

Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury today administered the oath to newly appointed judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Habibul Gani. The oath-taking ceremony, conducted by Registrar General Mohammad Habibur Rahman Siddiquee, was held at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge this morning. President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on August 27 appointed Justice Md Habibul Gani of the High Court Division as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. "The President made the appointment in accordance with Article 95(1) of the Constitution. The appointment will take effect from the day he takes oath of office," said a gazette notification issued by the Law and Justice Division on that day. Born on May 31, 1962, Justice Md Habibul Gani obtained MSS and LLB degrees from the University of Chittagong. He was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court.

◆ see page 2



Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has said Denmark will construct a modern port at Laldia Char of Patenga, Chattogram. The government is extending full support to the project and the arrival of global shipping and logistics giant A.P. Muller in Bangladesh represents a significant milestone, he said. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said this while addressing the groundbreaking ceremony for APM Terminals Laldia today. Minister for Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping Sheikh Rubul Alam attended the ceremony as special guest. The Finance Minister expressed his satisfaction that this terminal is being established in his parliamentary constituency. "We have an elected gov-

enment with an ambitious economic agenda. Achieving a trillion-dollar economy cannot be accomplished by the government alone; the private sector must also step up," he emphasized.

Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam said a new chapter is set to begin today, indicating that our import-export trade will reach international standard.

"APM Terminal Laldia represents a substantial investment through the PPP model. Numerous facilities will be available, which is undoubtedly positive news for the nation. Chattogram Port is essential for our economy," he said. Sheikh Rabiul Alam said many companies are showing interest in investing in the port. Discussions are going on with them. We are ensuring that opportunities are utilized for

◆ see page 2

President Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir on Sunday pledged to ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearances, saying Bangladesh would never again allow "Aynaghar" or secret detention centres to exist. "Let me state clearly as the President of Bangladesh: there will be no more 'Aynaghar' in this independent Bangladesh. No mother will have to shed tears waiting for her child, and no wife will have to wait for her husband,"

he said. The President was addressing a discussion marking the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances 2026 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka. He said all perpetrators involved in enforced disappearances would be brought before the law and face the highest punishment as per law. The President also stressed that the state's responsibility would not end with punishing the perpetrators. "The state must also assume responsibility for the

dignity, social security, healthcare, education, livelihoods and rehabilitation of families who have endured years of uncertainty, financial hardship and mental suffering while waiting for their loved ones," he said.

Recalling the victims of enforced disappearances in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world, the President expressed deep sympathy for their families who have spent years waiting for the return of their loved ones. He described enforced

◆ see page 2

◆ see page 2

Dhaka on Sunday. The signing ceremony was held on behalf of Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport by IHG, Area General Manager, Southwest Asia and Ashwani Nair, Cluster General Manager, Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport and InterContinental Dhaka Airport, and Md. Nazrul Islam, Cluster Director of ng.

The 14th edition of BTTF will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka from October 29 to 31. The three-day international tourism fair will be attended by domestic and foreign tourism organizations, tour operators, travel agencies, airlines, hotels, resorts, destination management companies, hospitals and medical institutions, transportation companies and various stakeholders in the tourism sector. This partnership between TOAB and Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport is expected to further strengthen cooperation between the hospitality and tour operator sectors. At the same time, it will create

◆ see page 2

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke today said the UK-Bangladesh partnership continues to go "from strength to strength", underpinned by deep people-to-people connections, vibrant economics and cooperation on regional and global issues. She made the remarks to journalists after holding a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humajun Kobir at the foreign ministry here. Cooke said her meeting with the state minister covered a wide range of shared priorities between the two countries, including trade and investment, migration cooperation and support for the Rohingya response. Regional and international issues of mutual interest also figured prominently in their discussions, she said. "Our conversation covered a wide range of shared priorities, including

◆ see page 2

♦ see page 2



The father and elder brother of Siddhartha Das, one of the two youths arrested in connection with the murder of four members of a family in Rangpur city's Machuapara area, have been taken into the custody of the Detective Branch (DB) for questioning.

