



PM for reviving girls’ stipends to curb dropout, child marriage

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday asked the authorities concerned to assess the feasibility of reintroducing universal stipends for female students from Class VI to the undergraduate level. He gave the directive at a meeting of the Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Trust at the Cabinet Division at the Secretariat this afternoon, said PM’s Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadin. The meeting stressed preparing

a clear proposal analysing the possible cost, number of beneficiaries, implementation mechanism, and expected social and educational impacts of reinstating the universal stipend programme for girls. The Prime Minister was also briefed in detail about the ongoing activities, objectives and goals of the Education Assistance Trust, including its role in preventing dropout by providing financial assistance to students throughout their educational journey. The meeting also discussed providing

stipends to boys based on merit and eligibility to encourage them to continue their education. The meeting reviewed the impact and achievements of the universal stipend programme for girls introduced during the tenure of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. However, the programme had a positive impact on girls’ school attendance and retention in education, while also helping discourage child marriage, Shahadat said, quoting ♦ see page 2

Minister Annie to Visit Feni Today to Inspect Flood Embankments

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

State Minister for Water Resources Md. Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie is arriving in Feni on a scheduled visit tomorrow, Tuesday (August 25), to inspect the real condition of the region’s long-dilapidated and damaged flood control embankments. According to the ministry’s itinerary, this will mark his first official visit to Feni after assuming office as minister. During the visit, he will depart at 10:30 AM to inspect the vital project titled ‘Rehabilitation of Muhuri-Kahua Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project (Phase-1)’ and is scheduled to reach the project site directly at 11:00 AM.

Local sources revealed that every year during the monsoon season, heavy rainfall causes the Muhuri and Kahua rivers to overflow, inundating residential areas across Feni. Due to the absence of sustainable embankments, homes, agricultural lands, and road infrastructure suffer extensive damage, subjecting thou-

sands of residents to severe hardship. Consequently, the affected locals are pinning their hopes on the new Water Resources Minister’s visit for a permanent solution.



Meanwhile, regarding the minister’s arrival and preparations, Feni District BNP Member Secretary Alal Uddin Alal stated that the minister’s visit serves as a clear indication of the Honorable Prime Minister’s upcoming tour of Feni. Expressing his optimism, he said, “This will be the Prime Minister’s first formal visit to her maternal home district, Feni, after being elected. We hope that after assessing the ground reality, the Water Resources Minister will take swift action to address the long-standing fundamental demands of Feni residents, including durable flood control embankments, a proposed medical college, and the Lalpool flyover.” Local conscious citizens hope that the minister’s visit will play a positive role in accelerating the ongoing embankment repair works and formulating a blueprint for a permanent solution in Feni.

Xi Jinping congratulates Mirza Fakhru

Staff Correspondent

Chinese President Xi Jinping has congratulated Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on his inauguration as 23rd President of Bangladesh, expressing readiness to work with him to further deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. In a congratulatory message, Xi said China and Bangladesh are neighbours enjoying a long-standing friendship and their bilateral relations have withstood the test of changing international circumstances. Over the past 51 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have always respected and treated each other as equals, supported each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, and pursued their paths towards modernisation hand in hand, he said. Xi expressed his readiness to work with President Mirza Fakhru to carry forward the traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication and enhance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. The Chinese ♦ see page 2



President seeks Saudi support amid global energy crisis

Staff Correspondent

President Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Monday sought Saudi Arabia’s continued support for Bangladesh amid the ongoing global energy crisis and stressed the need to increase bilateral trade and investment at both government and private-sector levels. The President sought the support when Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Zafar H Bin Abiyah paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. During the meeting, the Saudi envoy conveyed congratulations to the President on behalf of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. President’s Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam briefed reporters after the meeting. The President also sought Saudi cooperation to make the journeys of Bangladeshi Hajj

pilgrims more convenient and reduce their hardships, particularly by improving bathing and toilet facilities at Mina, said Sarwar Alam. The Saudi ambassador assured the President that necessary measures would be taken in this regard. Noting that more than 3.5 million Bangladeshis are working in Saudi Arabia, President Fakhru expressed gratitude to the Saudi government and urged it to continue giving priority to recruiting manpower from Bangladesh in the future. Through the Saudi Ambassador, the President also invited King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time. The President described Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia relations as excellent and emphasised the need to further strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation. He praised the leadership of the ♦ see page 2



CEC expects better local government elections than previous ones

Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin Monday expressed the hope of holding better local government elections than previous ones despite various challenges. “There is no shortage in the Election Commission’s preparations. There is no scope for going below the standard set by our previous election. Rather, we will improve it further if possible,” he said. The CEC added: “We are now hoping that with everyone’s

cooperation, we will be able to hold a good election without any difficulty.” Nasir Uddin made the remarks while responding to a question from a journalist after attending an Excel Executive Leadership Dialogue on ‘Strategic Leadership for Bangladesh’s Local Government Elections’ in the city’s Agargaon area this afternoon. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) organised the dialogue at the Election Training Institute (ETI) here. Other election commissioners, ♦ see page 2

Cabinet approves draft law expanding APBn policing

Staff Correspondent

The Cabinet Monday approved a draft law proposing expanded authorities of Armed Police Battalion (APBn), empowering it to combat terrorism, human and drug trafficking and rape. A cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave the final approval to the proposed Armed Police Battalion (APBn) Act 2026 empowering the unit with some extra authorities by scrapping an ordinance framed in 1979 to form the special police unit. The meeting was the 18th of the incumbent cabinet, held at the Cabinet Division conference room at Bangladesh Secretariat this afternoon. According to a Cabinet Division statement, the Home Ministry drafted the proposed law aimed to make the unit more people-friendly ♦ see page 2



Four Members of Same Family in Rangpur Strangled to Death, Faces Disfigured Due to Decomposition Autopsy Doctor

Mohinul Islam Sujon. Crime Reporter

Four members of the same family in Machuapara area of Rangpur city were strangled to death, according to the doctor who conducted their autopsies. The fluid found near the victims’ faces was not caused by any chemical or chemical burn. Rather, the changes in the color and appearance of their faces were the result of the natural decomposition process of the bodies, said Bablu Kumar Biswas, Assistant Professor of the Forensic Department and the autopsy doctor. On Monday (August 24), Bablu Kumar Biswas said that when a dead body begins to decompose, the exposed parts of the body that remain outside clothing often become dark in

color. He said the changes observed on the victims’ faces were also due to this natural process and were not caused by any chemical burn. He said, “It is true that the faces appeared dark. There is no denying that. But this happens during the decomposition process. As the blood and body tissues begin to decompose, their color gradually changes. It is simply a natural part of decomposition. There were no signs of any chemical burn.” Regarding the cause of death, Bablu Kumar Biswas said, “They were killed by strangulation. There may have been some minor injuries in different parts of the bodies due to a struggle. Apart from that, nothing else was found.” Earlier, after the bodies of the four family members ♦ see page 2

Salam Talukder always spoke the truth: Moyeen

Staff Correspondent

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan Monday said former BNP secretary general and former minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder always spoke what he believed to be right, regardless of what others might think. He made the remarks at a discussion and doa mahfil organized marking the 27th death anniversary of Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) here this afternoon. Dr Moyeen Khan said, “I learned one particular thing from him, which I would like to share with you—he always spoke the truth. He never considered what others might think or not think. I also try to follow that particular quality of him.” “When we saw Salam Talukder as the secretary general of the party, we came to know his personality, wisdom and excellence. It was from him that we learned our lessons in politics,” he said. Dr Moyeen Khan said ♦ see page 2



High Court Modifies Verdict in Nusrat Murder Case: Death Penalty Upheld for 2, Life Term for 4, 10 Acquitted

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The High Court has partially modified the trial court verdict in the sensational Nusrat Jahan Rafi murder case in Sonagazi, Feni. Out of the 16 defendants sentenced to death by the lower court, the High Court upheld the death penalty for 2 convicts, commuted the sentence of 4 to life imprisonment, and acquitted the remaining 10. A High Court bench comprising Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty and Justice K. M. Rasheduzzaman Raja delivered the judgment on Monday (August 24) after concluding hearings on the death reference and the appeals filed by the convicts. According to the case records, Nusrat’s mother, Shirin Akhtar, filed a case on March 27, 2019, alleging sexual harassment by Siraj Ud

Doula, the principal of Sonagazi Islamia Fazil Madrasa. Police subsequently arrested the principal. Nusrat faced continuous pressure to withdraw the case, but she refused to yield. In retaliation, on April 6, 2019, when Nusrat went to the madrasa to sit for her Alim examinations, she was lured to the roof of a cyclone shelter in a pre-meditated plan and set on fire. Suffering severe burns, she succumbed to her injuries on April 10 while undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Following the incident, Nusrat’s brother, Mahmudul Hasan Noman, filed a case with Sonagazi Police Station. Upon investigation, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) pressed charges against 16 individuals. On October 24, 2019, the ♦ see page 2

Bangladesh views Mecca Defence Pact positively

Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir Monday said Bangladesh views positively the “Mecca Defence Pact” involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey, noting that Dhaka’s participation in such an initiative among Islamic nations would not be unusual. “We have expressed interest in the Mecca Defence Pact. So, if something happens in the Middle East, like a security pact among Islamic nations, it isn’t unusual to participate. Let’s see. ♦ see page 2



HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Acting Editor



Md. Neyamul Hossain
Acting Editor

THE Daily Bangla © Sky Newspaper
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Politics should ensure women’s equal participation

Women’s political participation remains unequal and fraught with challenges. The extent of the struggle is evident when a minister of state, one of the seven women elected in the latest national elections, says that women’s political participation is riddled with obstacles. The minister, along with other young politicians at a programme on August 22, talked about how patriarchal structure and perception, financial constraints, family responsibilities, physical, sexual and technology-driven violence and the overall lack of safety combine to create barriers for women. The participants expressed concern about the violence and targeted harassment that they face for their political participation. In the run-up to the 2026 elections, women campaigners and candidates faced physical intimidation and harassment. Three women campaigners supporting the Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidate in Bhola were reportedly injured in an attack on a campaign while women’s groups raised broad concern about physical and digital violence against women candidates and voters. In 2025, women candidates in student union elections in various public universities repeatedly filed complaints of online harassment and character assassination against their opponents. Taken together, the issues point to a persistent gap between formal constitutional commitments and the realities that continue to limit women’s meaningful participation in national politics.

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In mainstream political parties, there are inherent patriarchal biases that hinder women’s participation in leadership and policy-making roles. The July charter, the latest expression of national political aspirations that gained legitimacy through a public referendum, obliges all signatory parties to nominate at least 5 per cent of seats to women in the national elections. In reality, women’s participation in the elections remained extremely limited, with only 78 women contesting out of 1,981 candidates, about 3.93 per cent of the total. At least 30 political parties, including the opposition Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, did not nominate any women candidate. The ruling party nominated 10 women, but it fell short of the expectations set out in its charter. In recent months, it has reconstituted some of its affiliated organisations. Even within the reconstituted bodies, women remain significantly under-represented. The hostile language and vilification of women during the July charter process expose a political culture that systematically disadvantages women, making low representation almost inevitable. In this context, preventing gender-based violence and discrimination requires more than formal government commitment. It demands sustained institutional action. The primary responsibility for ensuring greater participation of women in politics, however, rests with political parties. Both the ruling and the opposition party must address their internal hierarchy and entrenched resistance to women’s leadership. The parliament, in turn, must reform the legal and financial architecture of elections so that political competition is not structurally skewed against women.

