

We need a better strategy to weather the fallout of US-Iran war

The war in the Middle East has worsened an already challenging situation in Bangladesh. Even before this war, the country was reeling under high inflation, a lack of jobs, and growing poverty. The war has led to compounding energy crisis, painful job cuts, higher prices, and even more people being pushed to poverty. A mid-June World Bank assessment gives greater credence to the mounting risks, amplifying existing vulnerabilities. Reportedly, in 2025, the number of poor people increased by an estimated 14 lakh; the outlook for 2026 is even more worrying. Before the Middle East conflict, around 17 lakh people were expected to move out of poverty this year. The World Bank now projects that only five lakh will do so, while nearly six lakh jobs could be lost. Rising prices alone could account for around 10 percent of the rise in poverty.

The energy crisis caused by the conflict is having a huge impact on power generation, domestic fertiliser production, and industrial activity. With a fall in domestic production, Bangladesh is relying more on imported fertilisers, which again contributes to higher food prices. The World Bank estimates that the subsidy burden could rise to anywhere from \$2.5 to \$4.8 billion, which may lead to cuts in health, education, and social protection spending. Moreover, Bangladesh's migrant workers in the Gulf have been made extraordinarily vulnerable. While 75 percent of Bangladesh's overseas employment over the last decade has been in the Middle East, the war has led to cancelled flights, workers not being able to return to their jobs, lower recruitment by Gulf employers, and growing uncertainty about jobs until the end of the war. Future remittances could also be adversely affected.

WB on middle-east war fallout: Job loss, rise in poverty feared in Bangladesh

The war has burdened the Bangladesh government with multiple interconnected challenges and it must therefore prioritise its strategies by protecting labour-intensive industries, reviving private investment, and strengthening the banking sector. It must also expand targeted social protection during this crisis by improving women's access to employment, creating jobs beyond the major cities, investing in technical and vocational upskilling, and providing support for returning migrants. Bangladesh, moreover, must reduce its over dependence on the Middle Eastern labour market. Diversification of overseas employment is essential. This requires developing the skills of workers so they can compete for jobs in markets in Japan, South Korea, East and Southeast Asia, New Zealand, and Eastern Europe.

The central point of all the crises is energy. Bangladesh must strengthen this sector by reducing its dependence on foreign sources and focusing on domestic gas exploration and promotion of renewables. Bangladesh depends heavily on imported fuel, particularly LNG. Gas accounts for more than half of primary energy supply, while domestic production has declined significantly. In the short term, Bangladesh does not have too many avenues. But its future resilience to such consequential economic shocks must be built through careful planning and political will. This includes greater energy self-sufficiency, creation of jobs, upskilling migrant labour, and expansion of social safety net programmes to bring people out of poverty.

Bangladesh needs to invest in home-based childcare

'With every woman who leaves the workforce because she cannot find reliable childcare, a family loses income, an employer loses a productive worker, and the economy loses valuable human capital.' FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS
Every morning before work, Rima, a garment worker living on the outskirts of Dhaka, faces a painful dilemma: there is no safe place to leave her two-year-old daughter. Her elderly mother lives in a distant village, her husband works as a rickshaw puller, and the nearest daycare centre is too expensive. Some days, she leaves her child with a neighbour, constantly

worrying about her safety. On other days, she misses work to care for her daughter, sacrificing much-needed income. Eventually, unable to balance work and childcare, Rima leaves her job altogether. With every woman leaving the workforce because she cannot find reliable childcare, a family loses income, an employer loses a productive worker, and the economy loses valuable human capital. One of the primary reasons behind this is the limited availability of safe, affordable childcare services in Bangladesh. Today, this has become a major challenge to national productivity, women's economic empowerment, and the country's future human capital development.

A study by the International Labour Organization found that 54 percent of working parents believe the lack of affordable, quality childcare is one of the main barriers to women's participation in the workforce. Furthermore, 18 percent of parents reported having to leave a job or other income-generating activities at some point due to childcare responsibilities. These findings reveal the crucial need for quality childcare services in Bangladesh. In recent years, the importance of childcare has increasingly been recognised worldwide.

While participating in the World Bank's Invest in Childcare Policy Academy in May 2026, we observed that countries investing in childcare have achieved notable success not only in improving children's well-being but also in increasing women's labour force participation, creating employment opportunities, and sustaining long-term economic growth. Moreover, the number of formal daycare centres in both the

Md. Neyamul Hossain

public and private sectors remains extremely limited across a country of nearly 18 crore people. Beyond formal daycare centres, many countries have successfully introduced income-generating home-based childcare models, such as Australia's Family Day Care, the UK's Registered Childminders, Canada's Licensed Home Child Care, and South Africa's



The next question is: who should implement this on a large scale? A nationwide expansion cannot rely solely on grants or donor-funded projects; the private sector and NGOs must also step in. NGOs, in particular, are uniquely positioned to lead this effort. Over the years, they have successfully delivered microfinance, healthcare, skills training, and income-generating programmes to marginalised communities across Bangladesh. By leveraging their vast grassroots networks and field experience, NGOs can easily scale home-based childcare services across the country.

Under such a programme, potential women entrepreneurs would first be identified and equipped with the right skills. They would receive structured training in Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), child protection, nutrition, first aid, and business management.

Community-based Childcare system. In Bangladesh, we can explore Rwanda's community-based childcare and Kenya's home-based childcare systems, as all three nations face similar socioeconomic challenges and share large informal labour markets. Although on a very limited scale, informal home-based childcare services have begun to emerge in Bangladesh, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas around garment fac-

tories. Following the examples of other countries, Bangladesh may introduce professionally trained local women to provide home-based childcare services. This model can become a safe, affordable and sustainable childcare system. With proper planning and implementation, home-based childcare services could create thousands of women entrepreneurs across the country with relatively modest investment, simultaneously expanding access to childcare while generating significant employment opportunities.

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Under such a programme, potential women entrepreneurs would first be identified and equipped with the right skills. They would receive structured training in Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), child protection, nutrition, first aid, and business management. Once they meet national competency standards, these women could be certified and given affordable loans and business support. They would then open and run registered childcare centres in their own homes. Ongoing monitoring and mentoring would ensure high service standards and child safety. To guarantee the long-term success of these services, several key policy measures must be adopted.

First, Bangladesh should develop a national policy and licensing framework for home-based childcare services. Second, a national competency standard and certification system should be introduced. During the initial phase, certification requirements may be relaxed. Third, subsidies for childcare services should be introduced for low-income families. Fourth, women interested in becoming childcare entrepreneurs should receive professional training together with access to affordable credit.

Investment in childcare, whether through formal or informal systems, should not be viewed as a social expense but as an investment in the country's future. Quality childcare enables more women to participate in the workforce, supports children's early learning and development, increases household income, and enhances national productivity over the long term. Therefore, childcare represents an integrated strategy for social protection, skills development, women's entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth. Now, it is time for policymakers to give this issue the earnest attention it deserves.

Govt committed to aspirations

enforced disappearances and killings and the families of those injured or killed in the July uprising."

"The irreparable losses you have suffered can never be compensated. Yet, we were with you, are with you and will remain with you in the future," he said.

Noting that many of those who made great sacrifices for major national achievements are no longer alive, the premier said "To those who are with us, I would say that you made the highest sacrifices for the country and suffered physical harm in various ways. The present government will make every possible effort to fulfil the aspirations for which you risked your lives." Describing the sacrifices of the democratic fighters as the government's main source of strength and inspiration, Tarique Rahman said, "It is your sacrifices, support and cooperation that give us the courage to work with full vigour. You are our main source of strength and inspiration."

Addressing the families of martyrs, the Prime Minister sought their continued support and encouragement so that the government could work to fulfil the aspirations of the martyrs and all other democratic fighters for the country and its people.

Family members affected by enforced disappearances and killings and injured persons shared their feelings with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the programme, conducted by Atikur Rahman Ruman, also convener of 'Amra BNP Paribar'. Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Gani, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ABM Abdus Sattar, Press Secretary AAM Saleh Shibly, Deputy Press Secretaries Jahidul Islam Rony, Hasan Shiplu, Md Suzauddhowla (Sujan Mahmud), Shahadat Shadhin, Assistant Press Secretaries AKM Nazmul Haque and Gazi Shahriar Pamir, and Amra BNP Paribar member Mokshedul Momin Mithun, among others, were present on the occasion.

Ethics is a greater virtue than

the election amid a "pile of ruins."

He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is attaching considerable importance to education and health. Vice-Chancellor of Lakshmipur University of Science and Technology Dr Hanif Murad, Lakshmipur Deputy Commissioner SM Mehedi Hasan, District Council Administrator Sahab Uddin Sabu and Principal of Lakshmipur Government College Professor Md Yusuf, among others, attended the programme as special guests.

Govt raises rewards for

He said a special unit has already been formed in coordination with various intelligence agencies to intensify operations to recover looted and illegal firearms.

Salahuddin said weapons whose cancelled licences were not surrendered within the stipulated deadline have already been treated as illegal firearms and cases have been filed, while drives to recover them are continuing.

He added that special strategic operations are being conducted across the country with assistance from intelligence agencies to prevent illegal arms, drugs, smuggling and extortion. Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir chaired the conference, while Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Manzur Morshed Chowdhury addressed it as a special guest.

Additional IGP (Crime and Operations) Khandaker Rafiqul Islam delivered the welcome speech. Additional IGP (Administration) AKM Awlad Hossain, among others, was present.

During the conference, the minister responded to various questions from DIGs of different ranges, police commissioners and additional police commissioners of different metropolitan

areas, and superintendents of police (SPs) of different districts and exchanged views.

Biomedical and Nano

was used in (i) bio-imaging guided targeted therapy, (ii) smart theranostic nanoparticle-based photodynamic therapy (PDT) using NIR laser and (iii) synergistic combination therapy for the treatment of breast cancer.

After completing his PhD, he was selected as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Apex Research Organization of BCSIR, Dhaka, Bangladesh and successfully served. At the same time, he worked as a co-researcher and consultant with Dr. Mostafa Kamal Arefin, a renowned researcher and specialist in the Department of Ear, Nose and Throat at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Between 2020 and 2022, he worked as a co-researcher with Dr. Arefin in two important and successful national clinical trials conducted in different hospitals in Dhaka, Bangladesh; these trials evaluated an oronasal spray for protection against COVID-19 and emerged as the most talked about, much-praised and widely accepted "biomedical research" worldwide during the pandemic.

Expressing his feelings on receiving these awards, he said, "This honor is a gift from the Almighty God. It is the result of the love, prayers and faith of my parents, grandparents, family, teachers, colleagues, patients and their guardians and the general public. This recognition will inspire me to work more responsibly in the future."

Brief Introduction:

Name: Dr. Ahsanul Kaiser

Profession: Independent Nano and Biomedical Researcher

Education: PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Cancer Nanomedicine and Theranostic Nanoparticles), Monash University

Recent Achievements: BPA Best Professional Award 2026 and Star Excellence Award 2026 (in the Biomedical Research and Innovation category).

Lawyers Announce They Will Not

members were recovered, police detained two suspects. Based on information provided by them, the looted jewellery was recovered. The two arrested suspects have already confessed to the murders before a court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"We believe that the police investigation is proceeding in the right direction so far, thanks to the efforts of the police and the cooperation of journalists," Advocate Aftab Uddin said. He also said that various rumours and fabricated stories were being circulated on social media regarding the murders. Some people were also trying to give the incident a political angle. "On behalf of the Bar Association, we request everyone not to politicise this murder case and not to spread any kind of rumours," he said.

Advocate Aftab Uddin said that following discussions among the members of the Bar Association, they had decided not to provide legal representation to the accused in the murder of retired teacher Ganapati Chakraborty and the three other members of his family. However, the association would stand beside the affected family and provide them with all necessary legal assistance. He also urged journalists to present accurate and verified information about the murders.

Among those present at the press conference were Advocate Mahfuz Un Nabi Don, administrator of Rangpur City Corporation and member secretary of the Rangpur Metropolitan BNP; Advocate Sahed Kamal Ibn Khatib of the Rangpur Bar Association; Jamaat lawyer Advocate Kawsar Ali; and other leaders of the association.

