support of approximately 60,000 Youth Wing volunteers to help spread Samanzar's Seven Basic Hygiene Practices across Bangladesh. Manusher Jonno Foundation and 125 NGO partners have also agreed to support the campaign, while the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Club at IUB has pledged to engage its network of approximately 1,200 members and volunteers. On 6 August, Environment and Climate Change Minister Sheikh Faridul Islam also expressed his support for Samanzar's initiative, particularly welcoming the inclusion of Environmental Hygiene among the campaign's seven practices. Samanzar's immediate goal is to mobilise 10,000



active volunteers to reach one million people with seven simple messages: Personal Hygiene, Hand Hygiene, Food Hygiene, Safe Water, Oral Hygiene, Menstrual Hygiene, Environmental Hygiene. Miss World Bangladesh National Director Azra Mahmood said, "What is remarkable about Samanzar's advocacy is its simplicity and potential for impact. It is a practical, low-cost model that can reach millions through volunteers and can be replicated anywhere in the world. This is Beauty With a Purpose in action." While Samanzar is currently in Vietnam representing Bangladesh at Miss World 2026, her advocacy continues to gather momentum at home. "My dream is to make basic hygiene knowledge accessible to every family. I want this movement to continue growing far beyond Miss World. Please pray for me and also vote for me."

Runa Khan begins shooting for new film

Entertainment Desk

Actor Runa Khan has joined the cast of the film Jolpobon. Directed by Rajon Talukdar, the film began shooting in Sunamganj's haor areas on 15 August. Sharing her excitement, Runa Khan revealed that Jolpobon is essentially a story about waiting and the lives of people in the haor region. She will play a character named Nirala. "I do not want to reveal much more at this stage. I joined the project because I liked the character. It is shaping up to be a very good film, and I hope we can give audiences something worthwhile," she said. Jolpobon is an independent production, with the director and many members of the cast and crew making their feature-film debuts. Sushanta Prithviraj and Samiaul Haque are also featuring in the film along with Runa Khan. Talukdar studied filmmaking at the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute. Runa Khan's several films are waiting to be released, such as Zahid Hossain's Leela Manthan, Masud Pathik's Bak, and Kaushik Shankar Das's Dafon.

Koffee With Karan 9

Aamir to Samay, here's expected full guest list

Entertainment Desk

Karan Johar's famous coffee couch is preparing for another star-studded season, and the reported guest list is already creating major buzz online. From nostalgic Bollywood reunions to celebrity couples and unexpected combinations, Koffee With Karan Season 9 could feature some of its most interesting pairings yet. According to the guest list circulating online, Vicky Kaushal and Diljit Dosanjh may appear together in one episode, bringing their Punjabi charm and infectious energy to the couch. One of the biggest highlights of the reported lineup is a Dil Chahta Hai reunion. Aamir Khan, Saif Ali Khan and Akshaye Khanna could be joined by filmmaker Farhan Akhtar as the iconic film celebrates 25 years. Another nostalgia-packed episode reportedly being planned could feature Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kajol and Jaya Bachchan. Their appearance would mark a Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham reunion as Karan Johar's family drama also completes 25 years in 2026. Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn are also reportedly

expected to share the couch in one of the episodes. The most unexpected combination on the reported guest list is comedian Samay Raina and filmmaker Farah Khan.



Both are known for their unfiltered humour and quick comebacks, making their possible episode one of the most anticipated additions to the upcoming season. Karan Johar could also host several celebrity couples. Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani are reportedly part of the lineup, while Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna may make a joint appearance. Kriti Sanon and Varun Dhawan are another combination doing the rounds. Best friends Ananya Panday and Shanaya Kapoor could also share the couch, while Janhvi Kapoor may appear with Lakshya. Karan Johar has confirmed that Koffee With Karan Season 9 is expected to arrive around Diwali 2026. However, the makers have not announced an exact premiere date or officially confirmed the guests. If the reported combinations materialise, the upcoming season could offer the perfect mix of nostalgia, friendships, candid revelations and fresh Bollywood gossip.