PM for reviving girls’

the meeting. The meeting also placed equal emphasis on students’ nutrition and health protection alongside improving the quality of education. It discussed in detail various aspects of managing school-level mid-day meal programmes, ensuring nutritional quality, and preparing and supplying safe food for children. The Prime Minister stressed that food supplied to students must be nutritious, safe and of high quality, and that there should be no compromise on the issue. Shahadat said the meeting discussed two alternative approaches to implementing the mid-day meal programme, considering cost, management efficiency, local-level participation and food quality control. The Prime Minister directed that pilot projects of the two approaches be launched in two separate districts to assess their effectiveness, feasibility and potential outcomes. Education Minister Dr. ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Education and Spokesperson Mahdi Amin, Education Secretary Abdul Khaleque, Prime Minister’s Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman and relevant officials attended the meeting.

Xi Jinping congratulates

President also stressed expanding exchanges and cooperation across various sectors to further advance the China-Bangladesh community with a shared future in the new era. He hoped such cooperation would continue to deepen and deliver tangible outcomes, bringing greater benefits to the peoples of the two countries.

President seeks Saudi

Saudi king and the crown prince and conveyed his best wishes for their efforts for the welfare of the Muslim Ummah. The Saudi Ambassador, in turn, assured the President of continued Saudi support in the areas of energy, assistance and investment. It was the first meeting between President Mirza Fakhrul and a foreign diplomat since he assumed office. The President’s Secretary, Military Secretary, Press Secretary and senior government officials and employees were present at the meeting.

PM to open Cox’s Bazar

foreign airlines have already expressed interest in operating flights from the country’s premier tourist destination. He said initiatives have been taken to launch direct international flights from Cox’s Bazar through communication and coordination with international airlines. Referring to the Third Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), the minister said the government is moving ahead with preparations to make the terminal operational in December. “We are moving forward with the target of making the terminal operational in December. Necessary preparations are underway to this end,” he said. Millat said an agreement with the Japanese consortium for the Third Terminal will be signed next month. Once operational, he said, the Third Terminal will further enhance HSIA’s capacity and improve the quality of passenger services, helping ensure international-standard services at the country’s main international gateway. During the meeting, ATJFB President Tanzim Anwar congratulated Millat on behalf of the organisation on assuming his ministerial responsibility. ATJFB General Secretary Baten Biplob and other members of the organisation were present, among others.

CEC expects better local

the Senior Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat and senior officials of the EC were present at the event.

Women’s safety or a new unwritten boundary?

Md. Neyamul Hossain

This is where the conversation around pink buses becomes particularly important. A separate bus service for women can, on the surface, certainly be a positive initiative. Safe, comfortable, and harassment-free transportation can make mobility easier for women. Many women may feel safer and more at ease travelling on

Reports of women being refused entry onto regular public buses, whether made in jest or whether such a practice is beginning to emerge, are not something to simply laugh off. Every day, countless women in Dhaka travel by bus to offices, universities, schools, and for countless other reasons. For them, getting on a bus is never simply about travelling from one place to another. It involves the pressure of reaching somewhere on time, concerns about safety, the struggle to find a place in a crowded vehicle, and countless small and large discomforts that have become part of everyday life. Consider the experience of one such woman a reflection of what many others go through. She takes public buses to work every day. One day, she raises her hand as a bus approaches. The bus stops. But as she tries to get on, she is told, “There are no seats.” She replies, “That’s okay. I can stand.” Yet the response is, “If we take you, we will have to take fewer male passengers.” Sometimes, even after getting on the bus, a male passenger sitting nearby may complain, “it becomes difficult to stand when women get on.” But that woman is a citizen of the same city. She too needs to reach her office at a particular time. She too needs to get home at the end of the day. And she may have no other alternative. The question is simple: Why is a woman standing considered a problem when a man standing is treated as perfectly normal? On Dhaka’s regular public buses, there are seats designated for women. But the reality is that these seats are often located beside the engine. Sitting there amid intense heat, noise, fumes, and discomfort can be physically difficult. Yet women sit there because those are the seats “designated for women.” But when a woman chooses not to sit beside the engine and instead takes a relatively more comfortable seat, questions are raised: “Why are you sitting there? That is a men’s seat.” Sometimes, it feels as though all the remaining seats on a bus are informally reserved for men, while the few designated seats for women constitute the entirety of a woman’s entitlement to public transportation.



such buses. But an important question remains: In creating special facilities for women, is there a risk of unintentionally pushing them away from the public facilities they are equally entitled to use? If pink buses are available, could women gradually be made to feel that boarding a regular bus is somehow “unusual”? Today, someone may jokingly say, “There are pink buses for women.” But what happens tomorrow if a bus worker actually starts believing that refusing a female passenger is somehow justified because a separate service exists? Creating a separate arrangement for women must not, at the same time, shrink their rights on regular public transportation. A similar dynamic can already be observed in the case of women-only compartments on the metro rail. Dedicated compartments have undoubtedly created an addi-

tional option for safety and comfort, and that is a positive development. But the problem arises when a woman cannot get into the designated compartment and chooses to board another one. Sometimes, she may hear, “There is a women’s compartment.” But if a woman chooses to stand in another compartment because it is more convenient for her, is she actually breaking any rule? Having a designated space and losing the right to use other spaces are not the same thing. Special facilities should not replace rights; they should make exercising those rights safer and easier. That distinction is crucial. Safety, but not separation. Why would a woman want a pink bus? Because she wants to get home without harassment. Because she wants to stand in a crowded bus without the fear of unwanted physical contact. Because she does not want to be refused entry simply because she is a woman. Because she wants the journey home at the end of a long workday to be a journey not another battle. But that same woman also wants to be able to board a regular public bus as an ordinary passenger. She does not want her gender to determine the extent of her right to move around her own city. Therefore, rather than questioning whether pink buses are necessary, the more important question is: Why has such a system become necessary in the first place? If the regular public transportation system is safe, respectful, and accessible to everyone regardless of gender, then a dedicated women’s bus can simply be an additional option. But if women continue to face obstacles when boarding regular buses, standing inside them, or occupying seats, then pink buses do not solve the underlying problem. They merely provide an alternative route around it. A city should not reach a point where the solution to women’s safety is simply to separate women. Ultimately, Dhaka needs a public transportation system where a woman does not have to wonder: “Which bus will actually let me get on today?” Instead, she should be able to think: “Whichever bus arrives, I can board it as a passenger.” Because safe mobility is not a privilege.

High Court Modifies

Feni Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal sentenced all 16 accused to death along with a fine of Tk 1 lakh each. The case documents were subsequently sent to the High Court for death reference approval, alongside appeals lodged by the convicts. A special bench set up by the Chief Justice began proceedings on June 14, and after 17 working days of hearings starting July 28, the High Court delivered its final verdict yesterday.

Bangladesh views Mecca

It’s being viewed positively,” he told reporters at the foreign ministry this afternoon. The newly appointed state minister said Bangladesh has emerged as a country receiving growing recognition, with stakeholders in the Middle East and elsewhere showing increasing interest in engaging with Dhaka. “They are inviting the leadership of Bangladesh, particularly Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, to come and participate,” he said. Referring to Bangladesh’s longstanding ties with Saudi Arabia and the significance of the holy city to the country’s predominantly Muslim population, Kobir said: “Mecca is in the heart of Bangladesh and in the hearts of the people.” The state minister made the remarks while interacting with journalists on his first working day at the foreign ministry after assuming his new responsibility. Kobir, who previously served as the Prime Minister’s Adviser on Foreign Affairs, said Bangladesh’s foreign policy had entered a new phase, with the government now seeking to deepen bilateral and multilateral relations and enhance the country’s visibility and influence globally. He said the government had developed a strategic framework for Bangladesh’s foreign policy over the past six months and would now roll out its engagements from that foundation. The state minister said the new phase would focus on adding greater substance to Bangladesh’s bilateral and multilateral relationships while taking the country’s international visibility and influence to new heights. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed a defence agreement under which an attack on one of the three countries would be considered an attack on all, according to reports.

Govt to be more efficient with AI use: Zabihullah

Staff Correspondent

Public Administration Adviser and BNP Standing Committee member Md. Ismail Zabihullah has said the government will become more efficient through the use of artificial intelligence (AI), making citizen services easier and more accessible. “Artificial intelligence is extremely important at the present time. Through its use, the government will be able to take decisions more efficiently and quickly, reduce administrative complexities and improve citizen services,” he said. He made the remarks while addressing the closing and certificate distribution ceremony of a five-day training programme titled “Strategic Use of AI Tools and Cyber Security for PMO Officials” Monday. The training was jointly organised by the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the Prime Minister’s Office and the ICT Division under the Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) project. Zabihullah said AI will play an important role in developing skilled human resources, expanding opportunities for research and innovation to build a knowledge-based economy, and increasing productivity to remain competitive in the global market.



Rohingya crisis nears 10 yrs as repatriation remains elusive

Staff Correspondent

The Rohingya crisis is set to enter its 10th year with not a single Rohingya refugee having been repatriated to Myanmar through an official process, as Bangladesh reiterated that the only sustainable solution lies in their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homeland in Rakhine.

"The Rohingya crisis requires genuinely coordinated international architecture. No single actor can resolve this crisis," a senior government official told UNB.

In August 2017, Myanmar security forces launched a sweeping campaign of killings, rape and arson against Rohingyas in northern Rakhine State, forcing more than 700,000 people to flee across the border into Bangladesh. Bangladesh is now hosting more than 1.3 million Rohingyas, primarily in Cox's Bazar, with a smaller number relocated to Bhasan Char. Bangladesh has repeatedly stressed that resolving the protracted Rohingya crisis is both a political and moral responsibility of the international community,

warning that the country cannot be left to shoulder the burden alone. Dhaka has urged Myanmar to expedite the verification of displaced Rohingyas in line with agreed bilateral instruments, including by taking into account children born in the refugee camps as well as those who arrived after 2017 following renewed displacement from Rakhine. Myanmar's military-backed government recently said more than 300,000 Rohingya refugees currently living in Bangladesh are former residents of

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South Chattogram to get faster rail connectivity with dual-gauge upgrade



Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Railway has launched a project to convert the 59.93-kilometre Chattogram-Dohazari railway line to dual gauge, aiming to improve connectivity between Chattogram Port and the country's northern, western and central regions. The upgrade will allow both metre-gauge and broad-gauge trains to operate

on the same track, reducing travel time and transportation costs while increasing the capacity of the rail network. Project officials said the improved rail link would facilitate faster movement of goods from Chattogram Port, ease pressure on roads and create new opportunities for industry, agriculture, trade and tourism in southern Chattogram.

As part of the project, existing bridges, culverts, drainage systems, stations, platforms, loop lines, level crossings, signalling and telecommunications systems will also be upgraded. Safety infrastructure will be strengthened as well.

Local residents, however, have raised concerns about land acquisition, waterlogging, noise pollution

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Health minister orders formation of committee to prevent, control infections

Staff Correspondent

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Sakhawat Husain has asked the authorities concerned to constitute a committee to look into the measures of infection prevention and control of diseases.

He gave the directive while speaking at a seminar on infection prevention and control at the National Burn Institute in the city Monday. "We cannot rely solely on antibiotics to treat infections. Greater importance must be given to infection prevention," the minister said.

"To prevent major diseases and infections, we have to work consistently. Besides, everybody must be made aware about this issue," he added.

Speaking at the seminar, Prime Minister's Special Assistant SM Ziauddin Hyder said there is no alternative to improving hospital cleanliness alongside personal hygiene to prevent infections.

He stressed on bringing private hospitals alongside government hospitals under the proper waste management.