Siraj Sikder to Aynaghar: A

quently subjected to extrajudicial killing after being taken into state custody.Nearly five decades later during Awami League period under Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh confronted a much larger and more extensively documented question: what happens when a person disappears after being taken into the custody of state security agencies, and the state refuses to acknowledge where that person is.Deposed Sheikh Hasina established a reign of enforced disappearance between 2010 and August 5 2024 as she fled India in a stiff resistance of mass people ending her almost 16 years autocratic government. The evolution from killing of Siraj Sikder to the cases of Sheikh Hasina's regime uncovered by the recent Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances formed during Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus led interim government illustrates a recurring concern in Bangladesh's political history.

Siraj Sikder, leader of the Purbo Bangla Sarbahara Party, was an armed revolutionary opponent of the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. His death in January 1975 became a symbol for critics of the government's treatment of political dissent. The controversy established an early and enduring question in Bangladesh: can state authorities be held accountable when a political opponent dies after being taken into custody? That question resurfaced repeatedly in subsequent decades.

Under international law, enforced disappearance involves deprivation of liberty by state agents or with state authorization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the detention or concealment of the person's fate or whereabouts.

The issue became particularly prominent during the 2010s as families began publicly demanding information about relatives who had allegedly been picked up by security agencies and then disappeared.

The current official investigation focuses specifically on allegations made during the period from January 1, 2010 to August 5, 2024.

Following the mass uprising that toppled fascist Sheikh Hasina's regime in August 2024, the then interim government formed a five-member Commission of Inquiry to identify people allegedly forcibly disappeared by law-enforcement and intelligence agencies, establish their whereabouts and circumstances, and recommend measures to address the cases.1,913 complaints, 1,569 verified cases:

The scale of the allegations became clearer as the commission collected testimony.According to its final report submitted to the then chief adviser on January 4, 2026, some 1,913 complaints were submitted. After verification, 1,569 were identified as enforced disappearances under the commission's definition, with 287 cases falling into the category of "missing and dead."

According to commission member Nabila Idris, the actual number could be considerably higher, estimating that it might reach 4,000 to 6,000. She explained that many victims or families had never approached the commission, some did not know about its work and others were living abroad.

The figures, therefore, represent verified complaints rather than an exhaustive count of everyone who may have disappeared.

Political character of the disappearances:

The commission concluded that the disappearances it investigated were largely politically motivated.Its final report, titled "Unfolding the Truth: A Structural Diagnosis of Enforced Disappearance in Bangladesh," said evidence pointed to involvement at the highest levels of the government in a number of high-profile cases.Among the cases highlighted were those involving BNP leaders Ilias Ali, Hummam Quader Chowdhury, Salahuddin Ahmed and Chowdhury Alam;

Jamaat leader and former brigadier general Abdullahil Amaan Azmi; Barrister Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem; and former ambassador Maroof Zaman.The report also said evidence indicated that some disappeared people had been secretly transferred without legal process and that such transfers were allegedly carried out on orders from senior levels of government.The commission itself urged the authorities to continue the investigation, protect victims and ensure justice. Its members also called for the reconstitution of the National Human Rights Commission.A major legal turning point:

Earlier, a significant development came on August 29, 2024, when Bangladesh acceded to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The then interim government's Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus signed the instrument of accession, calling it a historic occasion. The move came shortly after the interim government established the Commission of Inquiry. The accession placed Bangladesh more firmly within the international legal framework dealing specifically with enforced disappearance.The government subsequently moved toward domestic legislation. In August 2025, the Advisory Council approved in principle the draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance 2025.

The proposed law defines enforced disappearance as crime, criminalizes secret detention facilities and provides for investigation, victim and witness protection, compensation and legal assistance. It also proposes a special tribunal for such cases.On August 3, 2026 after assuming office through February 12 general election, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's cabinet gave in-principle and final approval to the draft of the Prevention and Remedies for Enforced Disappearance Act, 2026, recognising enforced disappearance as a distinct criminal offence with provisions for life imprisonment and fines. Earlier on April 30, 2026, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md. Asaduzzaman informed the parliament that a total of 1,855 cases have been filed across the country over killings, enforced disappearances and torture committed during the previous fascist regime.

The minister informed that among the cases, 799 are murder cases while 1,056 were filed under other charges.

"So far, investigation has been completed in 158 cases (48 murder cases and 110 others) and charge sheets have been submitted to the courts. Trial proceedings in these cases are currently underway," he said. Asaduzzaman added that investigations into the remaining 1,697 cases are ongoing.

Notorious Terrorist ‘Golakata

the area based on a tip-off about a group of armed criminals gathering in Kanchan Nagar. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the criminals opened fire indiscriminately at the team. Police fired back in self-defense. While Mobarak's accomplices managed to flee the scene during the gunfight, police apprehended Mobarak red-handed along with firearms. Confirming the incident, Fatikchhari Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rabiul Alam Khan said, "Acting on secret information, we conducted a raid and arrested a criminal named Mobarak along with firearms. Drives are ongoing in the area to eliminate criminal activities."

Police added that Mobarak has multiple cases filed against him across various police stations for different criminal acts.

No fertilizer shortage in

the demand. The problem is with its proper distribution," he said. The state minister made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting on fertilizer supply, distribution, stockpiling and overall management with the district administration and registered chemical fertilizer dealers at the Panchagarh Sadar Upazila auditorium.



HSIA third terminal's costs hiked by Tk902cr despite 99.91% completion rate

Staff correspondent

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's third terminal could not be opened completely in the last three years despite almost completing the construction with a 99.91% progress rate and finishing up the terminal building. On the contrary, the authorities have decided to ramp up the construction costs by Tk902 crore despite almost 100% completion rate of the project. Additionally, the project's tenure is being extended by one more year, which will take the project costs to Tk22,267.67 crore from Tk13,610 crore, with a six-year project being turned into

a 11-year project. The first phase of HSIA Extension Project was approved in 2017 to make the country's aviation sector modern and internationally standardised. The third terminal was built under the project with an initial cost of Tk13,610 crore and a timeline till June 2022. However, the work was not completed according to schedule. The timeline was extended by three years till 2025 in the first revision, and by another year till June 2026 in the second revision, which also failed. As a result, the authorities have proposed another extension of the project timeline till June 2027.

According to project documents, the progress rate of the project has been 99.91% till June 2026, with less than 1% left. However, both the project timeline and costs have been proposed to be extended for this minimal work. The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has sent the third amendment proposal to the Planning Commission with an additional cost of Tk8,657.19 crore. Besides time and costs overruns, the opening of the project is also facing a lag. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina had launched a 'soft opening' of the terminal

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BSF Pushes Two Bangladeshis Back Through Sylhet Border



Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Govainghat Sylhet

The Border Security Force (BSF) has pushed two Bangladeshi nationals back into Bangladesh through the Jaintapur border in Sylhet. The incident took place at around 12:45 pm on Friday (August 28) in the Bagchhara area along the Jaintapur border. Upon receiving information, members of the Border

Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained the two individuals and took them to a nearby camp. The detainees have been identified as Hasanul Faqir (58), son of the late Motaheb Faqir, and his wife Mst. Ambia (35), residents of Madhabpur village under Dighalia Police Station in Khulna district. According to local residents and BGB sources, a man and a woman were pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF through the Bagchhara area near Sub-Pillar No. 4 of Border Pillar No. 1302 at around 12:45 pm on Friday. Later, personnel from the Lalakhali Border Outpost (BOP) under the Jashore Battalion apprehended them and took them to the camp. They

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Hasnat regrets 'misunderstanding' over Brahmanbaria remarks

Staff correspondent

National Citizen Party (NCP) southern region chief organiser and Cumilla-4 MP Hasnat Abdullah has expressed regret over a misunderstanding with the people of Brahmanbaria caused by his remarks in parliament. At the same time, he said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed's comments on cultural activities in Brahmanbaria had also created a wrong impression about the district's people and Islamic scholars. Hasnat made the remarks in a post on his verified Facebook account this afternoon. On Thursday, in parliament, Hasnat asked the home minister a supplement

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Continuous Rains Submerge Low-Lying Areas in Dighinala, Cut Off Dighinala-Longadu Road Link

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Heavy rainfall lasting several hours has once again inundated low-lying areas in Dighinala upazila, Khagrachari. The downpour, which began late Friday night, triggered a rapid rise in water levels across the Maini River and nearby mountain streams.

By Saturday (August 29) morning, the Maini River was reported flowing above the danger mark. Consequently, several low-lying areas across Merung, Kabakhali, and Boalkhali unions have been submerged, placing homesteads and agricultural fields underwater.

The sudden flood covered key stretches of the Dighinala-Merung road, leading to a complete shutdown of vehicular traffic. This has temporarily disrupted direct road communications between Longadu upazila in Rangamati and the rest of the country. Locals

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Two Teenagers Found Dead in Separate Incidents in Sitakunda

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

Two teenagers, including a college student, were found dead in separate incidents in Sitakunda, Chattogram, on Tuesday (August 26). The incidents occurred in Bara Aulia and Yakubnagar areas of Sitakunda Municipality. According to local sources, around 12:00 noon, Sanjita Jaldash (16), a college student, was found unconscious near Chairman Bari in Jelep para area of Bara Aulia under Sonai Chhari Union. She died on the way to Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Sanjita was the daughter of Santosh Jaldash of the area and a student of Kumira Latif Siddiqui Degree College.

Dhanbasi Jaldash, head of the Jelep para community, said Sanjita reportedly fell ill following a disagreement with her mother over a family matter. She was later taken to the hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Meanwhile, around 9:30 pm on the same day, police recovered the body of Rozen Hossain Siam (19) from a rented house in Bottola area of Yakubnagar, Sitakunda Municipality. Siam lived there with his parents and was originally from Barishal district. He was the son of Mohammad Alamgir Farazi.

Police said a handwritten note was recovered from Siam's room. The circumstances surrounding the death are currently under investigation.

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Govt to decide on Mecca Pact after considering all aspects: Law Minister

Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman said the government will decide whether Bangladesh will join the Mecca Pact after considering all aspects of the matter.

He made the remarks today while responding to questions from journalists after attending a reception for meritorious students of Jhenaidah Collectorate School and College as the chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Md Noman Hossain presided over the programme, while the Prime Minister's Political Assistant Rashed Khan attended as the special guest. The law minister said India

would act according to its foreign policy, while Bangladesh would follow its own policy. "India will move like India, and Bangladesh will move like Bangladesh," he added.

Regarding the country's law and order situation, Asaduzzaman said the issue was not whether the government was satisfied with the situation, but that the government was making relentless efforts to maintain normalcy.

He said the government and the Ministry of Law are also working to introduce e-judiciary, aimed at digitalising the country's judicial system. The government has a plan to implement the e-judiciary system within the next

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Muslims should be wary of the tendency to deny madhhabs -Pir Saheb of Sarchina

Staff Reporter

Ameer-e-Hizbullah, Pir Saheb of Sarchina Darbar Sharif Qibla Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Shah Abu Nasr Nesaruddin Ahmed Hussain (M.A.G.A.) said, ignoring the path to acquiring deep and comprehensive knowledge of religion by denying madhhabs is a very dangerous tendency. There is no scope for interpreting the provisions of the Quran and Sunnah based on one's whims or limited knowledge. To understand the provisions of Islam, one must rely on the interpretation and research of qualified scholars, jurisprudents and mujtahid imams. He said, the issue

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Traditional boat race held in Salta, Faridpur



Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

In Salta, Faridpur, a boat race competition and fair were held, nurturing the timeless tradition of rural Bengal. On Friday (28 August) afternoon, the festival was organised by the villagers of Khoar at the Aashar bill adjacent to the Banyan tree in Khoar village. The rhythm of the oars, the rowers' hey-hey tunes, and the applause of thousands of spectators filled both banks of the entire bill. Various decorated large boats from distant places descended into the bill for this traditional boat race. People of all ages flocked from nearby villages and different parts of the country to watch the competition. The entire area turned into a

grand gathering with the lively presence of children, teenagers, women, and men. Alongside the boat race, a bustling rural fair was set up beside the bill. The atmosphere of the festival spread with the footsteps of thousands of people at the fair. Traders displayed wooden toys, clay items, bangles, ribbons, and a variety of delicious rural foods. The enthusiasm of the competitors and the spectators created a vibrant atmosphere. After the thrilling battles of the competing teams, the winners were awarded prizes by the guests at night. The chief guest at the concluding ceremony and prize distribution was the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Salta, Dabir Uddin. Special guests who spoke at the event included the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Salta Police Station, Md. Bablu Rahman Khan, former president of the Upazila BNP Siddiqueur Rahman Talukdar, senior teacher of District School Md. Zahid Hossain, former joint general

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Sangbadik Unnoyon Society of Bangladesh Chittagong branch office inaugurated

Mirsharai Correspondent

Today, 29-08-2026, The functional office of The Sangbadik Unnoyon Society of Bangladesh, Chattogram North District Branch was inaugurated at Mirsharai Upazila Sadar. On the 1st floor of Mirsharai Girls School Market.