The victims were retired teacher Ganapati Chakraborty, 60, his wife Prilitala Chakraborty, 50, their daughter Agami Chakraborty, 25, a postgraduate student, and their son Priyaman Chakraborty, 12, a fifth-grade student.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday (August 29) afternoon, Rangpur Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Sanatan Chakraborty said Siddhartha's father, Binoy Das, and his brother, Partha Das, had been brought in for questioning.

"They will be released after the questioning," the police official said. Earlier, police recovered the bodies of the four family members from their

♦ see page 2

♦ see page 2

Four children died with measles-like symptoms in 24 hours until 8:00am on Sunday, raising the country's combined number of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 967 this year.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has classified all four latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths. With these, the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 868, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 99.3 more children die with measles-like symptoms. A total of 1,151 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, bringing the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 156,829. Meanwhile, 365 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections

◆ see page 2

♦ see page 2



Eleven opposition lawmakers have filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the government's decision to assign ministers, state ministers and whips to oversee and coordinate government activities in all 64 districts. The writ was filed with the relevant branch on Sunday, said petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir. The petitioners are Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami MPs Muhammad Nazibur Rahman (Pabna-1), Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem (Dhaka-14), Md Golam Rabbani (Rangpur-5), Md Nurul Islam (Chapainawabganj-3), Md Masud Parves (Chuadanga-1), Muhammad Azizur Rahman (Jashore-1), Shaikh Monzurul Haque Rahad (Bagerhat-2), Md Shafiqul Islam (Patuakhali-2), Md Rashedul Islam Rashed (Sherpur-1), Salah Uddin (Gazipur-4) and Mohammad Zahurul Islam (Chattogram-16). Shishir Manir said a similar decision was taken in 2001 to distribute district-level responsibilities among ministers, state ministers and whips.

A writ petition challenging
♦ see page 2

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam today said Malaysia will hire about 200,000 workers from Bangladesh in the next six months. The recruitment process will be implemented through various agencies in the country, he said. The state minister said preparations are underway to invest about US\$ 2 billion in electric vehicles, solar panels, renewable energy, and halal food sectors in Bangladesh. All these processes will start soon, Shahe Alam told reporters after Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mohd Shuhada Othman called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at the Secretariat here. Mir Shahe Alam and Local Government Division Secretary Md Shahidul Hassan were present at the meeting. The state minister said discussions on hiring

workers from Bangladesh have progressed a long way. "They (Malaysia) will hire about 200,000 workers. Of them, they will hire 10,000 workers free of cost," he said. Shahe Alam said the manpower that will be exported from Bangladesh will start in phases from the end of September and the process will be completed within the next six months. He said the issues of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to Malaysia were discussed in the meeting. Talks were held to further advance the friendly relations between the two countries, he said.

"There are about eight lakh registered Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. There are some unregistered. Our minister has requested the Malaysia authorities to register them. About 10,000 students from Bangladesh study in Malaysia," he said. The state minister said about 1,000 students from Malaysia also study in

♦ see page 2

◆ see page 2



Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan today said the government is keen to take the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia to a new height. He stressed the need for increasing cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including manpower export, renewable energy, infrastructure, education, health and trade. Moyeen Khan made the remarks when Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mohd Shuhada Othman called on him at the Secretariat here. State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam was present at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the Malaysian envoy mentioned the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique

Rahman to Malaysia and voiced satisfaction over the success of the visit. Later, the two sides discussed manpower export from Bangladesh to Malaysia, registration of unregistered workers and creation of employment opportunities for Bangladeshi engineers in Malaysia. The meeting also focused on the joint construction of hospitals by the two countries, expanding higher education opportunities for Bangladeshi students in Malaysia, investment in the renewable energy sector and cooperation in the production of sports goods. They emphasized the need to further strengthen the economic relations between the two countries in various sectors, including electric vehicle imports, the construction sector and halal food. During the meeting, both sides expressed interest in transforming the long-standing friendly relations between