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Rabiul pledges to halve road accident deaths by 2030

Staff Correspondent

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam has pledged to halve the number of deaths from road accidents in the country by 2030. "The government is working in a coordinated manner to ensure road safety. To achieve this goal, emphasis is being placed on driver training, ensuring vehicle fitness, raising public awareness, controlling excessive speeds, encouraging helmet use and ensuring prompt medical treatment after accidents," he said. The minister said this while inaugurating a programme to provide ambulances to assist in post-accident rescue operations at the Roads and Highways

Department headquarters in Tejgaon in the capital Monday.

Referring to World Bank financing for the road safety project, he said various initiatives have been taken to ensure road safety with assistance from the Bangladesh government and the World Bank. Government funding is also involved in implementing the project, he added. He said money spent on such projects, which are funded with public money, must be used properly to ensure visible results in establishing safer roads. Road accidents are an extremely alarming issue in Bangladesh. Around 5,000 people are killed in road accidents every year, he added. Referring to data showing

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Two Killed, Three Injured in Separate Road Accidents in Jaintapur

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Two people, including a madrasa student, were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Jaintapur of Sylhet on Monday (August 24). The accidents occurred in the Chiknagul and Tamabil areas along the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway. The first accident took place around 11:30 am in front of the main gate of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited in the Chiknagul area. According to eyewitnesses, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying tourists from Dhaka to Jaflong was hit by a Sylhet-bound gate-lock bus coming from the opposite direction. The auto-rickshaw was badly damaged and its passengers were thrown onto the road. Madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Tasnim, 15, died on the spot. She was the daughter of Abdul Momin of Borokanda

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Coast Guard Seizes 5kg Ice and 5,000 Yaba Pills in Teknaf; One Detained

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The Bangladesh Coast Guard has seized a major drug consignment comprising 5 kilograms of Crystal Meth (Ice) and 5,000 Yaba tablets in two separate operations in the border upazila of Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. One alleged drug peddler was detained during the drives conducted on Sunday and Monday. Lieutenant Commander Sabbir Alam Sujon, Media Officer of the Coast Guard Headquarters, confirmed the matter through a press release on Monday morning.

According to Coast Guard sources, acting on a tip-off regarding a large shipment of Crystal Meth entering Bangladesh from Myanmar across the Naf River, a team from Coast Guard Station Teknaf and Outpost Shahparir Dwip took up positions near Golarchar in Shahparir Dwip around 3:00 AM on Monday. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the smugglers dropped a polythene wrap inside a nearby tamarisk (Jhaubon) forest and fled

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Amtali's top terrorist 'Naya' arrested

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Police have arrested Abul Kalam Azad alias Naya, the top terrorist of Amtali, accused in eight cases including murder and extortion. He was arrested from Kaunia police station area of Barisal city at around 11 pm last Sunday with the help of RAB. He was later handed over to the court.

According to police sources, under the instructions and overall supervision of Barguna district Superintendent of Police Md. Quadrat-e-Khuda, PPM-Seba, a series of operations are being conducted in different areas of the district to suppress drugs, terrorism, extortion and crime. As part of this, the location of Amtali's top terrorist Abul Kalam Azad alias Naya was identified based on intelligence information.

Later, a police team with the help of RAB conducted an operation in Kaunia police station area of Barisal and arrested him. After the arrest, he was sent to the learned court after completing the primary legal process.

Amtali Police Station said that Abul Kalam Azad alias Naya is accused in a total of eight cases, including murder and extortion. He has been under the surveillance of law enforcement agencies for a long time, according to relevant sources. The news of his arrest has

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Bangladesh, India move to strengthen trade ties thru land ports, border haats

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and India have discussed reopening closed border haats, making land ports fully operational and withdrawing the existing restriction on yarn imports through land routes as part of efforts to further strengthen bilateral trade relations. The issues came up at a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi at the Bangladesh Secretariat here on Monday. The meeting also discussed ways to expand bilateral trade and remove various barriers to business between the two countries.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, the commerce minister said bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India currently stands at around US\$13 billion. However, some obstacles have emerged over the past one and a half years, causing a slowdown in trade activities.

"We discussed how to identify these problems and make trade relations between the two countries easier and more effective in the future," he said. The minister said India is Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner after China, noting that the two countries have maintained longstanding economic ties. He said the meeting

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Consensus needed to reach a rational point on reforms: Asaduzzaman

Staff Correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman Monday said the government wants to move forward and needs everyone's cooperation to reach a rational point on reforms. "The government is taking constructive criticism positively. Citizens have the right to criticise the government, and it is the government's constitutional responsibility to ensure this right. Political parties will carry out their programmes and criticise the government - this is a normal part of a democratic system," he said.

The minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled "Beyond the Ballot: Between Promise and Performance" organ-



ized by Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at CIRDAP Auditorium in the capital. Md Asaduzzaman said a culture needs to be developed in society where people can speak without fear. Efforts are being made to move away from the past practice of harassing or arresting writers, journalists, cartoonists and people from different walks of life for expressing

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

এম.বি.বি.এস (সি.ইউ)
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সহযোগী অধ্যাপক ও বিভাগীয় প্রধান
বিজিসি ট্রান্স মেডিকেল কলেজ
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সাক্ষাতের সময় :
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বিকাল ৫ টা - রাত ৭ টা

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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



40 vagabonds and beggars have been arrested by airport police

Staff Correspondent

Airport police of DMP arrested 40 vagrants and beggars in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area of the capital. On Monday (August 24) raids were conducted at airport roundabout, BRTA station, airport railway station area, around police box, airport entrance and VIP road and they were arrested. Sources from the airport police station said that the emergence of vagrants and beggars in the airport area has been a long-standing problem. It was creating an uncomfortable situation for domestic and foreign passengers. This operation is conducted as part of regular operation to solve this problem. Among the 40 people arrested in the operation are 15 children, 2 women and 23 adult men. The process of sending the detained children to the Child and Adolescent Shelter in Mirpur and the adults to the Special Court is in process. Airport police also informed that 288 vagrants and beggars have been arrested in the last few days. In all, 328 people have been arrested so far. Detained children were sent to Juvenile Shelter, Mirpur and adults through Special Court. Such operations will continue to ensure smooth movement of passengers and overall safety in the airport area.

Rohingya crisis nears

western Rakhine State and that it would accept their return once security conditions improve. Bangladesh has already conveyed its concerns to Myanmar over the statement, particularly its reference to the Rohingyas as “Bengalis.” Dhaka has maintained that the Rohingyas have their own distinct ethnic identity, which was recognised by Myanmar authorities until recent years. Bangladesh also pointed out that several elements of the statement issued by Myanmar’s Foreign Ministry were based on erroneous statistics, including figures relating to the displaced Rohingya population. Urging the international community to share responsibility for resolving the crisis, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Sunday that Bangladesh’s humanitarian generosity must not become a pretext for international inaction. “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,” she said.

Health minister orders

Director of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery (NIBPS) Prof. Dr Mohammad Nasir Uddin presided over the event while Director General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof. Dr Pravath Chandra Biswas and President of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons Prof. Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir spoke, among others. Associate Professor Dr Shaheda Anwar of the Department of Microbiology at Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) presented a scientific paper in the seminar. Director of Infection Prevention at SingHealth Ling Moi Lin and Director of the International Collaboration Office (ICO) at SingHealth Vijaya Rao presented papers on infection prevention and control. Bangladesh Infection Prevention and Control Foundation (BIPCF) President Prof. Dr Zahidul Hasan delivered the welcome address.

Rabiul pledges to halve

that more than 5,000 people died in road accidents in 2024, he said countless lives are being lost on the country’s roads every day. “This situation cannot be accepted in any way,” he said. The minister said ensuring road safety is not the responsibility of a single ministry. Several ministries and government agencies are directly involved. The Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges is responsible for constructing, repairing and maintaining roads and keeping them suitable for vehicular movement. It is also responsible for vehicle approval and related activities, he added. He said the highway police under the Ministry of Home Affairs are responsible for regulating vehicular movement and enforcing laws on the roads. The Ministry of Health, meanwhile, has an important role in ensuring prompt medical treatment for those injured in accidents, he added. He said these three ministries must work in coordination to establish safe roads. Simply constructing or repairing roads will not make them safe. Vehicles, drivers, pedestrians, traffic management, and post-accident rescue and medical services must all be addressed in an integrated manner, he added. Highlighting several major causes of road accidents, Sheikh Rabiul Alam said unfit vehicles, unskilled or unsuitable drivers, lack of public awareness, uncontrolled and excessive speed, and reluctance to wear helmets are among the major causes of road accidents. “Effective measures are needed to eliminate these causes,” he said, adding that drivers need proper knowledge and training on how to drive according to traffic rules on highways and roads and what decisions to make in different situations. He said arrangements have been made for driver training under the road safety project. At the same time, an initiative has been taken to assess whether drivers are physically fit to operate vehicles, he added. He expressed hope that ensuring trained and physically capable drivers would play an important role in reducing accidents. Stressing the importance of pedestrian awareness, he said many markets, schools and colleges are located alongside highways. In these areas, people often cross roads according to their convenience instead of using designated crossing points or overpasses. He said many people are unwilling to use overpasses or other safe crossing facilities even when they are available beside roads. This mindset needs to change. Alongside infrastructural development, public awareness must be increased to improve road safety, he added. Describing uncontrolled speed as one of the major causes of road accidents, he said excessive speed must be controlled. At the same time, helmet use among motorcycle riders must be ensured. Both drivers and pedestrians must follow road rules, he said. The minister said the government has taken an initiative to formulate a comprehensive Safe Road Law to ensure road safety. The target is to enact a comprehensive or integrated Safe Road Law by December 2027. Through this, an initiative will be taken to bring various aspects of road safety under an effective legal framework, he added. He also said the government is working on the designated service life of vehicles. The service life of buses has been set at 20 years and that of trucks at 25 years. Sheikh Rabiul Alam said the policy for vehicle scrapping and

recycling has been finalised, and steps are being taken to implement it. Dumping stations are also being established. Unfit vehicles will be taken to these facilities for scrapping and recycling, he added. He stressed the importance of ensuring prompt rescue and medical services after road accidents. He said fatalities could be reduced significantly if injured people are taken to medical centres quickly after an accident. Highlighting the effectiveness of bike ambulances, the minister said motorcycles equipped with necessary medical supplies have been arranged to reach accident sites quickly and provide first aid. In congested or remote areas, where conventional ambulances take time to arrive, bike ambulances will be able to reach the scene more quickly and provide initial medical treatment, he added. Calling on all concerned to become more active on road safety, Sheikh Rabiul Alam said it would not be enough to hold discussions at meetings, seminars or auditoriums. The message of road safety must reach ordinary people. People involved in the transport sector, drivers, workers, pedestrians and relevant government agencies must work together, he added. The minister said halving the number of deaths from road accidents by 2030 is one of the government’s key commitments. If this goal can be achieved, the initiatives taken for road safety will be successful, he added. He said, “Our responsibility is to establish safe roads. The commitment to halve road accident deaths by 2030 must be implemented. For this, all concerned ministries, agencies and stakeholders must work together.” Officials from the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges and relevant ministries, World Bank representatives, Highway Police, representatives of the transport sector, and representatives of various individuals and organisations working on road safety attended the event.