Relearning Raghu Rai revisits a legendary photographic journey

Entertainment Desk

To revisit the life, memories and remarkable photographic journey of renowned photographer Raghu Rai, students of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute has organised a special exhibition titled "Relearning Raghu Rai". Coinciding with World Photography Day, the exhibition was inaugurated at Level 8 of Drikpath Bhavan in the capital's Panthapath. In the presence of photographers, artists, students, friends and visitors, the opening evening unfolded as a warm gathering of seeing, remembering, reflecting and sharing. Beyond presenting familiar photographs, the exhibition invites audiences to look more closely at the people, relationships, experiences, conversations and moments in time that shaped Rai's work. The exhibition offers an opportunity to revisit different stages of Rai's long photographic journey through a fresh arrangement and perspective. His well-known images appear in a slightly different light, encouraging viewers to discover new meanings in photographs they may have encountered before. A collection of his books further enriches the experience.



One of the highlights of the inaugural evening was renowned photographer Shahidul Alam's presentation, "Remembering a Friend." Drawing on years of memories, experiences and conversations with Raghu Rai, Alam shared glimpses of a deep, quiet and sincere friendship that extended beyond their shared world of photography. Through photographs, books, memories and personal stories, "Relearning Raghu Rai" encourages viewers to engage with the celebrated photographer's work from a fresh perspective and reflect on his distinctive way of seeing the world. The exhibition is open to visitors from 3:00pm to 8:00pm at Level 8 of Drikpath Bhavan. It will remain open until today.



Lens hammer Auxerre thanks to Thauvin penalty double



Sports Desk

Lens captain Florian Thauvin scored two penalties as Lens thumped Auxerre 5-2 in their first game of the French Ligue 1 season on Saturday. Thauvin converted from the spot either side of the break as the northerners continued their good form from last season when they finished second in the table behind Paris Saint-Germain. Last weekend, German coach Dino Toppmoeiler won his first competitive game in charge of Lens, beating PSG in the French Champions Trophy. Auxerre had defender Christ Massoko red carded in the first half for a foul on Lens attacker Abdallah Sima.

Thauvin, a World Cup winner in 2018, opened the scoring after just 12 minutes after Belgium under-21's midfielder Arthur Piedfort handled the ball in the hosts' box. Thauvin's low finish sent the packed Stade Bollaert crowd wild before the visitors were down a man as Massoko was sent off 10 minutes before the interval. Lens continued to dominate in the sun after the break as new boy Franjo Ivanovic opened his account for Les Sang et Or on 49 minutes. The Croatia attacker fed Simo on the edge of the box before his attack partner returned the pass to find the 22-year-old, who smoothly finished past Mamadou

Diop. Five minutes later, Thauvin, 33, turned the provider, setting up winger Saud Abdulhamid before Danny Namaso cut the deficit just before the hour mark with a penalty of his own. Defender Ismael Ganiou re-established a three-goal cushion with 24 minutes left, then Lamine Sy claimed a consolation for Auxerre before Thauvin slotted his second penalty two minutes from time. Later on Saturday, newly-promoted Le Mans, backed by a consortium including Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and tennis star Novak Djokovic, host Brest in their first top-flight game since 2010. Troyes, Ligue 2 champions, play Paris FC in Liam Rosenior's first league game in charge of the side from the capital city. Champions Paris Saint-Germain begin their tilt at a record-extending 14th French top-flight title at Rennes in the pick of Sunday's matches. On Friday, Algeria attacker Amine Gouiri scored twice in 20 minutes as Marseille beat Strasbourg 4-0 in the opening game of the campaign. Replacement Keyliane Abdallah and midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg made sure of the three points for Bruno Genesio's side late on to extend Marseille's unbeaten league run over the Alsations stretching back to 1997.



Inter thrash Monza to launch Serie A title defence

Sports Desk

Inter Milan kicked off the defence of their Serie A title in emphatic fashion on Saturday, cruising to a 4-1 home victory over promoted Monza. The reigning Italian champions needed just six minutes to break the deadlock when Hakan Calhanoglu blasted in from distance. Monza, back in the top flight after a season in Serie B, levelled through Gustavo Varela in the 29th minute. Inter restored their advantage shortly after the restart, with Piotr Zielinski finding the net in the 48th minute. Pio Esposito, preferred in the starting line-up to Marcus Thuram, made it 3-1 eight minutes later with an inventive backheel finish from Andy Diouf's cross. Yann Bisseck completed the scoring in the 63rd minute as Inter underlined their status as clear favourites to retain the Scudetto. John Stones, one of three England internationals signed by Inter during the close season, made his debut after coming on as a substitute. "We were a bit rusty during the first half, a bit too frantic as well," Inter coach Cristian Chivu told DAZN. "We regained our calm and clarity after the break." Napoli, who finished runners-up to Inter last season, struck two late goals to brush aside Genoa 2-0 and get new coach Massimiliano