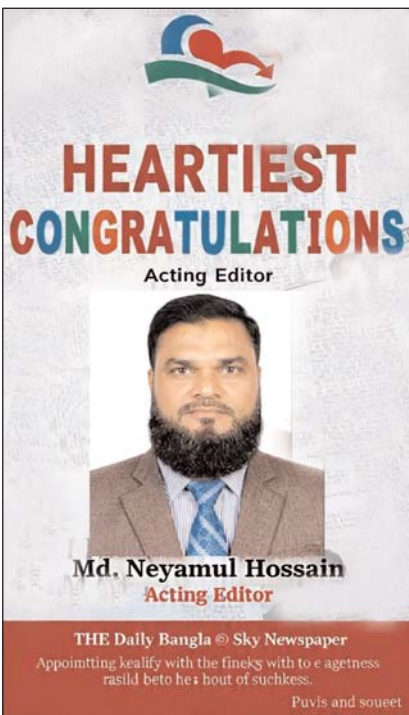
◆ see page 2

♦ see page 2

Prime Minister's Education and Primary and Mass Education Adviser and spokesperson of his office Mahdi Aminpour has said the government has taken initiatives to rearrange the country's education sector, combining merit, morality and human values, and ensuring quality education. To this end, the country's curriculum is being

♦ see page 2

♦ see page 2



Don’t let greed decide St Martin’s future

It is deeply concerning to see multiple new tourist accommodations being built on St Martin’s Island, despite a ban on unauthorised construction on the island. A recent report by Prothom Alo identified at least 12 new resorts and cottages under illegal construction on the coral-rich island, with locals alleging most construction began after the 13th parliamentary election. Conversations with residents further revealed that

There are at least 230 hotels, resorts, and cottages on the island, according to the Department of Environment (DoE), but the figure is not updated. A revised figure including recently built resorts and those under construction would exceed 300. The new structures.

construction activity tends to intensify during adverse weather, when the tourist season ends, and when maritime communication between Teknaf and the island is largely cut off.

There are at least 230 hotels, resorts, and cottages on the island, according to the Department of Environment (DoE), but the figure is not updated. A revised figure including recently built resorts and those under construction would exceed 300. The new structures, whose owners allegedly enjoy backing from local BNP leaders, are being built by

clearing Keya forests and felling coconut trees, which provide natural barriers against tidal surges and cyclones, help retain sand, stabilise the shoreline and create wind resistance. Besides, sand and limestone are being extracted from the beach for construction. It is troubling that most resorts on the island lack environmental clearance, while newer structures continue to be built without proper planning or regard for its fragile ecosystem. Disregard for environmental regulations is hardly new in Bangladesh. But the situation in St Martin’s clearly shows that enforcement remains weak in the face of politically backed, profit-driven ventures.

The island was declared an Ecologically Critical Area in 1999 and a Marine Protected Area in 2022. Authorities, too, have repeatedly demolished illegal structures and those lacking environmental clearance. More recently, overnight stays were banned, tourist numbers were capped, and travel was suspended for nine months to protect the island’s fragile biodiversity. A Tk 8.9 crore DoE project is also underway to strengthen the island’s climate resilience and protect its biodiversity. These interventions clearly recognise the island’s ecological significance. But when none of these interventions succeed in producing lasting change—amid institutional neglect and weak enforcement against influential groups with political patronage who violate environmental laws—it only points to a sad state of governance failure that continues to let down both human and nonhuman communities on the island. And, this must change. Therefore, we urge the government to investigate allegations of political patronage, trace and regulate the routes bringing construction materials to the island, and strengthen monitoring and enforcement alongside meaningful community involvement. It is imperative that there is greater coordination between the DoE and the local administration to safeguard St Martin’s. After all, would it not be a shame to let greed decide the island’s future?

No more “Aynaghar”, perpetrators

disappearance as not an ordinary crime but a crime against humanity and a grave violation of human rights.“Enforced disappearance does not merely take away a person. It takes away the happiness, peace, dreams and economic and social security of their loved ones,” he said.Referring to the past 15 years, the President said enforced disappearances, secret detention centres and killings were used to silence those who protested against injustice, expressed dissent or demanded democratic rights.He said state institutions under the previous “fascist government” repeatedly denied such serious crimes.The President recalled the cases of BNP leader Ilias Ali, ward commissioner Chowdhury Alam and ward-level BNP leader Sajedul Islam Sumon, among others, saying their families continued to live with pain, uncertainty and expectation.President Fakhrul also referred to lawyer Barrister Arman, retired Lieutenant General Azmi and many dissidents, officials, writers, journalists, social workers, homemakers and ordinary citizens who were kept in the secret detention facility known as “Aynaghar” for years.