The inauguration ceremony was held at Mirsharai Hotel Park Inn. The event began with Quran recitation, followed by welcoming the 12th of Rabiul Awal, and the recitation of Darud and Salam. Chief Guest at the inauguration was CIP Fakhrul Islam Khan, The ribbon was cut by Nandito Television Chairman, Alhaj Shamsuddin. The inaugural meeting was presided over by Senior Vice-President of Sangbadik Unnoyon Society of Bangladesh, Chattogram North District Branch and Editor The Daily

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

HSIA third terminal’s costs hiked

on 7 October 2023. At that time, it was said that the terminal would be opened in phases. Although three years have passed since then, the terminal could not be opened yet. On the contrary, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat has laid out a plan to launch another soft opening on 16 December 2026, adding that the government is initiating a process to sign an agreement with a Japanese company for the terminal's operations. Even though construction of the terminal building has been completed, prolonged delays in appointing an operator are adding to the government’s costs. Under the third revision of the project, Tk667.48 crore has been proposed for maintenance. The money will be spent until an operator is appointed. However, no allocation for maintenance was included in the original development project proposal. As a result, the additional expenditure has been added at the final stage of the project. Recently, Japanese company Sojitz submitted a proposal to operate and maintain the terminal. Representatives of the company submitted technical and financial proposals at the headquarters of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) on 25 August. The proposals are now expected to be evaluated, followed by negotiations and discussions toward reaching an agreement. Meanwhile, the cost of several components of the project is also increasing at the final stage. An additional Tk647.52 crore has been proposed for runway and taxiway-related infrastructure under civil works, while Tk372.94 crore has been proposed as additional expenditure for building works. In addition, a proposal has been made to extend consultancy services by 359 person-months at an additional cost of Tk41.67 crore. However, at a meeting of the Planning Commission’s Project Evaluation Committee on 20 August, instructions were given to reduce these proposed expenditures. Questions have also been raised over the decision to pay a substantial amount to settle claims made by the project contractor, Aviation Dhaka Consortium (ADC). A dispute arose between ADC and CAAB over various claims by the contractor. A dispute board was formed to resolve the matter, and the board issued its decision on 16 February.Later, an Amicable/Global Settlement Committee was formed on 7 April to settle the contractor’s outstanding claims. Based on the committee’s recommendations, a decision has been taken to pay the contractor an additional Tk1,522.55 crore. According to the dispute board’s decision, the payment of Tk1,579.51 crore in outstanding bills, along with Tk47 crore in penalties, also came under consideration.Officials concerned said allegations of ambiguity and repeated changes regarding the project’s design, scope of work and various products have existed since the beginning. These factors contributed to the increase in project costs at the final stage, they said. The project’s financial management has also raised several questions. Audit objections have been raised over additional allocations, VAT, customs clearance of goods and transportation costs, among other issues. There have also been allegations that transportation costs for drying liquid mud were shown twice. Questions have also been raised over additional payments made against the contractor’s claims concerning VAT payable to the National Board of Revenue (NBR). An audit also raised the issue of Tk68.72 crore spent on clearing goods at the port being shifted from the contractor to the state. Apart from financial irregularities, questions have also been raised about the project’s technical aspects. Defects have reportedly been found in machines used in the Explosive Detection System, an important component of airport security. The machines allegedly take around 20 minutes to restart after a power outage.Problems have also emerged with the backup power system because the tender documents did not specify the required UPS load calculation and configuration.Water and mud have reportedly entered the duct bank constructed for electronic systems. Allegations have also been made that some products were supplied without complying with the required specifications. Amid these irregularities and concerns, 121 audit objections related to the project remain unresolved. Documents related to the project indicate that the objections stemmed from weaknesses in project supervision and various inconsistencies in financial management. The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has urged authorities to resolve the outstanding audit objections promptly. Experts say the third terminal is highly important for Bangladesh’s aviation connectivity and economy. Although it was intended to provide modern facilities and international-standard passenger services, the failure to fully launch its operations even after such a long period is disappointing, they said.

Sakhawat makes

without leave. An order was subsequently issued for his immediate transfer.

Govt to decide on Mecca Pact

year, he added. District BNP President M A Majid, General Secretary Zahiduzzaman Mona, Vice-President Munshi Kamal Azad Pannu, Joint General Secretary Abdul Majid Biswas and Shaikupa upazila BNP General Secretary Humayun Babar Firoz, among other BNP leaders and activists of its affiliated organisations, attended the reception.

BSF Pushes Two Bangladeshis

were subsequently subjected to preliminary questioning. During interrogation, the two detainees reportedly told BGB officials that they had gone to India around 10 years ago. Lieutenant Colonel Zubayer Anwar, commander of the Jashore Battalion, confirmed the matter and said that the process of handing the two detainees over to Jaintapur Model Police Station was underway. Authorities are expected to take further legal action after verifying the circumstances under which the two individuals entered Bangladesh.

Hasnat regrets ‘misunderstanding

tary question about the country’s law and order situation and allegations that cultural activities such as concerts and “nouka baich” had been restricted in Brahmanbaria. His remarks later sparked a protest march in the district last night. Protesters also warned that no NCP programme would be allowed there until he apologised. In the Facebook post, Hasnat Abdullah said, “I regret that the statement I made in parliament seeking accountability from the home minister over the deterioration of the law and order situation created a misunderstanding with the people of Brahmanbaria.”He said the home minister had recently remarked that music and cinema were “almost banned” in Brahmanbaria, which, according to Hasnat, shifted the blame for the ministry’s failure onto local people and Islamic scholars. Referring to an incident surrounding a police concert in Brahmanbaria, Hasnat said the reality was different from how it had been portrayed in the media. According to him, madrasa students had asked for the volume to be lowered as loud music late at night was disrupting the studies of examinees. An argument later broke out between police and the students, and several students were injured in police baton charges. “The madrasa students did not stop the concert. They only asked for the sound to be lowered,” he said.Hasnat also admit-

ted making a factual error in parliament while referring to a boat race.“I mistakenly said Brahmanbaria instead of Sylhet. I am embarrassed by the unintended misunderstanding caused by this error,” he said.He said the time limit for a supplementary question had prevented him from explaining the full context of the incidents.Reaffirming his and his party’s commitment to the ideals of July, Hasnat said they wanted a society where everyone would enjoy equal rights and no one would impose their views on others.“This Bangladesh belongs to everyone -- there will be mosques, temples, music, waz, shrines, concerts, mahfils, rath yatras, film festivals, as well as discussions by Islamic scholars,” he said. Hasnat said it was the government’s responsibility to ensure that no one infringed on the rights of others.

Continuous Rains Submerge Low-Lying

are currently relying on boats to cross the inundated sections of the highway. Meanwhile, several long-distance night coaches of Shanti Paribahan, traveling from Dhaka to Longadu, remain stranded at Merung Headquarters, leaving passengers facing severe distress. Repeated flash floods have sparked frustration and hardship among local residents and farmers. Subimal Chakma, a farmer from the Boalkhali area, shared his distress, stating that he had just finished planting Aman paddy seedlings on Monday, only to watch them get swept away by the mountain runoff on Saturday morning. He added that summer vegetable crops and paddy fields have been completely ruined after suffering three flood cycles within just two months. Subhudhi Chakma, a balloon maker at the Dighinala Weather Monitoring Station, confirmed heavy downpours in several phases since Friday night, recording 89 millimeters of rainfall by Saturday morning. Commenting on the overall situation, Dighinala Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md. Tanjil Parvez stated that seven families have already taken refuge at the Pablakhali Government Primary School shelter. Government relief allocations are currently being processed for prompt distribution. He also confirmed that vehicular movement along the Merung stretch remains suspended due to the submerged road.

Muslims should be wary of the

of madhhab and taqlids was decided by the Ijma' of the Ummah before the compilation of Hadith. The four Imams, namely Imam Abu Hanifa (may Allah have mercy on him), Imam Malik (may Allah have mercy on him), Imam Shafi'i (may Allah have mercy on him) and Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (may Allah have mercy on him). Among them, Imam-e-Azam Abu Hanifa (may Allah have mercy on him) was a Tabi'i. The Imams of the remaining three schools of thought were also Tabi'i and Tabi'i. Although the compilation of Hadith had not begun until then, the written books of Hadith were compiled later.

The interesting thing is that all the Imams of the schools of thought were Muhaddiths. They showed the Ummah a comprehensive path to understanding religious rulings based on the evidence of the Quran and Sunnah, the actions of the Companions and deep research into fiqh. Therefore, denying the school of thought or belittling Muslims who follow it is in no way acceptable. On the other hand, the followers of the so-called authentic hadith who want to deny the madhhab with the hadith narrated by the narrators were all either mujtahids or muqallids. He advised everyone to be careful about this good-natured deception of the opponents of the madhhab and to adopt the correct aqeedah using their own conscience. He also said that giving one's own interpretation of the Quran and hadith by mouth is not a service to the religion. Determining the provisions of the Sharia without having a vast knowledge of fiqh, Arabic language, different levels of hadith, nasikh-mansukh, am-khas, mutlaq-muqayyid and numerous other topics is akin to self-deception. If someone thinks he is a jurist after reading a few videos or translations on social media, it can be a cause of harm to the religion. He said that differences in the ijthad of madhhab cannot be created within the ummah. Again, the tendency to separate people from following the scholars by denying the necessity of the madhhab must be resisted. One should follow the guidance of wise scholars, not emotions, regarding religion. One should refrain from spreading unnecessary debate, hatred and confusion about the madhhab and focus on correcting one's actions and morals and building one's life in the light of the Quran and Sunnah.

He said this on Friday (August 28) at the traditional mosque at the Ghausul Azam Complex in the capital's Mohakhali TB Gate on the last day of the three-day Eid-e-Miladunnabi (PBUH) celebration, as the chief guest.

Under the chairmanship of Bangladesh Jamiatul Modarresin and editor of Dainik Inqilab, Alhaj AMM Bahauddin Saheb, the last day of the gathering was further preached by the senior Nayeb-e-Ameer of Bangladesh Jamiat Hizbullah, Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Hafez Shah Abu Bakr Mohammad Saleh Nesarullah, Nayeb-e-Mudir of Charchina Daruchunnat Jamiat Nesaria Diniyar Maulana Md. Mamunul Haque, Organizing Secretary of Bangladesh Jamiat Hizbullah, Maulana Md. Hemayet Bin Tayyeb, and Maulana Mohebbullah Al Mahmud, the companion of Hazrat Pir Saheb Qibla, etc. Finally, Hazrat Pir Saheb Qibla led the closing prayer of the three-day mahfil, wishing for the overall welfare and peace and prosperity of the country, nation and Muslim Ummah. At this time, a heart-wrenching scene unfolded with the sound of the Muslims present crying Amen Amen.

HSTU student develops

Islam confirmed the development to Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) in a press release issued on Friday. According to the release, the system analyses soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, moisture, temperature and rainfall data to select suitable crops from a database of 28 crop varieties. It also incorporates an AI chatbot capable of answering farmers' questions in Bangla.

Nahid said the technology was recently tested at a nursery field of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Dinajpur, where the AI model achieved an accuracy rate of more than 97 percent.

The researcher, a member of HSTU's 23rd batch in the ECE department, said he developed the crop recommendation system based on soil data collected from the university campus rather than relying solely on pre-existing datasets. For the research, he collected soil samples from different locations on the campus and documented soil characteristics for 28 different crops. He then developed a machine-learning pipeline through data preprocessing, feature engineering, model training and validation. The technology has been designed in four layers to make it accessible and practical for farmers.

The first layer consists of an Internet of Things (IoT)-based soil analysis device. The device can measure soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, moisture and temperature in the field and transmit the data directly to the cloud, reducing the need to send soil samples to a laboratory.