Allegri off to a winning start. Allegri, a six-time Serie A winner as a coach, is looking to make a statement after being dismissed by AC Milan following just one season in charge. Napoli had to wait until the 82nd minute to break the deadlock through Kevin De Bruyne, who swung the game his team's way after coming on as a second-half substitute. The Belgium international, who missed a large chunk of his first season in Naples with a hamstring injury, then set up Antonio Vergara to add a second to wrap up the points. "De Bruyne is an extraordinary guy. He does things that are simply different from everyone else," Allegri told Sky Sport. "He sees things that others do not see. There are very few players at that level." Last season's surprise package Como needed a second-half equaliser from Greece forward Tasos Douvikas to earn a 1-1 draw at Udinese. Como will play in the Champions League for the first time next month after finishing fourth under Cesc Fabregas. Cagliari won 1-0 at Parma courtesy of Alessandro Romano's goal 11 minutes from time. Milan and Juventus, both seeking redemption after disappointing campaigns and further summer overhauls, begin their league seasons on Sunday against Torino and Frosinone respectively.



India lose two before lunch in second Sri Lanka Test

Sports Desk

India were 88-2 at lunch after choosing to bat first as their second Test against Sri Lanka got underway in Colombo on Sunday. The tourists lost both openers in the morning session, while first-Test hero Devdutt Padikkal was reprieved twice. K.L. Rahul was the first to go when he chased a wide delivery from Lahiru Kumara and was caught behind. Two balls later, Padikkal was dropped at backward point by Sonal Dinusha before he had opened his account. Padikkal was handed another life on two when captain Dhananjaya de Silva spilled a chance. Asitha Fernando then cleaned up Yashasvi Jaiswal for 45, with the dismissal followed by a heated exchange between the two players. India made one change to the side that won the opening Test by 165 runs in Galle, leaving out Kuldeep Yadav and bringing in debutant Saransh Jain.

Messi scores but Miami slump continues with loss to Toronto

Sports Desk

A goal from Lionel Messi wasn't enough as Inter Miami fell 2-1 at home to Toronto on Saturday for their fifth straight match without a win. Miami trailed 2-0 after goals from Toronto's Josh Sargent and Derrick Etienne Jr. in the 59th and 62nd minutes. Argentine superstar Messi pulled a goal back for Miami in the 82nd, capitalizing on a sensational through ball from compatriot Rodrigo De Paul. But Miami's final siege yielded no reward. With 14 goals Messi is second on the Major League Soccer scoring chart behind Dallas's Petar Musa -- who went into Saturday with 16. But Miami have four losses and a draw in their last five matches. That includes MLS play and the Leagues Cup, in which they were eliminated in the group stage. They remained in second place in the MLS Eastern Conference, seven games behind leaders Nashville who have a game in hand. But Robert Lewandowski's Chicago Fire moved within three points of Miami in the standings after a 1-1 draw at New York Red Bulls on Saturday. Orlando City moved into the MLS Cup playoff positions in the East with a 2-1 victory over Real Salt Lake. Orlando's French star Antoine Griezmann, recently arrived from Atletico Madrid, scored twice in the second half, his first MLS brace pulling Orlando back after Real Salt Lake took the lead through Dominik Marczuk in the 36th minute.