South Chattogram to get

and possible disruption to communities. Officials said affected people and institutions would receive compensation in accordance with existing laws, including compensation for damage to land, property, businesses, plants and crops. A Grievance Redressal Management Committee will be formed to address complaints. The committee will include representatives of Bangladesh Railway, the upazila administration, public representatives, the Department of Environment and local NGOs. Environmental concerns will also be addressed during implementation. Professor Monjurul Kibria said international standards would be followed to limit construction-related impacts. Measures will include regular water spraying to control dust, noise-management measures, proper waste disposal and safeguards for workers’ health and safety. He said acceptable noise levels would be maintained near religious institutions, educational facilities and hospitals, while unnecessary use of high-noise equipment would be avoided. Where trees must be removed, at least three trees will be planted for every tree cut. Environmental experts have called for effective monitoring to prevent deforestation and control air and noise pollution while protecting biodiversity. Chattogram Department of Environment Deputy Director Zamir Uddin stressed the importance of a thorough environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the project. Project Director Md Asadul Haque said the final EIA report would incorporate concerns and recommendations from local communities. He said the dual-gauge conversion would strengthen the country’s rail communication system and significantly improve connectivity between Chattogram Port and other regions, benefiting both passengers and the movement of industrial and agricultural goods. The project is expected to make travel and logistics more efficient while reducing road congestion and transportation costs, giving fresh momentum to economic activity in southern Chattogram.

Coast Guard Seizes 5kg

the scene. A subsequent search yielded approximately 5 kg of Ice wrapped inside tea packets. In a separate operation at around 6:00 PM on Sunday (August 23), the Coast Guard intercepted a suspicious auto-rickshaw in the Keruntoli area of Teknaf. During the search, they arrested one drug peddler red-handed along with 5,000 pieces of Yaba tablets valued at around BDT 25 lakh. The Coast Guard official stated that legal proceedings regarding the seized drugs and the detainee are currently underway. He added that the Coast Guard will maintain its strict stance, regular drives, and intelligence surveillance to curb drug trafficking along the border regions.

Two Killed, Three

village in Araihaazar upazila of Narayanganj. Three others— Mohammad Ali, 30, Sumaiya Akter, 26, and Kulsum Begum, 55—were injured in the accident. They are residents of the Jatrabari and Kadamtali areas of Dhaka. In another accident, a motorcyclist named Hasan Mia, 35, was killed after being hit by a truck around 1:00 pm near the Tamabil Highway Police Station. Hasan was the son of Saiful of Hatipara village in Gowainghat upazila. Local sources said Hasan was travelling towards Jaflong on his motorcycle when it collided with a Sylhet-bound hydraulic truck coming from the opposite direction. He died on the spot. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tamabil Highway Police Station Zakir Hossain said police reached the scenes after receiving the information and recovered the bodies. After preparing the inquest reports, the bodies were sent to the morgue of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The vehicles involved in the accidents have been taken into police custody, and traffic movement on the highway is currently normal.

Regional cooperation an

crore trees, he said, various initiatives are also being taken to check pollution. Faridul said a master plan has been taken to make the rivers surrounding capital Dhaka pollution-free. Various initiatives are being taken to stop the pollution entering the rivers to make the Buriganga, Shitalakshya, Turag, and Balu rivers pollution-free, he added. Speaking as a special guest at the meeting, Dr. Md. Saimum Parvez, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, said SAARC and BIMSTEC must be made operational to address climate risks. “The risk of climate change is no longer a single local problem. Political will is the most important thing in addressing international problems,” he said. He called upon all to come forward to building a beautiful and risk-free world for future generations. Dr. AKM Saiful Islam, Professor of the Institute of Water and Flood Management at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), presented a keynote paper at the meeting. He said climate change is no longer a future threat but it is the current development reality of South Asia. The effects of heat waves, floods, cyclones, droughts, erratic rainfall, changes in glaciers, and rising sea levels are crossing national boundaries, he said. Prof Saiful said integrated, regional, and future-oriented initiatives are essential to address these risks. Special guests included Jamail Bashir JB, member and technical expert of the National Tree Plantation Cell of the Prime Minister’s Office; Sharif Jamil, member secretary of Dhoritri Rokhhay Amra (DHORA); Ziaul Haque, coordinator of the Least Developed Countries Negotiating Group, and M Hafizul Islam Khan, climate negotiator. Senior journalist Habib

Rahman spoke at the beginning of the meeting. Advocate MA Mukit, chairman of the Human Safety Foundation, and Mir Mohammad Ali, assistant professor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, also participated in the thematic discussion. CCDB’s climate change programme coordinator Md. Ashrafuzzaman Khan, IUCN Bangladesh Programme Manager Sarowar Alam Dipu and Chairman of the Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies Professor Dr. Kamruzzaman Majumder also spoke at the meeting, among others.

Bangladesh, India move

placed emphasis on making the land ports fully functional, reopening closed border haats and withdrawing the existing restriction on yarn imports through land routes. A proposal was also made to form a joint task force to enhance cooperation between businesses of the two countries and to develop digital infrastructure, the minister said. He said the initiatives are aimed at creating new investment opportunities, expanding business ties and accelerating bilateral trade. The commerce minister expressed hope that the initiatives of the Indian High Commissioner would help further strengthen Bangladesh-India relations and take economic cooperation between the two countries to a new level. Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi said that although there are some differences between the two countries on political and economic issues, the people of both countries want development and progress. “Especially for the future of the younger generation, the two countries have to work together,” he said. Bangladesh and India are two independent and sovereign countries, and neither is big or small; both are equal, he said, stressing that the two countries should continue to work on the basis of equality. The High Commissioner said economic cooperation is the most important element in improving bilateral relations. If economic ties are strengthened, cooperation in other areas will also increase, he added. Trivedi also stressed the importance of joint investment and production, saying Bangladesh’s ready-made garment sector has achieved remarkable success globally. India can support the sector by supplying zippers, machinery, buttons and other accessories, he said, adding that such cooperation would increase mutual interdependence between the two countries. “I feel proud when I see ‘Made in Bangladesh’ written on garments in international markets,” the High Commissioner said. He expressed the view that Bangladesh’s garment sector could expand further through joint initiatives by businesses of the two countries. The meeting expressed hope that greater cooperation between businesses, creation of new investment opportunities and stronger supply chains would help further expand commercial relations between Bangladesh and India in the coming days.

Consensus needed

their opinions. “Government does not consider any issue relating to laws and policies as final or unchangeable. If it is found after implementation that any law needs amendment, the government will remain open to making necessary changes. Laws are enacted to meet people’s needs and can be amended according to those needs,” he added. Regarding the Human Rights Commission Act and the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, he said extensive consultations and scrutiny had been carried out in drafting these laws. The law minister further said consideration had been given to distinguishing between enforced disappearance as an ordinary crime and as a widespread and systematic crime while determining judicial jurisdiction. At the same time, efforts had been made to put in place effective mechanisms for investigating allegations of human rights violations and ensuring accountability. The event was chaired by Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) President Zillur Rahman. Prime Minister’s Political Adviser Zahir Uddin Swapon, Gono Forum President Subrata Chowdhury, Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Barrister Shamim Haider Patwary and senior journalist Sohrab Hassan, among others, spoke at the event. Representatives of different political parties, civil society, human rights organisations, media and the legal profession also took part in the discussion. The discussion focused on the implementation of political parties’ electoral pledges after the election, people’s expectations, political accountability, good governance, making democratic institutions more effective and various aspects of state reform.

Amtali's top terrorist

brought relief among the common people of Amtali. Locals hope that if the cases against him are settled through speedy investigation and judicial proceedings, it will have a more positive impact on controlling terrorism, extortion and criminality in the area. Amtali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Yakub Hossain said that their campaign against drugs, terrorism and crime will continue. No matter how influential the criminal is, necessary legal measures will be taken to bring him under the law and maintain peace and order. Barguna District Police said that such campaigns will continue in the future to ensure public safety and maintain law and order.

Mintoo for protecting land to ensure climate resilience, food security

Staff Correspondent

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo monday said climate resilience and food security cannot be ensured without protecting land. He said land must be treated as an economic and development priority rather than an environmental expense. The minister made the remarks while delivering Bangladesh’s statement at a ministerial dialogue titled “Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Healthy Land and Drought Resilience,” held as part of Finance Day at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, according to a message received here. Mintoo said Bangladesh is working to reduce land degradation. To achieve this objective, national planning prioritises soil fertility, forest coverage, and addressing waterlogging, hillside erosion, coastal salinity and riverbank erosion, he said. He noted that Bangladesh is transforming agriculture into a technology-driven, climate-resilient sector while expanding access to credit and agricultural loan assistance for farmers. The minister called upon multilateral development banks and development finance institutions to utilize guarantees, first-loss capital, and blended finance to ensure effective financing for smallholder farmers and land restoration. Highlighting Bangladesh’s local initiatives, the minister said the country has financed climate and land resilience through its Climate Change Trust Fund since 2009. The fund, one of the earliest mechanisms of its kind among developing countries, has mobilised more than USD 495 million to the date, he said. He said this financing has supported the development of 12 new stress-tolerant crop varieties and the distribution of more than 19,400 metric tonnes of drought- and salt-tolerant seeds to farmers. However, current demand exceeds the fund’s annual allocation, the minister pointed out. He stressed that international financing should complement national initiatives by addressing existing funding gaps rather than replacing them. Mintoo proposed innovative mechanisms, including debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps

and green bonds for land restoration. He added that such financing could support managed ground-water recharge in the northern region, agriculture, afforestation, climate-smart farming, and coastal mangrove restoration under the National Green Mission, which aims to plant 25 crore saplings. On regional cooperation, the minister observed that changes in upstream water flows increase salinity and drought risks in delta countries such as Bangladesh. He, therefore, called for stronger transboundary water-sharing arrangements among countries within shared river basins, alongside joint initiatives to exchange information on water scarcity and land degradation. “Bangladesh stands ready both to give and receive cooperation. We seek commitments that are specific, adequately financed, and time-bound, so that land finance moves from the margins to the center of decision-making,” the minister said. Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa inaugurated the high-level segment of UNCCD COP17. Mongolia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and COP17 President Battsetseg Batmunkh, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, UNCCD Executive Secretary Yasmine Fouad, and ministers and heads of delegations from various countries were present.

Upstream water floods homes, croplands in Brahmanbaria

Staff Correspondent

Sudden runoff from India’s Tripura state has flooded low-lying areas of three border unions in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria district, inundating around 250 hectares of cropland and leaving dozens of families stranded. The affected areas are mainly in Mogora, South and Monionda unions, where the sudden surge of water has submerged agricultural land, creating concern among local residents as water levels continue to rise. Local officials said around 32 families have been affected, while residents said the number of waterlogged households is around 40. A visit to the affected areas found water entering through Rajipur Khal beside Abdullahpur Government Primary School, creating waterlogging in nearby areas. Large areas of farmland in Kalikapur, Kendubai, Rahimpur and Rajendrapur villages under South Union have gone underwater. Several homes have also been inundated. Water has entered an import-export office opposite the Akhaura land port, while an adjacent tea shop and hotel have been forced to suspend operations after being flooded. Abu Hanif of Rajendrapur village said the sudden flow of water from India had caused significant damage to local people. “Ponds and croplands have gone underwater. There has been no rain in our area. The water suddenly came down from upstream,” he said. Zahir Mia, a member of Ward No. 7 of South Union, said many homes and agricultural fields in Rahimpur, Kendubai and Bengachhar villages have been inundated. He said cleaning the Jaji River and nearby canals could help drain the water quickly. Akhaura Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Masud Rana said around 25 hectares of farmland in Akhaura municipality, Mogora and South Union areas have been submerged. “However, if the water recedes quickly, the possibility of significant crop damage will remain low,” he said. Akhaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Taposhi Rabea said the authorities are closely monitoring the situation caused by the sudden hill runoff. “We are taking the rise in water levels seriously. Around 32 families are currently waterlogged,” she said. She added that schools in the border areas have been kept ready to be used as shelters if necessary, although no affected families had moved to the shelters yet. “Relief materials have also been kept ready. We will distribute them if necessary,” she said.