The second layer is the crop recommendation engine. Using a machine-learning model trained on soil data collected from the HSTU campus, the system analyses field conditions and selects the most suitable crop from 28 alternatives. The model recorded more than 97 percent accuracy during testing.

The third layer features a large language model (LLM)-based chatbot developed by Nahid himself. Farmers can ask questions in Bangla and receive immediate responses. According to the researcher, the chatbot does not rely on expensive third-party AI APIs, potentially making the technology more affordable and locally adaptable. The final layer is an Android application through which farmers can access the system using an ordinary smartphone. The application is designed to provide crop recommendations based on information supplied by users without requiring specialised hardware. The researcher said the main objective is to make the technology available to farmers, particularly those in remote areas, at a low cost.

To assess the technology's effectiveness, a field trial was recently conducted at a BADC nursery field in Dinajpur. Nahid installed the IoT-based soil analysis device at the site, collected soil data and demonstrated how the AI system could use the information to recommend suitable crops in real time. The research was academically supervised by Professor Dr Md. Dulal Hasan of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at HSTU. Agriculturist Shahana Parvin of BADC, Dinajpur, assisted with implementation of the research at the field level.

Professor Dulal Hasan said Nahid had gone beyond developing an AI model by independently collecting data on campus and building the entire technology pipeline.

“As a teacher, I am truly proud to see this. The system is a practical solution for farmers in the context of Bangladesh,” he said.

Two Teenagers Found Dead in

Sitakunda Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mahinur Islam confirmed the two incidents, saying that the bodies of a teenage girl in Bara Aulia and a teenage boy in Yakubnagar were recovered. He added that both incidents are under investigation.

Traditional boat race

secretary of Upazila BNP Khandakar Khairul Basar Azad, Md. Shahinur Rahman Shahin, and Kamrul Islam. Also present were local BNP president of Ward 5 of Atghor Union Md. Muradur Rahman, Upazila Jubo Dal leader Safiqul Islam, Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, Md. Jasim Molla, local personalities Samad Matubbar and Anichur Rahman (Member), along with notable figures from the area, local representatives, and representatives of social and cultural organisations. The splashing sound of the oars and the lively slogans on that day provided a new source of joy for the youth and elders of the area through this familiar rural cultural event.

Sangbadik Unnoyon

Bangla Sky, Md. Neamul Hossain Iqbal. The program was hosted by President of Journalist Development Society of Bangladesh, North District Branch, Aliur Rahman Oli.Other special guests included prominent social worker and politician Md. Anwar Hossain. Also present were the General Secretary and other members of the editorial board, members of the organization, journalists from electronic and print media, and members of civil society.Various speakers addressed contemporary issues at the event.

The main message was: "Journalists are the conscience of the nation."They should present objective and transparent reports on social irregularities, corruption, and inconsistencies to the public.In the concluding speech, Editor The Daily Bangla Sky, Md. Neamul Hossain said, "The nation is in a very vulnerable state today. I appeal to every father and mother: pay attention to where your son and daughter are going in the name of school and college. Encourage your children in sports. Keep an eye on who they are spending time with, which friend they are with during playtime, and what that friend's behavior is like. As parents, it is your responsibility to watch over your children. Say no to drugs. In no way should your child become addicted to drugs, parents must be careful about this. School teachers will not do this for you."Finally, the President declared the closing of the inauguration meeting. Afterward, everyone participated together in a luncheon at Mirsharai Hotel Park Inn.

SAARC Summit stalled

other SAARC member states before he can formally take charge of the regional body.

The nomination comes as incumbent SAARC Secretary General Md Golam Sarwar of Bangladesh is set to complete his three-year term at the end of October, an official told UNB. Under SAARC's established alphabetical rotation system, it is Bhutan's turn to nominate the next secretary general.

The issue is likely to come up at a SAARC meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York next month, where member states may seek to reach a consensus on the next Secretary General, a diplomatic source told UNB.SAARC comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.The 18th SAARC Summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 26 to 27, 2014. The state heads of eight SAARC member countries along with their delegations had meeting during the Summit and discussed the agendas of SAARC.

The leaders, at the 18th Summit, welcomed the offer of the government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Nineteenth Summit of SAARC in 2016 in Islamabad but it was postponed following India's withdrawal from the event after the Uri terror attack.

“You know our position on SAARC. I have clarified on many occasions. We all know why SAARC is not moving and there is one particular country which is responsible for that,” Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson at the Ministry of External Affairs, told the reporters in New Delhi last week. On the question of Secretary General, he said, “Yes there is a Secretary General because SAARC has a Secretariat. On the candidature of the new Secretary General, I'll have to come back to you as to what the position is.”

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has recently reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to revitalising the SAARC and highlighted the ministry’s intention to play a more proactive role. She emphasised sustained political engagement, cultural initiatives and broader stakeholder involvement. Bangladesh thinks regional cooperation remains vital for addressing the common challenges facing South Asia and advancing the shared interests and aspirations of its peoples. Bangladesh reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the SAARC process and emphasised the need to keep the spirit of regional cooperation alive through sustained engagement, dialogue and practical collaboration among Member States. The SAARC Secretary General Md Golam Sarwar paid a farewell courtesy call on Prime Minister of Bangladesh Tarique Rahman on August 23.

During the meeting, the Secretary General expressed his deep appreciation to the government and people of Bangladesh for the country's historic leadership and steadfast commitment to the SAARC process and regional cooperation. He underscored the enduring significance of SAARC as the premier regional platform for promoting peace, stability, prosperity and shared development in South Asia, according to the SAARC Secretariat.

The Secretary General recalled with profound respect the

visionary initiative of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh, whose statesmanship and foresights led to the establishment of SAARC.

He also highlighted Bangladesh's pioneering role in the creation of the regional organization and its continued constructive contribution to advancing regional cooperation. The Secretary General acknowledged Bangladesh's important contribution as the host of the SAARC Agriculture Center and the South Asian Regional Standards Organization, and expressed sincere appreciation for the country's longstanding support to SAARC and its Specialized Bodies and Regional Centres.

The meeting underscored the importance of translating the shared vision of SAARC into practical, people-centred and result-oriented cooperation, with greater emphasis on economic integration, connectivity, food security, climate resilience, sustainable development and enhanced people-to-people contacts.

The Secretary General expressed his sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister and the government of Bangladesh for their continued support to SAARC.

He reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with all Member States to advance the objectives of SAARC and contribute to the revitalization of the regional process, in keeping with the vision of its founding leaders and the aspirations of the peoples of South Asia.

Govt. trying to ensure people’s

working to take the country forward in unity, bringing together people from all classes and professions irrespective of religion and caste,” he said.

He also called upon imams, muezzins and teachers of Qawmi madrasas to play a leading role in preventing the erosion of morality and values in society. “Every BNP leader and activist at the grassroots level, as well as all democratic citizens, must build united resistance against those who are trying to create disorder in the country,” he said, mentioning the evil attempts of defeated authoritarian forces.

He said those who have subjected ordinary people to oppression, enforced disappearances, killings, terrorism and looting over the past years will each be brought under the existing law and ensured justice and the government is working to achieve that goal.

Khatta Madhabpara Union BNP President Md. Shamsul Islam chaired the event. Local BNP leaders from upazila and union levels were present on the occasion.

996 new dengue cases, 2

Mymensingh division, 36 in Rajshahi division, 21 in Rangpur division and three in Sylhet division.With the latest figures, the number of dengue-related deaths in Bangladesh has risen to 90 this year, while the total number of cases has reached 33,586.Last year, dengue claimed 413 lives and infected 102,861 people in the country.In 2024, the mosquito-borne disease claimed 575 lives and infected 101,214 people.

UN findings substantiate AL

said.The finding implicated the police's Detective Branch (DB) and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) in taking protest leaders into custody outside normal legal protections.

OHCHR also found that DB routinely resorted to arbitrary detention and torture to extract information and confessions, while the headquarters of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit was another location where many arbitrarily detained people, including children, were held.

The investigation found that DGFI, National Security Intelligence (NSI) and National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC), alongside specialised police branches, played roles in violations aimed at suppressing dissent.

These agencies shared intelligence, including information obtained through surveillance violating the right to privacy, to facilitate mass arbitrary arrests in late July 2024, according to OHCHR.Significantly, the UN investigators also identified what they called a "systematic and organized effort to conceal serious violations".DGFI, NSI and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) pressured media outlets not to report fully and truthfully on the protests and their violent suppression, while DGFI joined police in intimidating victims, their families and lawyers into silence, the report said.Such findings carry particular relevance to enforced disappearance, where deprivation of liberty is followed by refusal to acknowledge detention or concealment of a person's fate or whereabouts, placing the victim outside the protection of law.The UN inquiry traced responsibility for the broader pattern of violations beyond individual security personnel to the highest levels of the then political and security establishment.

Based on testimony from senior officials involved and other inside sources, OHCHR said an integrated and systematic operation involving police, paramilitary, military and intelligence actors, alongside violent elements associated with the Awami League, functioned with the "full knowledge, coordination and direction of the political leadership".The then prime minister and home affairs minister led parallel efforts to coordinate the security and intelligence apparatus and received regular reports from multiple sources on the situation on the ground, it said.The political leadership also issued direct orders and other directives authorising and guiding operations by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), RAB, DGFI, Bangladesh Police and its Detective Branch that involved serious human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, against protesters and other civilians, according to the report.OHCHR also pointed to an institutional environment where safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of liberty and torture had effectively failed.

"Neither prosecutorial authorities nor the judiciary took any meaningful action to curb acts and practices of arbitrary detention and torture, or to ensure that any officials perpetrating such acts were held accountable," it said.

The UN body said the violations were enabled by corrupted governance structures, erosion of the rule of law, politicisation of the security and justice sectors and institutionalised impunity.It found that the former government had relied on and expanded an elaborate legal and institutional framework to repress peaceful civic and political dissent and until its fall on August 5, 2024, made no apparent genuine effort to investigate or ensure accountability for serious violations committed by security forces or Awami League supporters.

The fact-finding inquiry was conducted at the invitation of the then Interim Government and examined alleged violations and abuses between July 1 and August 15, 2024, during the mass uprising and its immediate aftermath.

OHCHR conducted more than 230 in-depth interviews with victims and other witnesses and another 36 interviews with government, security sector and political party officials, including serving and former senior officials with direct knowledge of relevant events. Testimony was corroborated through authenticated photographs and videos, medical forensic analysis, weapons analysis and other information.

OHCHR said its conclusions met the "reasonable grounds to believe" standard, which does not establish individual criminal guilt but provides a basis warranting further investigation. The UN body called for independent and impartial investigations and accountability, alongside truth-seeking, reparations, memorialisation and security sector reforms to prevent recurrence of serious human rights violations.



Nepal-China flood survivors reach safety as families await word on nearly 3,000 missing

International Desk

Rescue teams on Saturday continued evacuating survivors from areas devastated by catastrophic flash floods along the Nepal-China border, while families anxiously searched for relatives still missing. The combined death toll in Nepal and Tibet has risen to 633, while nearly 3,000 people remain unaccounted for, according to figures released by authorities. Chinese authorities have reported seven deaths and more than 550 people missing. In Nepal's Nuwakot district, one of the worst-hit areas, helicopter operations resumed before noon after bad weather temporarily disrupted aerial rescue efforts. Some helicopters arrived carrying relief supplies, including clothes, instant noodles, crackers and rice, while others evacuated survivors from flood-hit communities. At relief centres, soldiers helped elderly people and carried babies who had been rescued from the nearby community of Trishuli. Medical workers examined evacuees after they arrived. As some residents were still being evacuated from Trishuli, others returned to their damaged homes to search for belongings that might have survived the floods. One boy was seen carrying muddy sandals from his home, while resident Shoba Shretha returned to look for her dog, Sweetie, which she had been forced to leave behind during the flooding. Relief workers later cleared villagers, journalists and volunteers from the entrance to the community as excavation machinery moved in to continue clearing mud and debris. In the capital Kathmandu, relatives and friends gathered outside the main government hospital, hoping to find information about loved ones who have been missing since the disaster. Families moved between help desks and hospital notice boards, checking lists of injured people and putting up posters containing photographs and contact numbers of missing relatives. Officials also displayed photographs of unidentified bodies in an effort to help families identify them. Gajendra Rawat, a security official working at the hospital help desk, said around 1,600 missing people had been registered there since the disaster.