Bangladesh slump to innings defeat in 2nd Test against Australia

Sports Desk

Bangladesh collapsed to an innings and 51-run defeat to Australia in the second Test inside two days to end the two-match Test series 1-1, a result that still would be dubbed historical in the country's cricket folklore. The visiting side was all out for 95 in the second innings in 38.2 overs, trailing by 51 runs to make Australia bat for the second time in the match and thereby conceded their fourth innings defeat against Australia at Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay today. Resuming the day at 165-8, Australia added 45 runs more to their overnight total to be all out for 210, taking a huge 146-run lead. That proved to be decisive as Bangladesh faltered in the second innings too, being dismissed below 100 just three balls after tea. Bangladesh were bowled out for 64 in the first innings, making it the first time in their history to be all out under 100 twice in a Test. And by doing so, they also became the first team in 21 years to be dismissed twice. The game saw just five completed sessions and 145 overs were played, making it the second-shortest Test ever played in Australia, while it's the fourth-shortest Test of all time. Amid all those, Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam inscribed his



name into the record book by finishing with 7-48 in Australia's only innings, making it the best figure by a Bangladesh pacer in their cricket history. Spin trio Taijul Islam, Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz were the three bowlers to take seven wickets in an innings for Bangladesh earlier, with Taijul occupying the best-ever figure of 8-39. Shoriful, who began the day with 6-35, completed the seven-for by taking out overnight batter Camron Green after he made team-best 67. But Nathan Lyon frustrated Bangladesh bowlers, batting with precision alongside Josh Hazlewood. The last-wicket pair added crucial 24 runs to take the lead to 146



Maresca says Man City must fill Rodri void after Barca switch

Sports Desk

Manchester City manager Enzo Maresca says the club must find a "new Rodri" after the departure of the influential midfielder to Barcelona this week. Rodri, a World Cup winner and Ballon d'Or recipient, ended a seven-year spell at the Etihad Stadium during which he helped City win four Premier League titles and the Champions League. His exit leaves a major gap in the squad Maresca inherited from Pep Guardiola, but the Italian is confident it can be filled. "I'll try to find a new Rodri - it is what it is," said Maresca. "Rodri, before he arrived here, he didn't win the Ballon d'Or, he didn't win the Champions League, he didn't win the Club World Cup. Then he joined the club and then after he achieved many important things. "Now the target for us is to try to find the new Rodri. "When David Silva was here, everyone was worried - Kevin (De Bruyne) arrived. When Sergio Aguero was here, everyone was worried - Erling (Haaland) arrived. When Ferdinand left, Rodri arrived. It's just about this. "When they leave, you need to be good and recruit the next one." Rodri's departure is one of several notable exits from City during the close season, with Bernardo Silva, John Stones, Nathan Ake and Tijjani Reijnders also leaving the club. Savinho is set to join Tottenham, potentially along with Omar Marmoush, and Nico Gonzalez could also depart before the transfer window closes. City's only major signing so far has been midfielder Elliot Anderson, but Maresca said he expected further additions before the deadline and insisted he was unconcerned by the scale of the squad overhaul. "Hopefully we can do the things that we need to do," Maresca said ahead of Sunday's Premier League opener against Bournemouth. "It doesn't help that there are players that for different reasons want to leave, this is for sure. "But we need to adapt and we don't want to keep players here that don't want to stay. "The normal thing in transfer windows is that you have to wait because all the clubs try to keep players until the last week and then sell for more money. "It's normal, I'm not worried about that. When the transfer window closes and we have all the squad there, for sure it will be different."

Bangladesh rise to 6th in Test rankings after Australia series draw

Sports Desk

Bangladesh achieved a historic milestone by rising to sixth place in the ICC Test rankings for the first time after a 1-1 Test series draw against Australia. Bangladesh won the first Test in Darwin by nine wickets before slumping to an innings and 51-run defeat in the second Test inside two days. Despite the humiliating outcome in the second Test, the overall result in Australia was pretty satisfying for a team, visiting here after 23 years. Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto hailed it as a big achievement, saying that they are keen to improve more in Test, dubbed as the elite format of cricket. "Alhamdulillah, I just came to know about it. Good news, definitely good news," Shanto said after the second Test in Mackay today. "Of course, we have come to number six for the first time in Test cricket. It is a big achievement." Citing the rankings update as positive for them, he said regular opportunities to play against top teams would help Bangladesh improve in challenging conditions. "I think we should be called. Whatever happens, if we are called, we will also know about these conditions, be able to take on these challenges and play good cricket, InshaAllah," he said, expressing hope that Bangladesh would be invited to Australia again. Shanto also admitted that the ranking achievement would have felt even better had Bangladesh produced a stronger performance in the second Test. "The good news would have been even better if we had played good cricket in this Test match," he said. The Bangladesh captain also revealed that he has a major ambition for the country's Test team, although he declined to disclose it. "Many people may not believe me when I talk about my dream of making the Test team, but it's very secret. I don't want to say it. If I ever achieve it, I will definitely say it," Shanto said. "But I have a very big dream."