Police seek 7-day remand of actor Don in Salman Shah murder case

Staff Correspondent

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has filed a plea seeking seven-day remand of actor Ashraful Haque Don in a case lodged over the murder of popular movie superstar Salman Shah. Confirming the matter to BSS, Sub-Inspector (SI) Shah Alam of the general registration wing of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court said CID Inspector Mojibur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, filed the plea on Sunday with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Rana. The court, however, fixed August 27 for hearing on the plea in the presence of the accused. Don was arrested by immigration police on August 9 at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and was later handed over to the CID. He was subsequently sent to jail. Salman Shah’s maternal uncle, Mohammad Alamgir, popularly known as Alamgir Kumkum, on October 21, 2025, filed the case against 11 people, including Salman’s wife Samira Haque, with the capital’s Ramna Police Station under sections 302 and 34 of the Penal Code. The other accused are: Aziz Mohammad Bhai, Samira’s mother Latifa Haque Lusi, Don, David, Zaved, Faruk, Ruby, A Sattar, Sajju and Rijvi Ahmed Farhad. Earlier on October 20, 2025, Dhaka’s sixth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Jannatul Ferdous Ibn Haque ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna Police Station to treat the case filed over the death of Chowdhury Mohammad Shahriar (Emon), popularly known as Salman Shah, as a murder case and submit a report in this regard. The court, in its order, said that the unnatural death case was hereby cancelled and revoked by order passed on October 31, 2021.

Coastal Bangladesh faces high drinking-water salinity, cardiovascular risks

Staff Correspondent

Preliminary findings from a study conducted in coastal Bangladesh from 2023 to 2025 indicate substantial exposure to saline drinking water alongside elevated cardiovascular health risks, reinforcing the need to address water security, climate adaptation and non-communicable diseases together. The findings were presented at a high-level policy and dissemination seminar titled “Drinking Water Salinity and Impact on Health: Bangladesh Evidence and Policy Recommendations,” organised by icddr,b in collaboration with Imperial College London at the Sasakawa Auditorium at icddr,b in Mohakhali, Dhaka. Dr Aliya Naheed, Senior Scientist at icddr,b, presented preliminary findings from the Bangladesh programme of the NIHR Global Health Research Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases and Environmental Change. The programme first assessed drinking-water sources in 172 villages in 71 Community Clinic catchment areas in Koyra Upazila of Khulna, the intervention area, and Assasuni Upazila of Satkhira, the usual-care comparison area.



Uganda and Burundi military officials visit Israel to discuss Gaza troop deployment

International Desk

Military officials from Uganda and Burundi visited Israel last week for talks on deploying troops to Gaza as part of an international security force proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Peace, officials said. A Board of Peace official told The media that Ugandan officials accompanied a Burundian military delegation during the visit. Uganda is now working to finalize details of its participation after its parliament approved the deployment of troops earlier this month. No agreement has been reached with Burundi, but the official said discussions with the country were expected to move forward. The official, who spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss negotiations with potential troop-contributing countries, said the talks involved an exchange of significant information and that Burundian representatives showed interest in the mission. A senior Burundian military official said three other high-ranking officers accompanied the delegation to Israel and indicated that Burundi appeared interested in joining the force. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. It remains unclear how many troops Uganda or Burundi could provide or what incentives they might receive. Military spokespersons in both countries did not respond to requests for comment. International force faces delays If Burundi joins, it would become the latest country to commit personnel to the proposed Gaza force. Morocco, Kosovo, Kazakhstan and Albania have already pledged troops. Uganda has committed about 1,200 personnel, while Morocco has offered up to 500. Kosovo, Kazakhstan and Albania have collectively pledged about 80 troops. Indonesia had earlier announced plans to send 8,000 troops, the largest proposed contribution, but suspended the deployment after the United States and Israel launched attacks on Iran. The proposed force is expected to comprise about 20,000 personnel and be commanded by U.S. Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers. Current commitments remain well below

that target. Trump announced last month an agreement calling for Hamas to disarm and Israel to withdraw its forces from Gaza. Under the plan, the International Stabilization Force would operate in parts of Gaza administered by an incoming technocratic committee, while Israeli troops would pull back. The force would be tasked with monitoring the ceasefire, training Palestinian police and helping ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid. The Gaza ceasefire, which took effect last October, has faced repeated obstacles over disagreements about an Israeli withdrawal and Hamas' disarmament. Earlier this month, a U.S. delegation held lengthy talks with Hamas' leadership before meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an effort to advance the agreement. Hamas has accepted the latest U.S. proposal, while Netanyahu has rejected it, saying Israel will not withdraw from the roughly 60% of Gaza currently under its control until Hamas is fully disarmed. Even after Netanyahu met with the U.S. delegation, which included negotiator Jared Kushner, Israeli officials made no firm commitment to a withdrawal. Uganda, Burundi bring Somalia experience Paul D. Williams, director of the security policy studies program at George Washington University, said Uganda and Burundi have extensive peacekeeping experience from years of deployments in Somalia as part of an African Union mission fighting the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group. Their governments have demonstrated a willingness to sustain significant casualties without pulling their forces out, Williams said. He also noted that as the Somalia mission winds down, both countries may seek additional financial and logistical support for their militaries. "Deploying to Gaza with U.S. support is one way to do that," Williams said. A Ugandan military officer familiar with preparations for the mission said troops were being selected for possible deployment to Gaza. The officer spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss the plans publicly.



Syria, Israel hold US-mediated talks in Jordan to ease tensions

International Desk

Senior Syrian and Israeli delegations met in Jordan on Sunday for US-mediated discussions aimed at easing tensions and reviving negotiations on a possible security agreement, Syria's state news agency SANA reported, citing a diplomatic source. The Syrian delegation was led by Foreign Affairs Chief Asaad al-Shaibani and included the heads of the country's general and military intelligence services. Israel also sent a senior delegation to the meeting, according to the source. The talks in Jordan came amid heightened tensions following recent Israeli strikes on Syrian territory and growing instability in southern Syria. The meeting was intended to promote stability in Syria and the broader region. According to the diplomatic source, the discussions centered on practical measures to stop Israeli attacks, arrests and other targeting operations, while exploring ways to resume negotiations on a security agreement that could eventually pave the way for a broader deal. The Syrian delegation emphasized that Syria is a sovereign country with the right to rebuild and strengthen its national military and choose its alliances and partnerships based on its national interests. Damascus made clear that it would reject any agree-

ment or mechanism that limits those sovereign rights, the source said. The Syrian side also reiterated its position that the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights is Syrian territory. However, it said discussions on the territory's final status and a broader settlement of the issue would be premature at this stage. For now, Damascus identified the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the positions they held before Dec. 8, 2024, and the complete restoration and implementation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement as its immediate priorities. The talks also included efforts to reduce differences between Türkiye and Israel and prevent tensions between the two regional powers from affecting Syrian territory, according to the source. The Syrian delegation stressed that any future security arrangements must respect Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity and sovereign rights, while both sides explored practical measures to ease tensions and resume negotiations. Israel carried out a strike on the Abu al-Duhur military airport in northwestern Syria on Tuesday, claiming that Damascus was preparing to allow Turkish forces to deploy there. Syria and Türkiye rejected the Israeli allegation.

European leaders join Zelenskyy in Kyiv as Ukraine marks Independence Day

International Desk

European leaders joined Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Monday to mark the country's Independence Day as Russia's four-year invasion continues. Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, with President Vladimir Putin seeking to bring Kyiv back under Moscow's influence. Ukraine had overwhelmingly voted for independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The war has shown little major movement along the front line in recent months. Despite more than a year of US-led diplomatic efforts, there has been no clear breakthrough toward ending the conflict. Instead, Russia and Ukraine have stepped up long-range air attacks that have killed civilians and damaged critical infrastructure. European leaders show support for Ukraine UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham, making his first foreign trip since taking office last month, joined nearly a dozen European leaders and other senior officials in Kyiv. European Council President Antonio Costa was among those attending the Independence Day events. "For Ukraine, independence is not an abstract idea. We defended it against all odds," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on social media, stressing the importance of having allies during difficult times. Burnham was scheduled to co-chair a meeting of the "Coalition of the Willing," a group of countries supporting Ukraine's defense against Russia. The leaders of France and Germany were expected to join the meeting online. The visiting leaders brought promises of additional military and financial support for Ukraine. Burnham was also expected to announce that the UK government had agreed to let defense company MBDA share classified information about British components used in the SCALP long-range missile. The move could help France and Ukraine move forward with plans to produce the missile locally in Ukraine. SCALP is the French version of Britain's Storm Shadow missile. Both weapons use technology developed jointly by France and Britain. Ukraine has depended heavily on NATO members for military support as it fights Russia's larger armed forces.



Relations with the United States, however, have become more complicated under President Donald Trump. Russia, meanwhile, has received support from North Korea and China. Both sides have increasingly used long-range attacks to damage each other's economies, disrupt military supplies and weaken public morale. Ukrainian drones have repeatedly targeted Russia's important oil industry, contributing to fuel shortages. Ukraine has also carried out attacks linked to Russia's

Thousands march in Stockholm for stronger climate action ahead of election

International Desk

More than 50,000 people marched through central Stockholm, the Swedish capital, on Sunday to demand stronger action on climate change, organizers said, three weeks before Sweden holds national elections. Some 280 organizations took part in the demonstration, including environmental and human rights groups, trade unions, religious organizations, researchers and cultural groups, according to Swedish media reports. Beatrice Rindevall, chairperson of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and one of the main organizers, told Swedish media that policymakers needed to take the climate crisis seriously. The demonstration comes as climate change has moved higher on voters' agendas ahead of the national election next month, while attitudes toward the issue have become increasingly divided along political lines. Around 65 percent of people who identify with the political left said they were very concerned about climate change, compared with fewer than 30 percent of those on the right, according to the latest national survey by the SOM Institute, an independent research organization, at the University of Gothenburg. A separate survey by Swedish polling firm Novus in June ranked climate sixth among voters' most important political issues, up from ninth in January. Martin Hultman, a professor of sociology at the University of Gothenburg, told Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter that Sweden could be seeing a new wave of climate engagement. He said the previous wave had lost momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic amid fossil-fuel industry lobbying, disinformation and electoral gains by right-wing nationalist forces. The renewed engagement could partly reflect people experiencing the effects of climate change more directly in their daily lives, he said. Sweden will hold elections to the Riksdag, the country's parliament, as well as regional and municipal councils on Sept. 13.



30 killed in landslide at Guinea landfill

International Desk

A mountainous heap of refuse collapsed at the largest landfill in Guinea's capital of Conakry early on Sunday, killing 30 people, according to the central government. Authorities said that heavy rains, which started at around 2 a.m., washed over the refuse at Dar Es Salam — the largest landfill in Conakry — and triggered a landslide that buried nearby shacks. A search and rescue operation was underway to find survivors. Six people were seriously injured and several homes were destroyed.

largest online retailer, Wildberries. Three teenagers killed in Russian city Three teenagers were killed and six children wounded in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar during Ukrainian drone attacks, Russia's children's rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova said Monday. The attacks targeted several warehouses operated by Ozon for a third consecutive day, according to Russian officials and the company. Ozon, one of Russia's biggest online retailers, said a major fire broke out at one of its logistics facilities near Krasnodar following an overnight attack. A drone also struck the grounds of an Ozon logistics center in the southern region of Adygeya, regional Governor Murat Kumpilov said. The company, however, said the warehouse there was not damaged. Overall, four Ozon facilities appeared to have been targeted. Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed 351 Ukrainian drones overnight across eight Russian regions, as well as Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas of the Azov and Black seas. The ministry also said Russian forces continued overnight attacks on Ukrainian ports and vessels carrying supplies for Ukraine's armed forces.