Six months after US-Israel campaign, Iran's new leaders dig in against pressure

International Desk

Six months into a devastating war, Iran's leadership has consolidated around a group of senior military commanders and clerics with deep roots in the country's ruling system, signaling preparations for a prolonged standoff with the United States while moving aggressively to prevent unrest at home. The development is a sharp departure from US President Donald Trump's early expectation that the Islamic Republic could be toppled, followed by his later assertion that regime change had brought more moderate figures into Iran's leadership. Iran's new ruling circle appears deeply skeptical of reaching an agreement with Trump after being attacked twice while negotiations were underway. Officials may also be preparing for renewed US strikes after Washington replenishes its stocks of missile interceptors. At the same time, Iran has warned it could intensify the conflict as a US blockade and planned sanctions place additional pressure on an economy already struggling. "If Trump wants to act, we will respond on a seismic scale," Mohsen Rezaei, Iran's newly appointed secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said last weekend. In a post on X, he warned that continued economic warfare could result in Iran stopping all oil exports from the Persian Gulf. Iran moves to prevent another wave of unrest Rezaei was among a series of appointments announced by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei to establish the country's new senior leadership and military command structure. His father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and many senior officials were killed in the US-Israeli bombing campaign that began Feb. 28. The appointment of Hossein Taeb as head of the Basij, the Revolutionary Guard's volunteer force used to maintain order on the streets, was particularly significant. The Basij played a major role in suppressing nationwide protests in January, when thousands were killed. Taeb, a hard-line cleric and former intelligence chief, was also involved in an earlier major crackdown during protests in 2009.



His return to a prominent security position suggests Iran's leadership is determined to prevent fresh demonstrations as economic hardship and public dissatisfaction increase. The 56-year-old supreme leader has not appeared publicly or in recorded video or audio since Israeli attacks killed his father, who had led Iran for nearly four decades. Mojtaba Khamenei is also believed to have been injured. His absence could be linked either to extensive security precautions because he remains a potential Israeli target or to the severity of his injuries. Khamenei relies on longtime hard-line allies Through appointments announced Aug. 11 and 12, Khamenei brought several longtime allies into key positions, including Rezaei and Taeb. The appointments appear to strengthen a group of veteran commanders who have worked together for decades, said Sascha Bruchmann, an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Middle East office in Bahrain. Rezaei, 71, commanded Iran's Revolutionary Guard during much of its early development, including the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and remained in the position until 1997. He has repeatedly sought the presidency as a hard-line candidate since 2009. Brig. Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, 68, was formally confirmed as commander of the Revolutionary Guard after serving as acting chief following the death of his predecessor alongside the elder Khamenei. Gen. Ali Ozmaei was confirmed as acting commander of the Guard's naval forces, while Gen. Ali Abdollahi retained his position as military chief of staff. Bruchmann noted that Rezaei had commanded Vahidi for years, describing the appointments as an effort to reinforce unity within the leadership. "It looks like internal cohesion, with hard-core figures being brought into the inner circle," he said. Economic pressure fuels calls for restraint Homayoun Falakshahi, Kpler's leading oil analyst, said the appointments of Rezaei and Vahidi indicated growing influence for officials favoring a tougher approach. However, he said a further escalation was not unavoidable. Iran could struggle to restore deterrence through military action without provoking a response that would leave the country in an even weaker position.

Trump says US reaches deal giving access to Venezuela's 65 billion barrels of oil reserves

International Desk

President Donald Trump said Friday that the United States has reached a major agreement with Venezuela that could give an American-backed private company access to the South American nation's vast oil reserves. Trump described the agreement as the "biggest oil deal in world history", saying it was negotiated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez. Rodríguez's government said the agreement covers the development of 17 oil fields with proven potential of 65 billion barrels. It estimated that the deal could attract around \$100 billion in investment and generate more than \$209 billion in tax revenue for Venezuela. Under the agreement, the United States would partner with an unnamed private operator to establish a new company to develop the oil fields, according to a U.S. official familiar with the deal. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the agreement publicly, said Rodríguez had granted the company rights to develop the fields for 100 years. The company would give the United States an effective 55% share of its output, including an ownership stake and the right to purchase oil at cost, the official said. If realized, the company would become the world's second-largest corporate holder of proven oil reserves after Saudi Aramco. Trump under pressure over high fuel prices The announcement comes as Trump faces pressure to reduce high fuel prices in the United States amid the ongoing war in Iran and disruptions to global energy supplies. The U.S. government has been drawing from its strategic petroleum reserves, which fell below 300 million barrels in early August, more than 100 million barrels lower than at the beginning of 2026. The conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran has sharply reduced the flow of Gulf oil through the Strait of Hormuz, a major global energy route that previously carried about 20% of the world's petroleum. The average U.S. gasoline price was around \$4.09 per gallon on Friday, compared with \$3.21 a year earlier,



according to AAA. However, experts said the Venezuelan agreement is unlikely to bring immediate relief at the gas pump. Increasing Venezuela's oil production substantially would require years of investment to repair and expand its badly damaged infrastructure. Major U.S. oil companies could also be reluctant to return because of Venezuela's political uncertainty and their previous experiences operating in the country. After Maduro's removal, Trump met oil executives at the White House and urged them to return to Venezuela. Although executives showed interest, some remained cautious. ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods had previously described Venezuela as an "un-investable" market. Trump has maintained that his administration has helped bring greater stability to Venezuela. He has also accused the country of taking U.S. oil after former President Hugo Chávez nationalized hundreds of foreign-owned assets, including those belonging to American oil companies. Venezuela opens oil sector to private investment Rodríguez moved to open Venezuela's oil industry to greater private investment after taking power, reversing a key policy of the socialist movement that has governed the country for more than two decades. Rubio said the new agreement would bring billions of dollars in private investment to Venezuela while helping reduce fuel prices in the United States. The U.S. official said oil purchased from the new company would be used to replenish the American strategic petroleum reserve and for military purposes. Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, estimated at around 303 billion barrels, or approximately 17% of global reserves, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Most of the country's oil deposits have already been identified, but aging infrastructure has severely limited production. Venezuela currently accounts for only about 1% of global oil output. Former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro remains jailed in the United States. He has pleaded not guilty to federal narcoterrorism and drug trafficking charges.

Satellite images reveal glacier and bedrock collapse behind Nepal-China floods

International Desk

Satellite imagery has given scientists new clues about the cause of the devastating floods along the Nepal-China border, showing that a massive section of bedrock collapsed beneath a glacier before torrents of water and debris swept through valleys and communities. The disaster on Wednesday killed hundreds of people in Nepal and Tibet, while hundreds more remain missing, including foreign nationals and religious pilgrims. Earth scientists Kristen Cook and Dan Shugar initially struggled to examine the affected area because clouds and dust obscured satellite images from Nepal. They could only determine that part of a glacier had broken away from Langtang Lirung peak near the Tibetan border. Clearer images taken Thursday showed that the bedrock beneath the glacier had also collapsed, carrying a huge mass of ice, rocks and boulders into the valley below. Shugar, an associate professor at the University of Calgary, said the images indicated that the incident involved not only a glacier collapse but also a much larger failure of the mountainside's underlying bedrock. The debris crashed into the valley and continued moving through the steep, narrow terrain. As the ice melted, it added more water to the flow, while mud and debris formed a massive torrent that swept through nearby settlements, said Cook of Université Grenoble Alpes in France. Trishuli River expands after flooding The Trishuli River rose sharply during the disaster. Satellite images taken before and after the floods show that the river has become considerably wider around Kolpurta, Betravati and Syapru Besi in Nepal.



What to know about Iceland's vote on reopening EU accession talks

International Desk

Icelanders will vote Saturday on whether the country should restart negotiations to join the European Union, more than a decade after its previous membership talks were suspended. The referendum comes as Iceland reassesses its ties with Europe amid economic pressures at home and rising geopolitical uncertainty across the North Atlantic. The result is expected to be close. What are Icelanders voting on? The nationwide referendum on Aug. 29 will ask voters a straightforward question: Should Iceland reopen negotiations on EU membership? The Althingi, Iceland's parliament, approved the referendum in May by 34 votes to eight, with 14 lawmakers abstaining. It is the first time Icelanders have been directly asked to decide through a referendum whether the country should resume EU accession talks. A "Yes" vote would not automatically make Iceland an EU member. It would instead authorize the government to restart negotiations and determine what conditions could be secured for Iceland. If an accession agreement is eventually reached, voters would have another chance to decide whether to approve it. Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir has said Iceland would only join the EU if the public approves membership in a second referendum. Iceland already maintains close economic and travel links with the EU. It has been part of the European Economic Area since 1994 and is also a member of the Schengen Area and the European Free Trade Association. Through the EEA, Iceland has access to the EU single market and follows a large portion of EU legislation, although it does not have a vote in many of the decisions behind those rules. Why has EU membership returned to the agenda? Iceland submitted its EU membership application in 2009, after the global financial crisis severely damaged its banking sector and weakened the Icelandic krona.

Formal negotiations began the following year. The process eventually stalled after the 2013 election, when the EU-skeptic Independence Party and Progressive Party formed a government. The new administration halted the talks, with fisheries and agriculture among the major unresolved issues. In 2015, Iceland notified Brussels that it no longer wanted to be treated as an EU candidate country. The issue resurfaced after another political change. A coalition government formed in December 2024 by the Social Democratic Alliance, Reform Party and People's Party promised to hold a referendum on whether to continue the accession process by 2027. Parliament subsequently set the vote for Aug. 29. Economic considerations are again playing an important role. The coalition agreement linked the referendum commitment to an examination of Iceland's currency options. Inflation, elevated interest rates and the economic vulnerabilities of a small, open economy have also contributed to the renewed debate over EU membership. Lassi Heininen, a Finnish scholar specializing in Arctic geopolitics, told Xinhua that domestic political and economic considerations are the main forces behind the referendum, similar to the factors that prompted Iceland's original membership application. But geopolitical developments have also added urgency to the discussion. Tobias Etzold, a senior adviser at the European Policy Centre in Brussels, said increasing competition among major powers in the strategically important North Atlantic has created greater uncertainty for smaller countries. He cited concerns over the reliability of the United States, Washington's interest in Greenland and questions about the future strength of NATO. Iceland is a NATO member but has no standing army. Etzold said uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's commitment to regional security has encouraged Iceland to take a closer look at its relationship with Europe.



Was Dolly Parton a feminist? She never claimed the label, but her life and songs told a different story



Entertainment Desk

Dolly Parton never described herself as a feminist and generally avoided political labels. But for many of her fans and admirers, her life, career and music reflected values closely linked to feminism. The country music icon, who died this week at the age of 80, built a career on her own terms and often used her songs to speak about women's independence, workplace inequality and double standards. In 1987, Parton was featured among the 12 Women of the Year on the cover of Ms. magazine, alongside prominent figures from politics, literature and social activism. Feminist icon Gloria Steinem wrote that Parton had used her business skills and influence to support other women and disadvantaged people. "If feminism means each of us finding our unique power, and helping other women to do the same," Steinem wrote, "Dolly Parton certainly has done both." Parton herself, however, never embraced the feminist label. Author Lynn Melnick, who wrote about Parton's influence on her life and recovery from trauma, said the singer did not need to call herself a feminist. "She didn't tell us she was a feminist," Melnick said. "She showed us — in her actions and her words and in her songs." One example came from Parton's 1968 song Just Because I'm a Woman, which challenged the different standards often applied to men and women. During a 2019 performance at the Newport Folk Festival, Parton explained that the song was inspired by expectations that women should remain "pure," while men were often judged differently for similar behaviour. Music writer Caryn Rose said Parton understood how her appearance could be used to underestimate her and

turned that perception to her advantage. "She knew she was blonde and pretty, and that it was always going to work against her," Rose said. "So she figured out how to make it work for her." Parton's feminist themes were also reflected in songs such as 9 to 5, which highlighted the struggles of working women, unequal treatment and economic independence. The song was linked to the 1980 film of the same name, in which she starred alongside Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda. She also addressed issues including equal pay, teenage pregnancy, women's sexuality and the social judgment faced by women. Her 1975 song The Bargain Store was about emotional healing after a relationship, although some country radio stations reportedly avoided playing it because they misunderstood its meaning. Another song, Down from Dover, told the story of a pregnant teenage girl at a time when unmarried mothers were rarely discussed openly in popular music. Some writers and fans have described Parton as being ahead of her time, reflecting ideas later associated with third-wave feminism, which placed greater emphasis on personal choice and individual expression. Parton often defended her glamorous image — the wigs, makeup, high heels and rhinestones — as her own choice. In a 1977 interview with Barbara Walters, Parton faced personal questions about her marriage and appearance, including whether her famous breasts were real. Walters also asked her to stand up and display her body. Parton remained calm and confident, explaining that she was comfortable with jokes about her appearance because she knew exactly who she was. "I know exactly what I am doing and I can change it at any time," she said, adding that her confidence in herself and her talent allowed her to enjoy makeup, clothes and her larger-than-life image. For her feminist fans, that confidence, independence and refusal to let others define her may have been the clearest message of all. Parton may never have called herself a feminist, but through her choices, her music and her outspoken independence, many believed she showed exactly what it meant.