Japan's Olympic figure skating heroes to wed

Sports Desk

Japan's Olympic figure skating pairs champions Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara announced their engagement on Sunday. Two-time world champions Miura, 24, and Kihara, 34, became media darlings after they won Japan's first Olympic pairs gold medals at the Milan-Cortina Games in Italy in February. They retired from competition in April. "We're engaged," the pair said in a statement. "Through both the happy times and the difficult ones, we've shared so many moments together, supporting each other every step of the way," they said. "Over time, we became irreplaceable parts of each other's lives." In February's Olympics, Miura and Kihara, popularly known in Japan as "Rikuryu", went into the decisive free skate in fifth place after errors in their short programme. They then stunned the world by topping the podium with personal-best scores, making them national heroes in Japan.

Pegula dethrones Swiatek to book Cincy final against Gauff

Sports Desk

Jessica Pegula rallied in the third set to topple defending champion Iga Swiatek and book a title showdown with Coco Gauff at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters. World number three Pegula won a "crazy" match against Swiatek 7-5, 4-6, 6-4. Gauff powered past giant-killer Sara Bejlek 6-4, 6-1, ending the unseeded Czech's dream run that included a fourth-round victory over world number one Aryna Sabalenka. Their all-American Sunday night final will a men's title clash featuring American Frances Tiafoe and Arthur Fils of France. Fils charged into his first Masters 1000 final with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over French Open runner-up Flavio Cobolli in a match delayed for 45 minutes by rain and lightning. Swiatek and Pegula then waited out another rain delay before their match, which was also briefly interrupted two games in. "Crazy match today," Pegula said after needing nearly three hours to subdue Swiatek, who was coming off her first title of 2026 in Toronto last week. "A lot of back and forth, a lot of breaks," she said, "Really windy, kind of odd conditions. I felt like we were playing well and then not playing well. "It was really tough to kind of get a



gauge on the match." The two rode a rollercoaster of breaks and re-breaks before Pegula took a 5-4 lead in the final set, Swiatek saving three break points before double-faulting on a fourth. Pegula quickly closed it out, firing a service winner on match point. "I was just really happy with the way I was able to kind of handle just a lot that was going on today," the 31-year-old American said. "I did a good job of no matter what was happening." The first five games of what evolved into an epic went against the server as Pegula and Swiatek struggled to adjust to the conditions. Swiatek blinked first as Pegula held at love for a 4-2 lead, but Swiatek won the next three games before Pegula broke again, finally taking the set when Swiatek smacked a volley into the net on set point. They had exchanged two breaks in the second when Swiatek broke in the final game to square the match. Swiatek leaves for the US Open starting on August 30 with a good feeling about her game despite the defeat. "We made some steps forward in this intensive part of the season," the six-time Grand Slam champion said. "It was tough to play today with the wind, but we each put pressure on the other. I didn't feel good in the first set but coming back in the second and using all of my chances was a good change."



Rotten Sweets, Burnt Oil, and Cockroaches, 4 Chittagong Outlets Fined Tk 40 Lakh.

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Rancid sweets, chips prepared in unhygienic conditions, reused burnt oil, spoiled spices, and widespread cockroach infestations—a dire picture of health risks has been uncovered inside several well-known cafes, bakeries, and super shops in the port city of Chittagong. The Pure Food Court slapped a collective fine of Tk 40 lakh on four prominent establishments for food adulteration, selling expired products, and operating in severely unsanitary conditions. Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mustafa of the Pure Food Court delivered the verdict on Saturday (August 22) following summary judicial proceedings. According to raid inspection records: Flavours Sweets & Bakery: Fined a maximum of Tk 19 lakh after inspectors found stale and rotten sweet remnants, expired cakes and biscuits, low-grade ghee, and pest-

infested nuts. The outlet staff also attempted to obstruct the court's inspection team by locking several rooms and freezers. Meridian Food Products Limited: Penalized Tk 10 lakh after officials discovered severe cockroach infestations and the use of insect-ridden mango pulp alongside repeatedly burnt oil to manufacture chips and savory snacks (nimki). Utsab Super Shop: Slapped with a Tk 10 lakh fine for stocking expired momos, spoiled spices, unlabeled merchandise, and storing meat in filthy conditions. Rio Cafe-Mazaydar: Handed a Tk 1 lakh penalty for operating without mandatory registration and selling stale food. Mohammad Farhan Islam, an official from the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, stated that such special drives against unhygienic practices will continue regularly to ensure public health and food safety standards.