US strikes another boat in eastern Pacific, killing two, Pentagon says

International Desk

U.S. forces have struck another vessel in the eastern Pacific, killing two people whom the Pentagon said were involved in drug trafficking. The U.S. Southern Command announced the strike in a social media post early Monday. The latest deaths bring the toll from the Trump administration's campaign of strikes against boats off Latin America's Caribbean coast and in the eastern Pacific to more than 210, following over 60 attacks. The Joint Task Force Western Hemisphere "executed a lethal kinetic strike on a low-profile vessel operating along established narco-trafficking routes in the Eastern Pacific," the statement said.

Iran warns of tough response to expected US sanctions

International Desk

Iran on Monday warned that it would respond harshly to any new US sanctions, saying further escalation would have consequences. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran's "hands are not tied" as Washington prepares to announce expanded sanctions, including measures against countries cooperating with the United States. The warning came amid a prolonged standoff over the Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of the world's traded oil passed before the war began nearly six months ago. Iran has demanded an end to the US naval blockade, withdrawal of US forces from the region and compensation for wartime damage in return for reopening the strategic waterway. Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani met a senior Israeli delegation in Jordan in US-mediated talks aimed at easing tensions after Israel struck an air base in northern Syria last week. The discussions focused on reviving negotiations for a future security agreement. Syria demanded the withdrawal of Israeli forces from a buffer zone in southern Syria and reiterated its claim over the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. Elsewhere, Palestinian American Loui Ridi said he remained unable to move freely in the West Bank village of Qusra after Israeli settlers besieged his home earlier this month. Ridi said settlers continued gathering near his home, while he and relatives had to coordinate movements to obtain basic supplies. The incident has drawn condemnation from Israeli rights groups and foreign officials, including US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee.





Purnima seeks happiness in small pleasures



Entertainment Desk

Although she is not a regular on the silver screen, popular Dhallywood actress Dilara Hanif Purnima is always at the center of discussion on social media. This actress captivates the internet with her sweet



Sara Arjun, new surprise in Madhubala's biopic

Entertainment Desk

Sara Arjun is going to act in the biopic of legendary actress Madhubala. Recently, this glamorous girl has come into the news again. Ever since her performance in Aditya Dhar's film 'Dhurandhar', there has been a lot of talk about her in Bollywood. Sara has a long career in the entertainment industry. At the age of just six, she won the appreciation of the audience by acting as a child artiste in the Tamil film 'Debiya Thirumagal'. After that, she has left her mark on all three industries – Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. Filmmakers believe that this young actress's acting in the role of the immortal heroine of the silver screen, Madhubala, will take her career to a new height. Madhubala's biopic will be directed by director Jasmeet K Rin. The shooting of the film is scheduled to begin in September at Royal Palms in Goregaon, Mumbai.

Sharlin Farzana returns to acting after a break

Entertainment Desk

At one time, popular actress Sharlin Farzana was quite busy with TV dramas. Many of her acted dramas have captivated audience. She became a favourite of the audience by acting in many dramas opposite two popular actors in TV dramas – Ziaul Faruq Apurba and Afran Nisho, and many others. She has won the love of the audience not only by acting in dramas but also in movies. She took a break from acting for a while. More than a year ago, she acted in a drama opposite Khairul Basar in a drama titled 'Bhalobasha Bhalo Rakahr Upay', directed by Pothik S ad h o n . After a break, she returned to acting. In the meantime, Sharlin Farzana acted in a drama titled 'Neelpori' directed by the talented playwright of this generation, Imdad Babu, who is the author of this drama. Apurba is her co-star in the drama. Sharlin said that Apurba and she had previously acted together in about 30 dramas. Among which, the following are particularly notable: 'Bhalobashar Fanush', 'Sei Chheleta', 'Na Bola Diary', 'Bola Holo Na', 'Ei Rod Ei Brishti', 'Eka Ei Ami', etc. It is said that Sharlin has received a good response in every drama she has acted

with Apurba. She believes that when Mashrikul Alam's this drama is aired; she will also receive a good response from the audience. Sharlin Farzana, who returned to work after a few days of break, told this correspondent, "It was really nice to act in a drama after a long break. And yet, having Apurba Bhaiya as my co-artist made this feeling even greater. To be honest, Apurba Bhaiya is the kind of co-star who, when he's with me, when he's by my side, my acting comes out naturally. This is a very important matter. Another important thing is that he is not only focused on his acting, he also thinks about what it was like to be a co-star. Not everyone actually thinks that. As usual, I really enjoyed working on this drama directed by Mashrikul Alam. The director has done the work with great care. I am very optimistic about the work." The drama 'Neelpori' will be aired on CD C h o i c e ' s YouTube channel. Sharlin informed that she will be acting in dramas regularly from now on. But of course, in that case, she has to like the story. The first movie that Sharlin starred in was 'Jaago', directed by Khijir Hayat Khan. Later, many years later, she acted in Masud Hasan Ujjal's film 'Unoponchash Batash'. She passed her SSC and HSC from Vigarunnesa Noon School and College. Later, she enrolled in a private medical college to fulfill her parents' dreams. But she studied law because she had a strong interest in it.

smile and beautiful pictures. She also regularly shares her feelings about life with her fans. However, this time, Purnima shared a special message about the definition of happiness by posting her picture. Recently, Purnima wrote in her Facebook post, "Happiness is not about having a perfect life, but finding joy in the small things." The actress shared two pictures of herself with the post. The picture shows her magical look of light and darkness from behind the lampshade. In first picture, her soft, innocent smile exudes a spontaneous look, while in the second picture, her deep and serious gaze reveals an intense emotion. These simple yet artistic pictures have touched the hearts of fans. The main attraction of Purnima's recent post is the message she gave to find joy in the small moments rather than trying to make life perfect. Along with the picture, this positive thinking of the actress is also being praised by fans.

Court orders removal of 550 links to Janhvi

Entertainment Desk

The issue of creating indecent or objectionable content about the stars of the silver screen world is not new. There are many actresses in B o l l y w o o d whose pictures or videos are spread on various banned sites. Now, Indian actress Janhvi has approached the Delhi High Court demanding protection of her personality rights on such allegations. In the wake of her petition, the Delhi High Court has given a significant verdict. The Delhi High Court has ordered the immediate removal of 552 objectionable and indecent URLs (links) online. However, the case mentioned about seven thousand links. Out of which, 552 URLs have been ordered to be removed for the time being. These links identified in the initial investigation have been ordered to be removed immediately as they contain objectionable and indecent content.



Safa Kabir impressed by her visit to Hollywood Walk of Fame

Entertainment Desk

The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a prestigious place for entertainment stars. It is a sidewalk on Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street in Los Angeles, California, USA. The names of the world's most influential stars are engraved there, accompanied by a star. Bangladeshi TV actress Safa Kabir visited the famous sidewalk. She has been travelling in the United States for a few days. That's why she went to the 'Walk of Fame'. Even though she saw the names of many other stars, Safa was looking for one name in her mind. That was Michael Jackson – the king of pop music. Safa posted two photos on her Facebook page on Saturday morning. In them, she was seen wearing a yellow dress and sitting next to Michael Jackson's star on the 'Walk of Fame'. Her eyes and face were filled with excitement. Safa responded, "As a Michael Jackson fan, I had to capture this moment. The name I was looking for after stepping on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was Michael Jackson. When I finally saw it, my heart was filled with joy. This is a truly memorable moment for me."



Taapsee Pannu hits back at Kangana Ranaut's remark

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has seemingly reignited her long-running feud with Taapsee Pannu after the latter commented on her upbringing. In now-deleted Instagram Stories, Kangana called Taapsee a "sasti copy" and accused her of "ridiculing" her upbringing and parents. Taapsee has now seemingly responded to the remarks with a cryptic social media post.

Madonna, Kylie Minogue make history as 'Love Sensation' tops UK chart

Entertainment Desk

Madonna has returned to the top of the UK's Commercial Pop club chart with a new version of 'Love Sensation' featuring Kylie Minogue. The After Hours mix, reworked by longtime collaborator Stuart Price, entered the chart at No 1. It marks the second time 'Love Sensation' has topped the chart, following Madonna's solo version eight weeks ago. The remix was first performed live at WorldPride Amsterdam on August 1. Minogue made a surprise appearance at Madonna's Club Confessions party, where the pair performed the track together from the DJ booth with Price. The studio version was released shortly afterwards, along with lyric videos featuring behind-the-scenes footage from the Amsterdam event. The collaboration brings together two of pop's biggest



dance music stars. Their pairing has also received a strong response from UK club DJs, sending the track straight to the top of the chart.



Raphinha, Lopez hit braces as Barcelona trounce Elche



Sports Desk
Spanish champions Barcelona cruised to a 5-0 win over Elche on Sunday in their La Liga opener with Raphinha and Fermin Lopez scoring twice each and Anthony Gordon setting up two goals on his debut. After watching Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid defeat Espanyol 2-1 on Saturday with a late winner, Barca's display warned the Portuguese coach that the Catalans will not relinquish the title easily. Karim Adeyemi also found the net on his debut as Barca made light work of a vulnerable Elche side at the Martinez Valero stadium.

Hansi Flick started with several regular starters on the bench as they continue to

get up to speed following the World Cup. Teenage winger Lamine Yamal, a key part of the triumphant Spain squad, did start on the right but was far from his best, although it did not matter given Barca's otherwise sparkling display. "This is a difficult place to go and they're a team that like to have the ball, but we did very well," Raphinha told Movistar. Brazil international Raphinha lined up as the team's number nine, after Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres left the club, and shone. Barcelona are still looking for a striker after Atletico Madrid rejected their bid to sign Julian Alvarez. "I'll leave that to the president," said Raphinha, when asked if Barca needed

Newcastle United winger Gordon, on as a substitute, teed up Raphinha for his second and then supplied Lopez for Barca's fourth in an electric and impressive cameo. Youngster Xavi Espart played in Lopez, who endured a difficult summer after missing Spain's World Cup triumph through injury, for his second to seal Barcelona's comfortable triumph. Flick's high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its usual frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet. "We were playing against a great team and you pay for your errors," said Elche defender Chust. "It was a tough day but I'll take from it that the team didn't stop running."



Gauff powers past Pegula to win US Open warm-up in Cincinnati

Sports Desk
Coco Gauff made a statement Sunday with the US Open approaching, dominating Jessica Pegula 6-2, 6-4 to win her first title of 2026 at the WTA 1000 in Cincinnati. World number four Gauff claimed her first WTA title since last October in Wuhan, having come up short in finals in Miami and Rome this year. Her victory over third-ranked Pegula gave her a second Cincinnati crown. Gauff earned her first in 2023, going on to claim the first of her two Grand Slam titles at the US Open that year. The first all-American WTA final in Cincinnati saw Rosie Casals beat Nancy Richey in 1970 was a lopsided affair. Gauff insisted it shouldn't be considered a barometer for the US Open, but admitted it was a welcome confidence boost. "I don't think that this is an indicator that I'm going to do well in New York or anything like that to be honest," Gauff said, but added: "(I'm going in) knowing that I can figure out these matches (even if) I'm not playing my best, but also knowing that I can play that great tennis that I felt I was playing this week. "Hopefully I can use the experience here in New York." Gauff polished off an impressive tournament with victory in 75 minutes and will head to New York riding a wave of confidence for the start of the US Open next Sunday. It's a far cry from an early exit in Cincinnati last year, which Gauff said left her "in the parking lot in tears" after she coughed up 16 double-faults in defeat. "It's a big difference, what a year can make,"

added Gauff, who was so bothered by her service struggles this time last year that she hired a new coach days before the US Open. "Last year I was just frustrated with my game, and I felt like I was declining," she said. "It's not something any player wants to feel. You always want to feel like you're getting better, at the worst, like just plateauing." - 'Amazing momentum' - This time around Gauff was rock-solid on serve and Pegula, coming off a hard-fought win over defending champion Iga Swiatek, had no answer for Gauff's speed and aggression. Gauff broke Pegula twice for a 4-0 lead and was up 5-0 before Pegula got on the score-board, holding serve and clawing back a break. It was a brief reprieve as Gauff broke again to pocket the opening set after 34 minutes. The second set was more of the same, Gauff breaking on the way to a 3-0 lead and Pegula playing catch-up. Gauff sealed victory on her first match point to conclude 12 days of tennis at the sprawling Midwest venue. Gauff's win squared the career series between the two at five wins each. Gauff won her second match this season against Pegula after defeating her compatriot in a Wimbledon quarter-final. Pegula was not displeased with her own performance heading into the final Grand Slam of the season. "I don't think I played bad but you played a very high level, it was not fun to play against," she told Gauff during the trophy ceremony. "You have amazing momentum heading into the US Open."