Soham accused of beating carpenter for demanding outstanding money

Entertainment Desk

Tollywood actor Soham Chakraborty is embroiled in a major controversy once again. This time, the actor has been accused of brutally beating and assaulting a carpenter for demanding money for work done at his house. The victim, carpenter Raj Kapoor Sharma, alleged that on August 24, at around 5:00pm, he went to Soham's house to demand his outstanding wages. At that time, Soham and his associate Toton Sardar abused him, physically restrained him, and severely injured him by hitting, slapping, kicking, and punching him. He was even threatened with serious consequences. The carpenter also alleged that Toton Sardar took his mobile phone during the incident. After the incident, the victim Raj filed a written complaint with Behala police station.



Nazu Akhand releases her new song



Entertainment Desk

After a long time, musician Nazu Akhand has released a new song to her fans and listeners. The title of the song is 'Jotner Tanpura'. The song is composed with the lyrics of 'Jotner Tanpurata Bhenge Felechhi, Ami Ar Gaan Gaibo Na.' Although the song was made in Dhaka, Nazu gave her voice at Pink Voice Studio in New York, USA. Al Masud shot the video in various beautiful locations. Tanha was the model. The lyrics of the song are written by Razu Chowdhury, the music is composed by Ehsan Rahi.

on August 26. Singer Nazu Akhand was born in Savar, Dhaka. She released her first album 'Kancha Holuder Rong' in 2000 while still in school. She then presented the audience with solo albums 'Swapnokonya' in 2009, 'Ektu Jaiga De' in 2013 and 'Firiye Dao Amar Prem' in 2015. Nazu made her playback debut in 2001 with 'Mayer Somman' composed by Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul. After that, she has sung for about 250 film songs in the last two decades. In 2010, she received 'Citycell Channel i Music Award' as the Best Female Singer.

Legal notice demanding ban on production, broadcasting of movies, dramas based solely on love

Entertainment Desk

A lawyer has sent a legal notice to the government demanding a ban on the production and broadcasting of movies and dramas based solely on love and romance. The lawyer has demanded that the production and broadcasting of such dramas and movies should be stopped in order to prevent moral degradation of the youth, maintain social order and develop creative talent. Not only that, the Cabinet Secretary, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Chairman of the Bangladesh Film Censor Board have been asked to respond to this notice within the next 10 days. The notice was sent by Supreme Court lawyer Mahmudul Hasan Mamun on Thursday. If appropriate action is not taken within the stipulated time, a writ petition will be filed in the High Court to protect national culture under Article 102 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, the notice states. The notice has requested the concerned to take effective administrative steps in the production and broadcasting of content based on science, education, history, the Liberation War and defense and to inform them about the steps taken. It says that the current film and drama industry of Bangladesh is dominated by love and excessive romantic contents. The continuous broadcasting of such content has created an extreme cultural imbalance. Due to which the youth and students are becoming seriously inattentive to their studies and careers. In addition, extramarital affairs and relationships are



being presented in a very normal and glorified manner in these dramas and movies, which is extremely destroying the traditional moral structure of the society. The lawyer argues that the free display of such immoral relationships in the mainstream media is playing a significant role in creating social anarchy. It is directly related to the alarming increase in crimes such as adultery and rape in the country. Protecting the youth and the general public from this moral degradation and maintaining family values has now become an absolute administrative necessity to maintain social order. The notice, citing legal arguments, states that according to Article 21(1) of the Constitution, it is the sacred duty of every citizen to abide by the Constitution and the law and to protect social order and state property. On the other hand, although Article 39 of the Constitution mentions freedom of speech and expression, it is subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of decency or morality. In addition, according to Article 23 of the Constitution, the preservation of national culture and heritage is a constitutional responsibility of the state.

Bapparaj returns to big-screen with 'Gulshaner Chameli'

Entertainment Desk

After a long break from the big screen, popular film actor Bapparaj is set to make his return to cinema with director Mohammad Iqbal's upcoming film, "Gulshaner Chameli". The actor has signed on to play an important role in the movie. Speaking about Bapparaj's involvement, director Mohammad Iqbal said he did not want to reveal details about the character at



this stage. However, he confirmed that the veteran actor was impressed by both the story and the role. "I don't want to talk about the character in detail right now. However, Bapparaj liked the story and the character, and he has agreed to do the work. We are also happy that an experienced actor like him has joined the film," Iqbal said. The director added that the cast is being selected



Manoj Bajpayee's 'Last Man in Tower' set for Sept 11 release

Entertainment Desk

Indian actor Manoj Bajpayee's upcoming film Last Man in Tower, based on Aravind Adiga's acclaimed novel of the same name, is set to hit theatres across India on September 11. Directed by Ben Rekhi, the film also stars Boman Irani and Divya Dutta. The screenplay has been adapted by Sooni Taraporevala, known for her collaborations with filmmaker Mira Nair on projects including Salaam Bombay!, Mississippi Masala and The Namesake. Presented by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, the film follows Masterji, a retired schoolteacher who finds himself standing alone as people around him begin making decisions that go against his principles. As his neighbours see an opportunity to change their lives, Masterji's determina-

tion to stick to his beliefs puts his relationships to the test. The story explores a conflict involving people's homes and the difficult choices they face when offered the chance for a better future. Juhl Chaturvedi, known for films such as Piku and October, has written the dialogues, while Govind Vasantha has composed the music. Spirit Media recently released the teaser on Instagram with the caption: "Resilience never retires. But when one man stands in the way of everyone else's dreams, what happens next?" The film is produced by Rekhi, Gunee Dogra and Pratiksha Rao. Bajpayee was most recently seen in the financial thriller Governor: The Silent Saviour. He is widely known for his performances in films such as Gangs of Wasseypur, Special 26 and Sirf Ek Banda Kaafi Hai.

Manasi narrowly escapes devastating floods before reaching Nepal border

Entertainment Desk

Indian actress Manasi Parekh was returning home after completing the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage. At that time, the actress narrowly escaped a terrible flash flood on the Nepal-Tibet border. After the disaster, she is currently safely in China. Shortly before Manasi, who was travelling to Tibet with spiritual guru Sadhguru's 'Isha Foundation', reached the border port through which she wanted to return, the area was completely submerged in a terrible flood. Sharing a video of the flooded Jiroong Port on social media, Manasi Parekh said that if they had arrived just a few hours earlier, their team would have also faced this disaster. Reminiscing, she wrote, "Just five days ago, I was given a warm welcome at this immigration point. The entire area was under water. Life was really uncertain. But by the grace of God, we were safe on the Chinese border. Isha Foundation was trying its best to bring us back safely and rescue those stranded in the flood."





Bayern steamroll Stuttgart in Bundesliga opener



Sports Desk

Michael Olise and Luis Diaz were among five goalscorers as Bayern Munich cruised to a 5-1 home win over Stuttgart in Friday's Bundesliga opener. Defending Bundesliga champions Bayern were in control from start to finish in a rematch of last season's German Cup final, with Olise in spectacular form despite the greasy conditions in the Bavarian capital. Dayot Upamecano headed the hosts in front from a corner and while Joshua Vagnoman levelled things up for Stuttgart after the break, Bayern scored twice in three minutes through Olise and a Vagnomann own goal to restore control. Bundesliga debutant Ismael Saibari created a late goal for Aleksandar Pavlovic and Diaz scored in stoppage time to extend Bayern's unbeaten run in league openers to 15 seasons.

"He relies heavily on intuition, reacting before the opponent does," Bayern defender Konrad Laimer said of Olise. "It's an incredible quality, especially in one-on-one situations. You need that instinct to read the situation: knowing when to pass, when to dribble, and when to shoot. "It's really fun to be out there on the pitch with him." With 14 goals including three hat-tricks, Harry Kane had scored against Stuttgart more than any other German opponent but had a quiet night and was subbed out late in the second-half. The big win will likely see Bayern top the table after matchday one, extending their streak to 67 matchdays dating back to September 2024. Bayern lost just one of 40 domestic matches last year but coach Vincent Kompany said it was his job to keep the squad hungry. "Everything starts again from zero. I

hope all players are aware of that, but it's also my role to instill it into them." - 'Lights out' for Stuttgart - Stuttgart coach Sebastian Hoeness revealed the players were left in the dark at half-time due to a power outage. "The lights were out," Hoeness said, adding "but we could still see each other. We didn't trip over. "Bayern will beat plenty of other teams here, maybe by more, but we have to improve, no question about it." Before the match, Germany coach Jurgen Klopp told Sky he had told Bayern midfielder Jamal Musiala "the door is open for you" as he continues to return from a neurological condition from which he collapsed twice in pre-season fixtures. Vincent Kompany made two changes to the side which won 2-1 at Borussia Dortmund in the Supercup, including returning France centre-back Upamecano to the starting XI. Both sides started well despite the teeming rain, with Stuttgart's Tiago Tomas and Olise hitting the woodwork early. Upamecano put Bayern in front in simple fashion with 21 minutes gone, leaping high to glance in a Kimmich corner. Early in the second-half, Stuttgart got themselves back in the match when Vagnoman blasted in a rebound, but Bayern quickly reclaimed the initiative. Olise converted an expert Kimmich pass from close range just three minutes before Vagnoman scored at how own end of the pitch, slipping when trying to clear a low Alphonso Davies cross. Olise had the ball in the net again just six minutes later when he turned in a clever Kane through ball, but his goal was chalked off for a narrow offside.

Marquinhos rescues last-gasp draw for PSG at Lille in Ligue 1

Sports Desk

Captain Marquinhos headed in a dramatic last-gasp equaliser as Paris Saint-Germain scored twice in stoppage time to snatch a 2-2 draw at Lille in Ligue 1 on Friday. It looked as though the reigning French and European champions were heading for defeat as goals by Hakon Haraldsson and Dilane Bakwa for Lille left PSG trailing 2-0 with the 90 minutes up. But a Vitinha strike in the first added minute gave Luis Enrique's team sudden belief. The Portugal playmaker then crossed for Marquinhos to head in with the final act of the game in northern France. It was a cruel blow for Lille and their new coach Davide Ancelotti, who worked with Marquinhos as part of the Brazil staff at the recent World Cup. "It is never finished against PSG," said Marquinhos. PSG remain without a victory at the start of this Ligue 1 season but this was the second successive game in which they had come from two behind late on to grab a share of the spoils. Last weekend they trailed 2-0 away to Rennes before Spain's World Cup final hero Ferran Torres came off the bench and netted a brace to earn a point. "It says a lot about us," added Marquinhos. "The positive thing is our mentality, and our ability to come back and get a result from behind. That augurs well for the rest of the season." - Dembele left out - Torres, a new arrival from Barcelona, had replaced Ousmane Dembele at half-time in Rennes, and the French international was then told by his manager to go away and have this week off. He was therefore not involved here, while another of France's World Cup stars Bradley Barcola was also absent with a huge-money transfer to Liverpool understood to be imminent. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was also benched at kick-off for the visitors, who saw Achraf Hakimi come close to giving them an early lead with an effort which grazed the post. Haraldsson then struck in stunning fashion just before the midway point in the first half for Lille, who this week sold prodigious teenage talent Ayyoub Bouaddi to Manchester City



for an initial 100 million euros (\$117m). The Icelandic international midfielder scored with a thumping first-time effort from the edge of the area after a brilliant reverse pass by Olivier Giroud to set him up. Kvaratskhelia and summer recruit Mika Godts both came on in the second half for PSG, but they were reeling when Bakwa -- just on for his debut after joining on loan from Nottingham Forest -- curled in for 2-0 with six minutes left. It seemed set to be two wins out of two for Lille under new Italian coach, whose father Carlo Ancelotti -- the current Brazil boss -- watched from the stands at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy. Davide Ancelotti was on the staff at PSG when Carlo was in charge of the Qatar-owned club between 2012 and 2013. But PSG's late show denied them, and Luis Enrique's side will take confidence from their remarkable comeback here as they prepare for the upcoming defence of their Champions League title. "At this point in the season it would be very dangerous to be at 100 percent already," said the coach. The two-time reigning European champions, who have already beaten Aston Villa to claim this season's UEFA Super Cup, will notably play Barcelona and Manchester City in the league phase of the Champions League. Elsewhere in Ligue 1 this weekend, last season's runners-up Lens go to Strasbourg on Saturday, while Monaco face Marseille on Sunday.