BGB training to create alternative employment for people in Rajshahi border area



Rajshahi Correspondent

A month-long training programme on livestock and poultry rearing has started in Godagari, Rajshahi, to create alternative employment and make people in the border area self-reliant. The training was inaugurated this morning at the hall room of Matikata Union Parishad in the upazila. The training has been organized on the initiative of the Border Technical and Employment Training Center under the management of Rajshahi 1 BGB Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Riaz Shahriar, Commander of Rajshahi 1 BGB Battalion chaired the inaugural ceremony while Godagari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Israt Jahan

and local dignitaries and concerned officials were present. 20 people, including 11 women, from the border area are participating in the month-long training. The programme include both theoretical and practical training on modern methods of livestock and poultry rearing, selection of improved breeds, feeding and care, disease prevention, breeding, farm management, and marketing of produced goods. Lieutenant Colonel Riaz Shahriar said through this training, participants will create opportunities for self-employment and grow as entrepreneurs. He expressed hope that other youths of Godagari will also be inspired by them. He said BGB is conducting various types of technical and employment-oriented training programmes for the people of the border areas. In the future, if there is interest from trainees and government cooperation, there is also a plan to establish a permanent training center, he added. After completing the training, participants will be able to set up farms on their own initiative for income generation.

Angry farmers in Kurigram break into dealer's warehouse, 'loot' urea they had paid for

Kurigram Correspondent

A number of farmers allegedly broke into a fertiliser dealer's warehouse and took away 197 sacks of urea in Bhurungamari upazila of Kurigram district on Sunday amid fears of a shortage. A group of farmers stormed into the Shah Amanat dealer point in Shilkhuri Union around 11 am and took away around 9,850 kg of urea in 197 sacks, each weighing 50 kg. On information, police rushed in and asked the farmers to return the fertiliser. So far, 33 farmers have returned 33 sacks, while efforts are underway to recover the remaining fertiliser. Sources said dealer Taifur Rahman Mukul of M/s Shah Amanat Traders had stocked 340 sacks out of 1,320 sacks of urea allocated to him. More than 200 farmers gathered at the dealer point on Sunday morning to collect fertiliser. However, the dealer allegedly kept them waiting for a long time without opening the outlet and failed to supply fertiliser despite farmers having paid for it. As frustration grew, the farmers feared they would not receive fertiliser and broke open the warehouse door and took away the sacks, sources said. Azimuddin, Officer-in-Charge of Bhurungamari Police Station, said the demand for urea in the union was around 4,000 sacks, against an allocation of only 1,320 sacks, while the amount actually lifted by the dealer was even lower. "The dealer's delay in supplying fertiliser according to the farmers' demand led to the



unpleasant incident," he said. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, he said, adding that efforts were continuing to recover the remaining fertiliser. However, Upazila Agriculture Officer Abdul Jabbar denied that there was any shortage of fertiliser in the upazila. He said the monthly demand for urea in the upazila was 680 tonnes and the entire amount had been allocated, with distribution underway. "There is no fertiliser shortage in the upazila. The incident occurred due to misunderstanding and panic among the farmers. We are urging everyone to remain patient," he said. However, dealer Taifur Rahman Mukul could not be reached as his mobile phone was found switched off. Bhurungamari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Amrit Debnath said some people had spread panic, prompting farmers to break into the warehouse and take away fertiliser. "Some of the fertiliser has been recovered and efforts are underway to recover the rest. Necessary legal action will be taken following an on-the-spot investigation," he said.