Int'l Bangladesh Squash inaugurated

Sports Desk
The International Bangladesh Squash formally has got underway yesterday at Bashundhara Sports City Squash Complex in the capital. Chief Engineer of the Bangladesh Army Major General Md Hasan Uz Zaman formally inaugurated the five-day competition by releasing balloons. Promoter Brigadier General G M Qumrul Islam (retd) and Bashundhara Sports City executive officer Colonel Mohasinul Karim (retd), were among others, also present in the

opening ceremony. Twenty four top rated professional squash players from eleven countries across the globe are taking part in the tournament. The participating countries are host Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Japan and Germany. The organisers believe the participation of foreign professionals will not only enhance the standard of the tournament but also contribute significantly to the overall development of squash in Bangladesh.

to sign a number nine. "I am comfortable (anywhere) on the pitch." Raphinha was cut down in the box by Victor Chust and stroked home the resulting penalty after 14 minutes to get Flick's team on their way. Eric Garcia was sharp at the back to ward off a threatening Elche attack, while Barca's Gavi caught the eye in mid-field -- admittedly more for his pink haircut, to celebrate Spain's triumph, than for his performance. Rapid winger Adeyemi, playing on the left, started shakily but grew into the game and doubled Barca's lead before the break after Raphinha unselfishly set him up. In the second half, former Newcastle United winger Gordon, on as a substitute, teed up Raphinha for his second and then supplied Lopez for Barca's fourth in an electric and impressive cameo. Youngster Xavi Espart played in Lopez, who endured a difficult summer after missing Spain's World Cup triumph through injury, for his second to seal Barcelona's comfortable triumph. Flick's high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its usual frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet. "We were playing against a great team and you pay for your errors," said Elche defender Chust. "It was a tough day but I'll take from it that the team didn't stop running."

me (this summer)... and I'm happy." Flick's high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its usual frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet. - Alvarez returns - In the capital, Giuliano Simeone grabbed Atletico a draw after Gerard Moreno and Georges Mikautadze's penalties put Villarreal in front following Marc Pubill's 59th-minute opener. Atletico coach Diego Simeone brought Julian Alvarez on as a second-half substitute to a chorus of boos from home supporters. The forward walked down the tunnel at the end by himself while his team-mates were thanking the fans after securing their draw. "It wasn't Julian's decision, it was a decision from the club," said Diego Simeone. "I think that we all have to be united, Julian is with us in the team, while he's here we will support him," Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak told DAZN. "It's not a comfortable situation for anyone, I hope it's resolved and we're all happy at the end of the season." Simeone began with Alvarez on the bench, and fans jeered as his name was read aloud by the stadium announcer at the Metropolitano stadium, after his attempt to leave the club this summer amid interest from Barcelona and Real Madrid. Atletico took the lead just before the hour mark when Spain defender Pubill scored from long range, curling powerfully into the top corner. Moreno levelled from the penalty spot after Morten Hjulmand clumsily felled Tajon Buchanan. Simeone sent on Alvarez for his first appearance of the season, with Atletico fans showing their anger at the Argentina international. With 12 minutes remaining, Villarreal took the lead with another penalty, after Mikautadze had been shoved over by Le Normand, who was sent off. Mikautadze took the spot-kick himself and calmly slotted home. Atletico playmaker Alex Baena played in Simeone's son Giuliano to finish with five minutes remaining. Elsewhere, Getafe beat Racing Santander 1-0 thanks to a late Enes Unal goal.

Amorim starts Serie A life with Milan win, Juve edge Frosinone

Sports Desk
Former Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim made a winning start to life in Serie A as his AC Milan side opened their campaign with a 2-1 victory at Torino on Sunday, after Juventus got underway with an unconvincing win. The Rossoneri turned to Amorim after finishing fifth last season, and the Portuguese has been provided with an overhauled squad as the giants look to challenge their city rivals and defending champions, Inter Milan. Amorim had to wait until the hour mark for his side to capitalise on their dominance in Piedmont. The breakthrough came shortly after the hour thanks to teenage debutant Alphonso Davies' deft opener, which completely removed the shackles from Milan. Adrien Rabiot doubled the lead minutes later when he ghosted onto Samuel Chukwueze's back-post cross. Marquee summer signing Goncalo Ramos, who joined from Paris Saint-Germain for 74 million euros (\$86 million), failed to find the net but caused the Torino defence no end of trouble. The gloss was somewhat taken off the result in the dying moments of stoppage time as Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan was beaten by a looping volley from Che Adams. "The most important thing is to win," Amorim told DAZN. "We talk about ways of playing, but there is one goal in football, winning." Atalanta, also with a new man at the helm in the shape of former Chelsea and Napoli boss Maurizio Sarri, kicked off their season with a

2-1 win at home to Sassuolo. The 2024 Europa League winners took an early lead courtesy of a Giacomo Raspadori piledriver, before Cas Odenthal hit back from close range for the visitors on 55 minutes. But Nikola Krstovic took advantage of sloppy defending 10 minutes later to ensure Atalanta would earn all three points. - 'A bit light' - Earlier, Juventus secured a 1-0 away win against newly promoted Frosinone, but failed to impress in their campaign-opener. Juve, who finished a disappointing sixth last season, secured all three points thanks to Gleison Bremer's 22nd-minute header. Luciano Spalletti's side then dominated proceedings but failed to put the game beyond doubt. Goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario, on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, had an issue with cramp and had to be substituted late on as a precaution, according to Spalletti, which nearly cost Juve dearly, as Frosinone pressed hard in stoppage time and hit the crossbar. The Bianconeri, however, secured the result they needed, following in the footsteps of reigning champions Inter Milan, who thrashed another newly-promoted side, Monza, 4-1 on Saturday in the season opener. "I would have preferred the team to show it has an identity, and it did that," Spalletti said. "At certain moments we're a bit light, we're not good at bringing that determination. But it can happen, especially at the start. We'll work on it." Lecce made a strong start to the season against the third promoted side, Venezia, on Sunday as they defeated their hosts 2-0 courtesy of second-half goals from Olaf Gorter and Tiago Gabriel.

Pant, Jurel half-centuries take India past 400 in Sri Lanka Test

Sports Desk
Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel hit unbeaten half-centuries as India reached 419-6 at lunch on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Monday. Honours were even on the opening day after India finished on 300-5 but Pant and Jurel tilted the balance in the tourists' favour with the unbroken 112-run stand for the seventh wicket. At the break Pant was batting on 63 and Jurel on 59. Pant, who was forced to retire hurt on the opening day after copping a nasty blow on his forearm, resumed his innings on Monday morning and continued to bat with authority. Sri Lanka's quicks peppered him with short-pitched bowling and the left-hander took several painful blows to the body, but refused to rein in his attacking instincts. He pulled a Lahiru Kumara delivery for a six, with the ball sailing into the adjoining tennis courts and disappearing, forcing the umpires to call for a replacement. It was Pant's 21st half-century in Test cricket. Pant was well supported by Jurel, who completing his third Test half-century. Sri Lanka's only success of the morning came with the new ball when Asitha Fernando dismissed debutant Saransh Jain for six. Number three batsman Devdutt Padikkal posted a fine 117 on Sunday to bolster India on the opening day after the tourists lost their openers early. India won the first Test of the two-match series by 165 runs in Galle.

to sign a number nine. "I am comfortable (anywhere) on the pitch." Raphinha was cut down in the box by Victor Chust and stroked home the resulting penalty after 14 minutes to get Flick's team on their way. Eric Garcia was sharp at the back to ward off a threatening Elche attack, while Barca's Gavi caught the eye in mid-field -- admittedly more for his pink haircut, to celebrate Spain's triumph, than for his performance. Rapid winger Adeyemi, playing on the left, started shakily but grew into the game and doubled Barca's lead before the break after Raphinha unselfishly set him up. In the second half, former Newcastle United winger Gordon, on as a substitute, teed up Raphinha for his second and then supplied Lopez for Barca's fourth in an electric and impressive cameo. Youngster Xavi Espart played in Lopez, who endured a difficult summer after missing Spain's World Cup triumph through injury, for his second to seal Barcelona's comfortable triumph. Flick's high-line defence showed the occasional sign of its usual frailty but goalkeeper Joan Garcia did well when called on to keep a clean sheet. "We were playing against a great team and you pay for your errors," said Elche defender Chust. "It was a tough day but I'll take from it that the team didn't stop running."

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Growers, traders demand for fixing rational rent for potato preservation in cold storage

Rajshahi Correspondent

Potato farmers and traders of Rajshahi have demanded that the rent for preserving potatoes in cold storages be fixed at a rational level.

Their demand is that, as per the recommendation of the District Recommendation Committee, after deducting five kilograms (Kgs) per sack based on net weight, the maximum rent for potatoes should be fixed at Taka five per kg.

The demands were raised at a press conference held yesterday at the office of the District Potato and Raw Materials Traders Cooperative Society in Takipur of Paba upazila, Rajshahi.

At the press conference, the written statement was presented by the General Secretary of the association, Iftekharul Islam Dony. At that time, the President of the association Ahad Ali Shah and other leaders of the organisation and members were present.

At the press conference, Iftekharul Islam Dony said, for almost two years they have been demanding the fixation of a rational rent for preserving potatoes in cold storage.

In view of their demand, separate recommendation committees were formed in the potato-producing districts of the country with the aim of fixing a rational rent.

In continuation of this, the recommendations of various districts have been submitted to the office of the Director General of the Department of Agricultural Marketing.

Praising the role of the Rajshahi District Recommendation Committee, he said, despite various adversities and non-coopera-

tion from the cold storage owners, the committee has given an almost neutral set of recommendations.

Although the farmer-traders have dissenting opinions on some issues of the recommendations, they have accepted it.

He further said, in column No. 8 of the report of the Rajshahi District Recommendation Committee, it has been recommended to fix the rent of potatoes at Taka 5 per kg after deducting an additional five kg of potatoes per sack.

On the other hand, in the reports of various potato-producing districts of the country, the average rent of potatoes per kg has been mentioned as Taka 5.20. Even after that, due to the adamant stance of the cold storage owners, it has not been possible to finalize a rational rent.

Highlighting the importance of Rajshahi and Rangpur regions in the country's potato production at the press conference, he said, the two regions together produce about 70 percent of the country's total potato production.

However, no representative from Rajshahi and Rangpur has been kept in the national committee formed to determine the rational rent of cold storages.

He claims that although there was a recommendation from the higher level of the government to include representatives of these two regions, they have not been kept even in the latest committee.