Hovland and Gerard share lead at Tour Championship



Sports Desk

Norway's Viktor Hovland and American Ryan Gerard led a crowded field chasing the PGA Tour Championship's \$10 million top prize Friday at the final event of the FedEx Cup playoffs. Gerard, who has one PGA Tour victory to date and is playing in his first Tour Championship, made six birdies, including an epic 78-foot putt that rolled the length of the seventh green. He seized the clubhouse lead with a five-under-par 65, before Hovland -- playing in the day's final pair -- birdied the 18th hole for a 66 to share the overnight lead. The pair finished on 10-under at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia, a stroke clear of American duo Collin Morikawa and Chris Gotterup. A further shot back were world number one Scottie Scheffler and third-ranked Cameron Young, who catapulted from rock bottom to tied-fifth with a day's best round of 62. "Solid so far. Just got to keep it rolling," said Gerard, who insisted the pressure of entering the weekend in first place would not be an issue. "Love playing with the lead. Way better than playing in last," he said. After two early bogeys, Hovland had rolled in a 27-foot putt on the par-three 15th, and saved par on 16 despite smashing a putt from off the green ten feet past the hole. Despite his position, the Norwegian expressed frustration that he was struggling to find the consistency that propelled him to win

the 2023 Tour Championship. "It almost pisses me off more because I know that, 'oh, I used to be able to do that,' and now it feels a lot more difficult to do that," he said. "It's not so much that I'm hitting those crazy wayward shots right now, it's just that I know when I'm swinging it doesn't feel quite right." Min Woo Lee had entered Friday with a two-shot cushion, but had a nightmare round. The Australian made triple bogey on five, needing two attempts to hack out of the rough, laying up then three-putting. He shanked his tee shot on eight into the water for bogey. His round of 73 was the second-worst of the tournament so far. Lee had scored 62 a day earlier, playing solo due to his partner JJ Spaun's withdrawal with a shoulder injury. On Friday, with 29 players remaining, it was Cameron Young's turn to play alone, and remarkably he scored 62 too. "It seems to be a strong pattern. It's a bit strange," admitted Young, who said it had felt like he was "playing a practice round." "You don't have to wait for anybody else. Nothing weird happens. Just got in a really nice rhythm and kept going." Young made seven birdies in his first 11 holes, and ended with an eagle. - 'Bad gusts' - Scheffler had a productive if inconsistent day. The world number one recovered from back-to-back bogeys to pull within a shot of the lead, then bogeyed 17 as winds picked up to make conditions trickier in the closing stages. "I watched it get in the jet stream up there and fly... it felt like any moment they could blow the horn," said Scheffler. "Yeah, just bad gusts." Rory McIlroy suffered an embarrassing double bogey, twice chipping the ball 45 feet from the uphill third green, only for the ball to roll back to his feet each time. The six-time Major winners managed two late birdies for a round of 69, but sits tied for 23rd on three-under par, seven shots off the pace.

Kane confirms talks on Bayern extension

Sports Desk

Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane confirmed on Friday he has started talks to extend his deal at the German champions beyond 2027. Speaking with reporters after Bayern's dominant 5-1 home win over Stuttgart in the Bundesliga season opener, Kane said negotiations had begun a contract extension. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badge "The first meeting started last week," Kane said. The 33-year-old forward is among the favourites for the Ballon



d'Or, which will be awarded in his hometown of London in August. Kane said "a lot of details" needed to be discussed but hoped to continue his stay at Bayern, who he joined in 2023 from boyhood club Tottenham. "I'm 33. It's probably going to be, not my last contract. But it's a big contract for me to sign. "They need to make sure I'm happy. They obviously need to make sure they're happy... There's no panic from either side. "I'm sure we'll get to a point where both sides are happy." Bayern have repeatedly said they would like to extend Kane's deal at the club, which expires at the end of this season.

Ramos strikes as AC Milan beat Venezia

Sports Desk

Star signing Goncalo Ramos scored with a flashing drive from a tight angle for his first Serie A goal as AC Milan beat Venezia 2-0 at the San Siro on Friday. Milan spent 74mn euros to acquire Ramos from Paris Saint-Germain and the Portuguese delivered a goal to treasure on 69 minutes before a late own goal from Redouane Halhal settled the game. "The most important thing isn't my goal, it's the win," Ramos said adding "I should have scored more than one goal tonight." Milan opened the season with a 2-1 win away at Torino making Friday's encounter their first home game since Franco Baresi died with homage paid to their former skipper ahead of kick off. New boss Ruben Amorim watched his big close-season signing Ramos fluff a first minute effort that came at him too close to his feet,



but his opener from the left of the box lifted the home crowd as the striker reeled away in joy. "We're starting to show this team's DNA and mindset; I already feel right at home in this group," said Ramos. A break from the half-way line and shot from the edge of the box from substitute Ardon Jashari on 89 minutes came off the Venezia goalkeeper, hit the onrushing defender Halhal's knee and flew home to make it 2-0. Milan are rebuilding under former Manchester United boss Amorim after missing Champions League qualification of the final day of last season. Juventus host Parma in Saturday's late Serie A game. Italy's Champions League quartet are in action later. On Sunday when Como take their ambitions to Napoli, champions Inter Milan travel to Cagliari. Roma play at Lecce on Monday.

Birmingham beat Wrexham in 'Hollywood derby'

Sports Desk

Phil Neumann struck twice as Birmingham eased the pressure on boss Chris Davies with a 2-1 win at Wrexham in the Championship's 'Hollywood derby' on Friday. Neumann's 13th-minute header put Birmingham in front at the Racecourse Ground before Callum Doyle levelled early in the second half. Birmingham finished stronger and Neumann nodded in the winner just after the hour to leave Wrexham on two points from three league games.

Surya Tarun 1st Ward Cup Football Tournament Final Held in East Jaflong Jaflong XI Crowned Champions After Defeating Muslimnagar

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet.

The final match of the 'Surya Tarun Muslimnagar 1st Ward Cup Football Tournament 2026' was held in a festive atmosphere in East Jaflong of Gowainghat Upazila, Sylhet. In an exciting final match held on Friday afternoon at the Muslimnagar Government Primary School field, Jaflong Football XI defeated Muslimnagar Footballers by 2-0 goals to become the champions of the tournament. The match, organized by Surya Tarun Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, attracted a large number of local football enthusiasts. From the beginning, both teams displayed an attacking style of play, creating an exciting atmosphere among the spectators. However, Jaflong Football XI eventually secured a convincing 2-0 victory. The final match and prize-giving ceremony was presided over by Delwar Hossain (Dulu), president of Surya Tarun Samaj Kalyan Sangstha. Abdul Hakim Chowdhury, adviser to Sylhet District BNP and former chairman of Gowainghat Upazila Parishad, attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Chief Guest Abdul Hakim Chowdhury said, "There is no alternative to sports in keeping young people away from drugs, crime and social degradation. The enthusiasm created among local youths through the organization of this tournament by Surya Tarun Samaj Kalyan Sangstha is truly commendable."



He congratulated the players of both the champion and runners-up teams and called for continued organization of such sporting events in the future to engage young people in sports and healthy activities. At the end of the final, the champion trophy was handed over to Jaflong Football XI, while Muslimnagar Footballers received the runners-up trophy. Local dignitaries, sports organizers, players and a large number of spectators were present at the event.

U-20 junior hockey team depart for China tonight

Sports Desk

Bangladesh U-20 junior hockey team is due to leave here for China tonight (Saturday) to take part in the Junior Asia Cup Hockey Tournament, scheduled to be held from September 4 to 13 in Moqi, China. Bangladesh have been grouped in Pool B alongside Malaysia, Pakistan, hosts China and Kazakhstan. The team will begin their tournament against hosts China on September 4. They will play their second group match against Malaysia on September 6, followed by a match against Kazakhstan on Sept





Stone used in the construction of the Payra River block in Amtoli

Amtoli, Bargun, Correspondent

It has been alleged that 12,000 cubic feet of used stone was brought in to construct a 250-meter block of the Payra River. Locals have made such a complaint. The incident took place in Package No. 20 of the Arpangashia area of ??Amtoli Upazila. It is reported that in the 2023-24 financial year, Barguna Water Development took the initiative to construct the block to prevent the severe erosion of the Payra River. Various contracting organizations got work in 13 packages to construct a 3,000-meter block in Board 44/B Polder. The work of several packages has been completed in the last two years. Out of this, Adnoch Bangladesh Limited Company got the work of constructing a block in the 250-meter river at a cost of Tk 25 crore in Package No. 20. It is alleged that Adnoch Bangladesh Company Limited brought 12,000 cubic feet of stone by ship from Sylhet on August 15 to construct the 250-meter river erosion block of Package No. 20. The stone block construction area was stored in Arpangashia. Locals Rakibul Islam and Lutfar Hossain alleged that 12,000 cubic feet of stone have been brought and piled up. The stone is used. There is a layer of cement on the stone. If blocks are built with used

stone, it will not last. They demand that these blocks be removed immediately and good stone brought in. On Friday, they visited the site and found that stones have been piled up on the banks of the Arpangashia River. There is a layer of cement on the stone. Stones used for other purposes have been brought in to build the blocks. Adnoch Bangladesh Company Limited Manager Md. Badiruzzaman said that the Water Development Board has rejected this stone. Ward Assistant of Barguna Water Development Board Md. Ashikur Rahman said that the company's people have sent me a video of the unloading of stones from the ship. But I do not know what kind of stone it is. He also said that Adnoch Bangladesh Company has built 20,000 blocks in the last two years. Now many blocks are yet to be built. Barguna Water Development Executive Engineer Hannan Pradhan said, "We have learned about the issue of bringing the stones used in the construction of the blocks. The stone has been ordered to be sent for lab testing. If the quality of the stone is not up to standard in the test, the blocks will not be allowed to be constructed with that stone."



Discussion Meeting on Democracy, Voting Rights, and Freedom of the Press Held in Brahmanbaria

M. Badal Khandakar (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria A discussion meeting titled "From Zia to Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman - Democracy, Voting Rights, and Freedom of the Press" was organized by the Journalists' Union, Brahmanbaria. The meeting was held on Saturday (August 29) at 3:00 PM at the Brahmanbaria District Council auditorium. The meeting was chaired by Niaz Md. Khan Bitu, President of the Journalists' Union, Brahmanbaria. The chief guest was Engineer Khaled Mahbub Shamim, Member of Parliament for Brahmanbaria-3 constituency. Md. Alhaj Sirajul Islam Siraj, Chairman of the District Council and General Secretary of the District BNP, was present as the inaugurator of the program. The keynote speaker was Md. Shariful Islam Khan, Special guests included Alhaj Hafizur Rahman Molla Kachi, former President of the District BNP and former Mayor; Shafiqul Islam, former PP and Vice President of the District BNP; and Advocate Manju, Vice President of the District BNP. The welcome address was delivered by Md. Shamsul Arefin, Acting General Secretary of the Journalists' Union, Brahmanbaria. At the event, five leaders and journalists who were persecuted in prison were honored.