Three arrested with firearm and ammunition in Jashore

Jahore Correspondent

The district Detective Branch (DB) of police in a drive arrested three alleged criminals with a firearm and ammunition from Bagmara area of Abhaynagar upazila of the district last night. The arrested were identified as Al Amin Sheikh, 28, Md. Billal Khan, 36, and Md. Juel Gazi, 30. Acting on a tip-off, a DB team conducted an operation at Halimer Mor in Chalishia Bagmara village around 8.45 pm on Friday. The DB team initially arrested Al Amin Sheikh and Billal Khan. At that time, in the presence of residents, police recovered a locally made single-shot gun and two bullets from Al Amin's possession. Based on information provided by the two detainees, police later conducted another operation and arrested Juel Gazi, and three motorcycles were seized from his possession.



3 Youth Jailed for Consuming Alcohol, Marijuana in Fatikchhari.

Jahangir Alam Staff Reporter

A mobile court in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, has sentenced three youths to various terms of imprisonment and fined them for disturbing public peace after consuming country-made liquor and marijuana. The court passed the order after they were detained during raids in the Bagan Bazar Union and Nazirhat Municipality areas on Saturday night (August 22). The convicts have been identified as Laxman Dey (37), son of the late Dharendra from the Puran Ramgarh area of Bagan Bazar Union; Md. Arafat (26), son of Abul Monsur; and Afaj Mia (22), son of Noor Alam, both residents of Nazirhat Municipality. According to sources at the Upazila administration, a joint operation was conducted by Fatikchhari Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Md. Rahmat Ullah with the assistance of Bhujpur Police Station. The three were caught red-handed while causing public nuisance under the influence of drugs. Subsequently, the mobile court, conducted under Section 36(5) of the Narcotics Control Act 2018, sentenced each of them to 15 days of non-rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Tk 100. Following the operation, Executive Magistrate Md. Rahmat Ullah stated that the upazila administration will maintain a strict stance to curb the drug menace and uphold law and order. He added that such drive-by operations will continue regularly in the public interest to build a drug-free Fatikchhari.

Loadshedding worsens plight of over 200 children hospitalised in Jhenaidah

Jhenaidah Correspondent

Over 200 children have been admitted to two hospitals in Jhenaidah with symptoms of pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles amid scorching heat and sudden weather changes, putting the local healthcare system under severe strain. The situation has been further aggravated by frequent loadshedding, leaving sick children struggling in sweltering hospital wards without adequate ventilation, said witnesses and patients' relatives. At the 250-bed Jhenaidah General Hospital, 197 children are currently receiving treatment in the pediatric ward which has only 46 beds, said Jahangir Hossain, the hospital's statistics officer. Of them, 80 children are suffering from pneumonia, 97 from diarrhea and viral infections while another 20 have been admitted with symptoms of measles. The situation is also critical at the city's 25-bed Specialised Children's Hospital where 21 more children are being treated with symptoms of measles and pneumonia. With beds unavailable at the general hospital, many children are receiving treatment on the floor, verandas and passageways, said relatives of patients. Relatives of patients said frequent power outages are making the situation even more difficult amid the intense heat. When fans stop working, children suffering from fever and breathing difficulties become restless while mothers use hand fans to provide some relief in the NCUs and pediatric wards. Pediatrician Dr Anwarul Islam of Jhenaidah General Hospital said cases of pneumonia and diarrhea normally increase during seasonal transitions but the number of affected children is considerably higher this year. "Children are falling sick quickly because they are struggling to adjust to the extreme heat and sudden changes in weather," he said, adding that children from rural areas appeared to be particularly affected. He also expressed concern over overcrowding in the hospital, saying the number of patients is already far beyond the available beds, while excessive numbers of relatives and visitors are increasing the risk of infection.



Tree Plantation at Fakirhat Kazi Azhar Ali College

S A Kalam, Fakirhat, Bagerha.

A tree plantation programme has been conducted at the historic Kazi Azhar Ali College in Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat to create awareness among students about environmental conservation, increasing greenery, and the importance of tree planting. In line with the directives of the Office of the Deputy Director of Secondary and Higher Education, Khulna Region, various species of fruit, timber, and medicinal saplings were planted in the college premises as part of the nationwide initiative to plant 2.5 billion trees over five years. On Sunday (23 August) afternoon, the acting principal, Mohd. Abdur Rakib, inaugurated the tree plantation programme by planting saplings. At this time, the college's teachers, staff, and students participated spontaneously. Acting Principal Mohd. Abdur Rakib said, "There is no alternative to tree planting for



maintaining environmental balance, combating the adverse effects of climate change, and building a green and habitable world. It is not enough to just plant trees; everyone must also be aware of the proper care of the planted trees to help them grow." He further stated that in accordance with government directives, such activities will continue in the future to enrich the college's green environment and increase environmental awareness among students.