For this reason, he complained that there has been no opportunity to give formal statements and advice in the process of fixing rent at the national level.

Bodies of two minors recovered from pond in Sherpur

Sherpur Correspondent

The bodies of two minors were recovered from a pond in Nalitabari upazila of the district early yesterday, around 12 hours after they went missing.

The deceased were Rohan, 7, and Ismail, 8. Their bodies were recovered from a pond in Madhya Nakshi area of Koloshpar union.

According to local residents, the two minors did not know how to swim but occasionally entered nearby ponds to catch fish. They went out of their homes at noon on Sunday and did not return.

Early Monday, local residents spotted the bodies of two minors floating in a large pond in the Madhya Nakshi area. Nalitabari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman confirmed the recovery of the bodies. He said the bodies were handed over to the families without autopsies following requests from the relatives.

3 held with 224kg cannabis, foreign-made pistol in joint raid in Narsingdi



Narsingdi Correspondent

Police arrested three alleged drug peddlers and recovered 224 kilograms of cannabis, a foreign-made pistol and a magazine with one round of ammunition during a joint operation in Raipura upazila of the district.

Two private cars, a motorcycle and a mobile phone were also seized during the operation, police said.

Raipura Police Station Inspector (Investigation) TM Faridul Alam confirmed the matter to journalists on Monday afternoon.

The joint team conducted the drive on Sunday night at a vehicle garage in Ratanpur area under Uttar Bakhrnagar union of the upazila. The arrested persons were identified as Maruf Mia, 22, son of Lokman Mia of Uttar Bakhrnagar village; Yasin Mia, 23, son of Mohammad Ali of Ratanpur village; and Dipak Sarkar, 46, son of Jitendra Sarkar of Joynagar area in Shibpur upazila.

Police said another accused, Jamal, along with three to four unidentified persons, how-

ever managed to flee during the operation.

Acting on a tip-off that narcotics and firearms had been stored at the garage of fugitive accused Jamal Mia, members of Raipura police station, Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and Rapid Response Force (RRF) jointly conducted the raid.

During the operation, police recovered 224 kilograms of cannabis which contained in 14 sacks. The estimated market value of the seized narcotics is around TK 44.80 lakh.

A foreign-made pistol, manufactured in the United States, and a magazine containing one round of ammunition were also recovered from a drawer of a table at the garage.

Police also seized two private cars, a motorcycle and a mobile phone from the spot.

According to police, arrested accused Maruf Mia was wanted in several cases, including murder during robbery, snatching, concealing evidence of crime and drug-related offences. Police also said fugitive accused Jamal has been implicated in three drug cases, filed in 2018. In this connection, Sub-Inspector (SI) Joy Kumar Pal Titu of Raipura Police Station filed a case with the police station.

Inspector (Investigation) TM Faridul Alam said police recovered a huge quantity of cannabis, a foreign-made pistol and ammunition from the garage of fugitive accused Jamal Mia and arrested three persons.

He said efforts were underway to arrest the remaining fugitive accused.

The three arrested persons have been sent to jail through a court, he added.

450,000 yaba tablets, 3kg crystal meth seized, Myanmar national held in Teknaf

Cox's Bazar Correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in separate drives along the Teknaf border seized 450,000 yaba tablets and three kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, locally known as ice, and detained a Myanmar national.

In the first drive, a special patrol team of Hnila Border Outpost under Ukhiya Battalion (64 BGB), acting on intelligence, took position in the Moulvibazar area around 1:00 am yesterday, said a BGB release this noon.

At about 1:15 am, the team spotted three suspected smugglers entering Bangladesh from Myanmar carrying sacks.

Challenged by BGB members, they dropped the sacks and fled. BGB personnel fired blank shots, but the suspects escaped, it mentioned.

A subsequent search recovered 400,000 yaba tablets from three sacks. The smugglers could not be detained.

In another drive, Teknaf Battalion (2 BGB) recovered 50,000 yaba tablets from a fish basket abandoned near a keora grove along the Naf River after three suspected smugglers fled towards Myanmar.

In a separate operation in the Sabrang area, the battalion detained a Myanmar national, Md Shah Alam, 50, and seized three kilograms of crystal methamphetamine



Clash Among Students Outside Historic Chhagalnaiya Madrasa Triggers Public Outrage, Calls for Justice

Chhagalnaiya Correspondent

A daylight clash broke out between two groups of students—reportedly from the Dakhl section—in front of the main gate of the historic Chhagalnaiya Islamia Rabbania Kamil Madrasa, located adjacent to Chhagalnaiya Bazar in Feni. The altercation quickly drew widespread attention, becoming the central topic of discussion throughout the local market area.

Local residents expressed deep concern over the incident, noting that such public misconduct right at the heart of Chhagalnaiya and outside a renowned Islamic institution is unprecedented. Community members highlighted that this open display of unrest has severely tarnished the longstanding reputation of the historic madrasa.

News of the incident sparked widespread anger and dissatisfaction among conscious citizens, guardians, well-wishers, and alumni of the institution.

Local guardians and supporters of the madrasa have urged the principal and the managing committee to conduct a thorough investigation to protect the academic environment and restore the institution's honor. They demanded strict disciplinary action against the students involved to serve as a deterrent against future misconduct.

Anti-drug rally and rally organized by Sarail Shabbazpur Police Station

M. Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria.

With the theme "Let's go to war against drugs," Sarail Police Station organized an anti-drug rally and gathering in Shabbazpur, Sarail.

The meeting was chaired by Union BNP President Ayub Khan and conducted by Sarail Upazila Jubo Dal Convener Abu Sufian. Sarail Circle Officer Jahangir Alam attended as the chief guest.

Sarail Police Station OC Manjurul Kader Bhuiyan and Sarail Police Station Investigation Officer Zahirul Islam were present as special guests at the meeting.

Others who spoke included Sarail Upazila BNP Senior Vice President Ashrafur Karim Ripon, Upazila Jubo Dal President Nurul Amin, District Mali Workers Leader Dana Mia, Union Jubo Dal President Shahin Alam, and Samsu Member, along with other dignitaries from the area.

After the gathering, an anti-drug rally circled the main roads.



South Chattogram to get faster rail connectivity with dual-gauge upgrade

Chattogram Correspondent

Bangladesh Railway has launched a project to convert the 59.93-kilometre Chattogram-Dohazari railway line to dual gauge, aiming to improve connectivity between Chattogram Port and the country's northern, western and central regions.

The upgrade will allow both metre-gauge and broad-gauge trains to operate on the same track, reducing travel time and transportation costs while increasing the capacity of the rail network.

Project officials said the improved rail link would facilitate faster movement of goods from Chattogram Port, ease pressure on roads and create new opportunities for industry, agriculture, trade and tourism in southern Chattogram.

As part of the project, existing bridges, culverts, drainage systems, stations, platforms, loop lines, level crossings, signalling and telecommunications systems will also be upgraded. Safety infrastructure will be strengthened as well.

Local residents, however, have raised concerns about land acquisition, waterlogging, noise pollution and possible disruption to communities. Officials said affected people and institutions would receive compensation in accordance with existing laws, including compensation for damage to land, property, businesses, plants and crops.

A Grievance Redressal Management Committee will be formed to address complaints. The committee will include representatives of Bangladesh Railway, the upazila administration, public representatives, the Department of Environment and local NGOs.

Environmental concerns will also be addressed during implementation.

Professor Monjurul Kibria said international standards would be followed to limit construction-related impacts. Measures will include regular water spraying to control dust, noise-management measures, proper waste disposal and safeguards for



workers' health and safety.

He said acceptable noise levels would be maintained near religious institutions, educational facilities and hospitals, while unnecessary use of high-noise equipment would be avoided.

Where trees must be removed, at least three trees will be planted for every tree cut.

Environmental experts have called for effective monitoring to prevent deforestation and control air and noise pollution while protecting biodiversity.

Chattogram Department of Environment Deputy Director Zamir Uddin stressed the importance of a thorough environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the project.

Project Director Md Asadul Haque said the final EIA report would incorporate concerns and recommendations from local communities.

He said the dual-gauge conversion would strengthen the country's rail communication system and significantly improve connectivity between Chattogram Port and other regions, benefiting both passengers and the movement of industrial and agricultural goods.

The project is expected to make travel and logistics more efficient while reducing road congestion and transportation costs, giving fresh momentum to economic activity in southern Chattogram.

One jailed for life over abduction, rape in Jamalpur

Jamalpur Correspondent

A court here yesterday convicted a man for abducting and raping a college girl in 2012 and sentenced him to life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The convicted person was identified as Md Sanowar Hossain alias Nazmul, 28, son of Alam, of Fatepur village in Jamalpur upazila of the district.

According to the prosecution, Md Sanowar Hossain kidnapped a girl, who was studying in the honours programme and staying at a mess in Jamalpur Municipality area, on April 22, 2012. He took her to a house in Sherpur district and raped her.

Being informed, family members of the victim rescued her with the help of a former Union Parishad chairman. A case was filed with Jamalpur Sadar Police Station on April 25, 2012.

Judge of the Women and Children Repression Tribunal-1, Muhammad Abdur Rahim, found him guilty after examining eight prosecution witnesses and other relevant documents and handed down the verdict in absentia



RAB arrests man with drugs, foreign currencies in Thakurgaon

Rangpur Correspondent

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)-13 seized a huge quantity of contraband drugs and foreign currencies and arrested a man from Ajlabad village under Pirganj police station in Thakurgaon on Sunday afternoon.

The arrestee is Md Sahalal Islam, 37, son of late Wazed Ali of the same village, a press release said here this afternoon.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from RAB-13's Dinajpur camp raided a house in the village at 2 pm, seized the drugs and foreign currencies, and arrested the man from his bedroom.

The seized goods included 40 bottles of Fensebyl syrup, six bottles of Rips Royal liquor, 301 bottles of various Indian pesticides, 960 Betamethasone tablets, 1,920 Indian rupees, five Malaysian ringgits and 100 Omani baiza.

During the initial interrogation, the elite force learned that the arrested man had been involved in the drug trade for a long time.

After filing a case in connection with the incident, the elite force handed over the arrested man and the seized drugs and other goods to Pirganj police station in Thakurgaon for further legal action.



Khulna Swechasebak Dal launches mosquito control drive to curb dengue

Khulna Correspondent

Khulna Metropolitan Swechasebak Dal launched a mosquito control campaign in the city on Sunday to raise public awareness and help prevent the spread of dengue.

The campaign was inaugurated around 4pm at Bihari Colony intersection in Ward No. 26 under the initiative of the Khulna City unit of the organisation, following instructions from Jatiya Sangsad Whip Rakibul Islam Bakul, MP.

Khulna City BNP President and Khulna Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Advocate SM Shafiqul Alam Mona inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

Khulna City Swechasebak Dal Convener Md Mirajur Rahman Miraj presided over the programme, conducted by Member Secretary Ishtiaq Ahmed Isti. Khulna City BNP Organising Secretary Sheikh Sadi attended as special guest.

Speaking at the programme, Mona said the rising number of dengue infections in Khulna had become a serious concern and called for collective efforts to tackle the situation.

He urged city residents to remain vigilant, work together to destroy mosquito breeding grounds and prevent further transmission of the disease.

"Creating widespread public awareness is essential to protect city dwellers from dengue," he said, urging political and social organisations to continue activities from their respective positions to safeguard people.

Mona said mosquito control and cleanliness campaigns should be expanded beyond specific areas to all residential localities of the city.

He expressed hope that Khulna City Swechasebak Dal would continue such public welfare activities as part of broader initiatives by BNP leaders and activists across the country.