Jaintapur Education Development Foundation Honors GPA-5 Achievers



Naem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A reception was held in Jaintapur, Sylhet, to honor meritorious students who achieved GPA-5 in the recent examinations. The event was organized by the Jaintapur Education Development Foundation. Speakers at the program said, "Education is the backbone of a nation and the main tool for building an enlightened, humane and developed society." Today's meritorious students will lead the country and the nation in the future. Therefore, achieving good academic results alone is not enough; students must develop themselves as worthy citizens by embracing morality, humanitarian values and patriotism. The speakers further said that the students' success is a matter of pride for their families, teachers and the people of Jaintapur as a whole. Along with recognizing the achievements and talent of meritorious students, it is the responsibility of everyone in society to encourage and support them in their future endeavors. They also said that initiatives such as this one by the Jaintapur Education Development Foundation will continue in the future to improve the quality of education and support talented students. The reception was held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, August 25, at the Jaintapur Upazila Parishad auditorium.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Abhijit Kumar Pal, Upazila Academic Supervisor Azizul Haque Khokon, President of Jaintapur Press Club Golam Sarwar Belal, retired professor of Notre Dame College Manoj Kumar Sen, and retired senior teacher Sirajul Islam. Among others, Jaintapur Upazila Corruption Prevention Committee General Secretary Nazmul Islam, Member Secretary of Jaintapur Education Development Foundation Clement Chishim Barsha, President of Jaintapur Girls' High School Masuk Mia, former President of Jaintapur Press Club Foyez Ahmed, Acting Head Teacher of Jaintapur Girls' High School Golam Mostofa Sarkar, Vice-President of Online Press Club Imam Uddin, member Saiful Islam Babu, foundation members Zahidul Islam, Subir Chakraborty, Masuk Ahmed, Khandaker Zainal Abedin, Maulana Abdus Salam, Bilal Uddin, Aminul Haque, Sajib Ahmed, Oliur Rahman Gulshan, Md. Abdullah, guardians Kamal Hossain and Habibur Rahman, journalist Muqtadir Al Selim, among others, addressed the program. At the end of the event, the guests handed over certificates of appreciation and crests to the GPA-5 achieving students on behalf of the Jaintapur Education Development Foundation.

Suspected smuggler held in Khulna with gold, diamond jewellery

Khulna Correspondent

Police arrested a man with a large quantity of gold and diamond jewellery in Khulna. The arrested man was identified as Md Saidul, 46, a resident of Muradnagar upazila in Cumilla, according to a press release issued by the KMP on Friday night. He currently lives in the Ambagicha Khalpar area of Keraniganj in Dhaka. According to Harintana Police Station Officer-in-Charge Helal Uddin, a team of the police station arrested him around noon on Friday while conducting a check in front of Janani Enterprise near the Zero Point intersection on the Khulna-Satkhira highway, the press release said. Police recovered three gold chains, a diamond-studded gold locket, 45 diamond-studded gold nose pins, 12 pairs of earrings, eight lockets, three rings and two bracelets from his possession.

Negligence Alleged in Snakebite Death in Feni, Probe Committee Formed

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

A 45-year-old homemaker, Nasima Akhtar, died from a venomous snakebite at Feni Sadar Hospital. Her family members alleged that medical negligence and delay in administering antivenom led to her death. The incident occurred on Thursday night at the Abdul Hamid Moulti residence in Bordaolia village, located in Feni Sadar Upazila. The deceased, Nasima Akhtar, was the wife of Ahmad Karim and a mother of a son and a daughter. According to family sources, Nasima went outside her house around midnight to collect rainwater when a poisonous snake bit her in the dark near the doorway. Her relatives rushed her to Feni Sadar Hospital at approximately 3:25 AM. Alleging severe medical negligence, the victim's husband, Ahmad Karim, said, "After arriving at the hospital, the emergency department physician, Dr. Chiranjit Sarkar, referred her to the 6th-floor medicine ward without administering any



emergency first aid. Despite repeated pleas that she had been bitten by a snake, no antivenom was given. Left lying on the floor in agony as the venom spread, she passed away within just half an hour of admission." Dr. Chiranjit Sarkar denied the allegations, stating that the patient was sent from the emergency department to the medicine ward for observation. He added that the decision to administer antivenom depends on evaluating the patient's physical condition, suggesting that panic alongside the snake venom might have caused her death. Addressing the issue, Dr. Mubarak Hossain Dulal, Acting Superintendent of Feni Sadar Hospital, said they were aware of the incident and a probe committee is being formed to investigate whether there was any medical negligence. Action will be taken against those responsible based on the investigation report. Following her funeral prayers after Friday's Jumma prayer,



Aftab Filling Station Fined Tk 50,000 for Short-Measuring Fuel in Dimla

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

The owner of Aftab Filling Station in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari has been fined Tk 50,000 by a mobile court for allegedly supplying less fuel than the quantity paid for. In the same drive, the owner of a puffed-rice mill was fined Tk 10,000 for operating without valid documents and a BSTI clearance certificate. The joint operation was conducted on Tuesday (August 25) at two establishments in Dimla upazila headquarters by the BSTI Divisional Office, Rangpur, and the upazila administration. The drive was led by Rowshan Kabir, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Dimla. According to the authorities, an inspection at Messrs Aftab Filling Station found that the station was supplying 1 liter 20 milliliters less per 10 liters of petrol and 140 milliliters less per 10 liters of diesel. Following verification of the short measurement, the owner of the filling station was fined Tk 50,000. Meanwhile, an inspection of Adil Auto Muri Mill found a fake BSTI certificate, prompting authorities to fine the mill owner Tk 10,000. Members of Dimla Police Station assisted the authorities during the operation. The matter was confirmed by Rowshan Kabir, Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Dimla.



3 Arrested with 25 kg Cannabis in Feni's Sonagazi

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-7) arrested three alleged drug traffickers with 25 kilograms of cannabis during a drive in the Kajirhat Market area under Sonagazi Upazila in Feni on Tuesday morning. The estimated market value of the seized drugs is around BDT 2.5 lakh, according to official sources. The arrestees were identified as Majiul Haq Babu, 37, son of Shafiullah of Mangalkandi village; Anu Uddin alias Soheli, 38, son of the late Shafiq Majhi of Adarshagram village; and Nur Alam, 24, son of Mominul Haq of Aurarkhil village, all under Sonagazi Upazila. RAB-7 sources stated that, acting on a tip-off regarding a large consignment of cannabis stored on the third floor of a market owned by local betel nut trader Mofiz Uddin, an operational team conducted a raid in the area around 8:30 AM. Noticing the presence of the law enforcers, Majiul Haq Babu and Anu Uddin Soheli attempted to flee but were apprehended on the spot. Based on information disclosed during initial interrogation, RAB personnel moved to search the third floor, where they chased and detained Nur Alam as he tried to escape down the stairs. During the search of a storeroom on the third floor, officials recovered five bundles wrapped in blue polythene and khaki-colored adhesive tape containing a total of 25 kilograms of cannabis. RAB-7 confirmed that a case under the Narcotics Control Act has been filed, and the arrestees, along with the seized drugs, have been handed over to Sonagazi Model Police Station. Law enforcement agencies emphasized that anti-narcotics drives will continue.

Two motorcyclists killed in Habiganj accident

Habiganj Correspondent

An office assistant-cum-computer operator and another office assistant of a school were killed after a pickup van hit their motorcycle in Nabiganj upazila of the district. The accident occurred at around 4pm today in the Nalsuja area of Debpara Union on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway. The deceased were Mohammad Masum Parvez, office assistant-cum-computer operator, and Shamim Reza, an office assistant, both of Gholdupa M A Mannan Chowdhury High School in Nabiganj. Masum Parvez was the son of Md. Azizur Rahman of Kailong area under Atpara police station in Netrokona district. Shamim Reza was the son of Ichmat Mia of Betapur area in Nabiganj upazila. According to police, Masum Parvez and Shamim Reza were riding a motorcycle to Masum's in-laws' home in the Paniduma area of Nabiganj. When they reached the Nalsuja area of Debpara Union on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, an unregistered pickup van coming from the opposite direction hit their motorcycle. The two riders were thrown off the motorcycle and sustained serious injuries. Locals rescued them and took them to Nabiganj Upazila Health Complex, but Masum Parvez died on the way. Shamim Reza, who was critically injured, was sent to Sylhet for better treatment. He died while undergoing treatment there at around 6pm. After receiving information about the accident, police from Sherpur Highway Police Station went to the hospital. Later, the pickup van and motorcycle involved in the accident were taken to Sherpur Highway Police Station. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sherpur Highway Police Station Md. Anisur Rahman confirmed the accident and said the pickup van and motorcycle had been taken to the police station. Legal proceedings in connection with the incident are underway, he said.



Anti-Drug Rally Held in Latifpur Akbar Shah OC Kamruzzaman Calls for Community Resistance Committees to Combat Drugs

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

An anti-drug rally was held in Latifpur under the jurisdiction of Akbar Shah Police Station in Chattogram Metropolitan Police, with a call for stronger community-based efforts to prevent drug abuse and other anti-social activities. The rally was organized by the Latifpur Drug and Anti-Social Activities Prevention Committee at the Latifpur Cyclone Shelter on Friday (August 28). Committee President Shah Alam chaired the event, while BNP leader Nurul Azam moderated it. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Akbar Shah Police Station, Kamruzzaman, attended the programme as the chief guest. Addressing the rally, OC Kamruzzaman said that drugs are harmful not only to individuals and families but also pose a serious threat to society and the state. He stressed the need to establish drug-prevention committees in every neighborhood and urged residents to provide accurate information to law enforcement agencies so that appropriate legal action can be taken against drug-related activities. "Parents must remain vigilant about their children. They should know whether their children are attending school regularly, participating in sports, returning home on time and maintaining healthy social relationships," he said. The OC also called upon local residents to work together with law enforcement agencies to prevent drug abuse and other criminal activities. He assured the gathering that police would stand beside the community whenever they seek assistance in preventing drugs and other unlawful activities. The speakers at the rally called for an end to the sale, purchase and consumption of yaba, phensedyl and other illegal drugs. They also emphasized the importance of collective efforts involving families, communities and law enforcement agencies to protect young people from drug addiction. Among others, Manjurul Islam, personal assistant to Aslam Chowdhury, Member of Parliament for Chattogram-4 constituency, Kamal Uddin, Jamal Uddin, journalist leader Robel Khan, Kaisarul Alam, Liaquat Ali, Md. Babul and Khairul Bashar addressed the gathering. Following the rally, OC Kamruzzaman visited several identified crime-prone areas in Latifpur. He also conducted public awareness announcements through loudspeakers, urging residents to remain alert and cooperate with law enforcement agencies in preventing drugs and anti-social activities. Local residents welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that continued cooperation between the community and police would help make Latifpur safer and free from drug-related activities.

Lifelong imprisonment for husband in wife's murder case over dowry demand in Faridpur

Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

In Nagarkanda, Faridpur, a husband named Liton Mia, also known as Litu, has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the court for the murder of his wife Kohinur Begum by strangulation and attempting to dispose of the body due to dowry demands. He has also been fined 50,000 taka, with an additional four months of rigorous imprisonment in default of payment. Additionally, for the charges of concealing evidence and disposing of the corpse under section 201 of the Penal Code, the accused has been sentenced to an additional three years of imprisonment and fined 10,000 taka, with an extra month of imprisonment in default of payment. The court has stated that both sentences will be executed simultaneously. However, the accused was absent during the verdict. On Thursday afternoon, Judge Ashok Kumar Dutta of the Special District Judge Court in Faridpur announced this verdict. The convicted Liton Mia is the son of the late Alauddin Mia from the Shasha North Para area of Nagarkanda. According to the case statement and court sources, Liton Mia married Kohinur Begum about 16 years ago. They have two children together. Since the marriage, Liton and his family members have been physically and mentally torturing Kohinur over dowry demands. When Kohinur expressed her inability to pro-



vide dowry, the level of torture increased alarmingly. At one point, without informing Kohinur, Liton remarried and pressured his first wife and children to leave the house. He also threatened to kill Kohinur and dispose of her body if she did not leave the house. Subsequently, on the night of August 7, 2021, Kohinur Begum fell asleep in her room with her daughter. Around 12:30 AM, when her daughter woke up and did not find her mother in bed, she informed her brother who was nearby. Later, in the morning, relatives found Kohinur's lifeless body lying by the pond on the south side of the house. After this incident, a murder case was filed at the Nagarkanda police station, and the police submitted a charge sheet to the court after investigation. After a lengthy hearing and examination of evidence, the court ruled that the charges against the accused were proven beyond reasonable doubt. Public Prosecutor Azizur Rahman stated, "The prosecution has been able to prove the accused's crime through adequate evidence. Justice has been served in this verdict, and the prosecution is satisfied with it."