4 women held with 11 kg of ganja in Lalmonirhat

Bagerhat Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 23, 2026 (BSS) - Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-13 in an anti-drug drive arrested four alleged female drug dealers with 11 kg of ganja from Kakina Zero Point area under Kaliganj police station in Lalmonirhat district on Saturday afternoon. The arrestees are Roksana, 40, of the Alamnagar Muslimpara area and Rawshanara, 37, and Moni, 35, of the Nowpara Rail Gate area in Rangpur city and Marjina, 45, of the Gopal area under Kawnia police station in Rangpur, a press release said today. On a tip-off, an operational team of RAB-13 from Rangpur Sadar conducted a raid at Kakina Zero Point intersection under Kaliganj police station in Lalmonirhat, seized 11 kg of ganja and arrested the three women from the spot at 4:30 pm. Initial interrogation revealed that the arrested persons have been involved in the drug trade for a long time. After filing a case against the arrested persons in this incident, the elite force handed over the seized evidence along with the arrested women to Kaliganj police station for further legal action.



Three get life-term jail in housewife murder case in Cumilla

Cumilla Correspondent

A court here today sentenced three members of a family to life imprisonment for the murder of a housewife in Nangalkot upazila of the district in 2005. The convicts are victim's father-in-law Abdul Momin, mother-in-law Fatema Begum and brother-in-law Md. Nizam, residents of Chupua village of the upazila. The court also fined each of them Taka 20,000, with an additional six months in prison if they fail to pay the fine. Judge Md. Shamsul Alam of the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Fourth Court pronounced the verdict. All three convicts were present in the courtroom during the delivery of judgment. Mariam's husband Abdul Matin, who was also accused in the case, was acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence. According to the case documents and the prosecution, Mariam Begum was killed on the night of September 24, 2005, following a family dispute at Chupua village in Nangalkot. The following day, her father Soleman filed a murder case with Nangalkot Police Station accusing four people. During the lengthy trial, the prosecution examined 12 witnesses. After reviewing the testimony and other evidence, the court found three of the accused guilty and handed down the verdict. Additional Public Prosecutor Md. Ikram Hossain confirmed the verdict.



Calls for Responsible Role of Social Organizations Alongside the Government

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

Chattogram Divisional Social Services Office Director Mohammad Shahidul Islam has called upon social organizations to play a responsible role alongside the government in implementing various initiatives undertaken for the socio-economic development of the people. Director Mohammad Shahidul Islam visited the Sitakunda Upazila Social Services Office at 10:00 am on Sunday (August 23). During the visit, leaders of the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation paid a courtesy call on him. Among those present were Sitakunda Upazila Social Services Officer Lutfun Nessa Begum; President of the Upazila Social Welfare Federation Lion Md. Gias Uddin; Joint General Secretary MOH Kaiyum; Information Technology and Research Affairs Secretary Md. Sohel; Agriculture, Forest and Environment Affairs Secretary Master Iqbal Hossain; Tourism and Recreation Affairs Secretary Mohammad Akter Hossain Mamun; Cultural and Sports Secretary Architect Shahidul Islam; Executive Members Abu Jafar Mohammad Sadeq, Md. Omar Faruk

and Md. Abu Taher, along with officials and employees of the Social Services Office. On behalf of the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation, Director Mohammad Shahidul Islam was welcomed with flowers. During the meeting, federation leaders informed the director that, as part of the government's tree-planting program to protect environmental balance and address the impacts of climate change, the Sitakunda Upazila Social Welfare Federation has already planted and distributed 50,000 saplings through 300 organizations and institutions. The leaders also briefed the director on the federation's various social, humanitarian and environment-friendly activities. Appreciating the organization's ongoing initiatives, Mohammad Shahidul Islam advised the federation to continue its public welfare activities. He said social organizations can play an important role as a supportive force of the government in serving the people. Through collective efforts, it is possible to improve the living standards of disadvantaged communities and build a beautiful, humane and environmentally friendly society.