Some victims fortunately returned, while many others have never come back, he said.The President said the culture of enforced disappearances and killing created an atmosphere of fear and terror in a country that was liberated in 1971 through the sacrifices of freedom fighters who fought for democracy, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity.Calling it a painful and shameful chapter in the country’s history, he said Bangladesh must now pursue justice rather than revenge.“Now, instead of revenge, we must ensure redress and bring the actual perpetrators under the law,” he said.Referring to the final report of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, the President said the commission identified 1,569 incidents as enforced disappearances, of which 287 victims were found to be missing and dead.He said the report clearly showed an increase in enforced disappearances before elections and the targeted abduction and secret killing of political opponents, demonstrating how state power was misused for partisan and personal interests.The President said the commission’s report provided an important foundation, but much remained to be done.He said the Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Remedy Bill, 2026 was placed before Parliament to protect victims and their families and permanently prohibit enforced disappearance.

Bangladesh has also signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, he said, adding that trials related to enforced disappearances and genocide were progressing through the International Crimes Tribunal while maintaining transparency and international standards.Mirza Fakhrul said Bangladesh must become a country where political differences exist without political vengeance, freedom of expression exists without a culture of fear, and law enforcement never becomes a means of violating human rights and justice.

“State power will exist, but that power will remain under the control of the Constitution and the law,” he said.He stressed that a country’s development should not be measured only by economic growth, but also by how democratic, welfare-oriented, just and humane the state is, and how safely and respectfully its citizens can live.“We are committed to building such a new Bangladesh,” he said.The President called on all to work together to establish a Bangladesh where democracy, human rights, equality and dignity form the foundation of the state, good governance guides its administration, accountability and freedom of expression strengthen democracy, and justice becomes the right of every citizen. He prayed for the victims and their families and wished that Bangladesh would move

Bangladesh needs a courtroom AI policy, and soon

Md. Neyamul Hossain

disciplinary rules for advocates for citing false authorities generated by AI. The landmark judgment has set a precedent for zero tolerance in India towards hallucinated citations and has reiterated the Indian judiciary’s commitment to authenticity and accountability. In the meantime, the Kerala and Gujarat high courts have come up with an AI policy for judicial officers regarding the responsible and limited use of AI in judicial functions. In Bangladesh, the ICT Division has prepared a

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In Bangladesh, the ICT Division has prepared a draft AI policy to develop AI responsibly. The Cabinet Division, meanwhile, recently issued cautionary directions not to put sensitive and confidential information into AI, while Bangladesh Bank has issued directives not to put confidential banking data into AI systems in order to prevent possible breaches. Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury has recently warned that AI must not be used to write court judgments, calling for laws and policies to clearly define where and to what extent the technology may be used in the judiciary. These developments show that various public institutions in Bangladesh are recognising both the opportunities and risks associated with generative AI.

Where does the judiciary stand in this emerging AI landscape? AI use is inevitable and will enter the judicial arena. Therefore, the need of the hour is a pragmatic directive on the use of AI in the judiciary. A key concern is low AI literacy among justice sector actors, including judges, lawyers, and judicial staff. A second problem is the availability and quality of digital legal databases. The absence of full digitisation and systematic indexing of legal databases increases the likelihood of legal citations being inaccurate or fabricated. Another problem is lack of an effective citation-verification mechanism particularly suited to the judiciary of Bangladesh.

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dents’ success as a reminder that Bangladesh’s people, particularly its youth, remain the country’s greatest strength.

Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport is

an opportunity to showcase Bangladesh as an attractive tourist destination for domestic and foreign tourists.

TOAB said that the cooperation of Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport as a platinum sponsor will play an important role in making BTTF 2026 more successful and effective. The organization hopes that the fair will serve as an important platform for tourism promotion, business communication, B2B activities and increasing international tourism cooperation.

UK-Bangladesh partnership con

trade and investment, migration cooperation, support for the Rohingya response, and regional and international issues," the British envoy said.Highlighting the foundation of bilateral relations, Cooke said the UK and Bangladesh share a long-standing partnership built on deep connections between the peoples of the two countries. The relationship is also anchored in vibrant trade and investment ties as well as close cooperation on regional and global issues, she added.Cooke expressed her readiness to work closely with the state minister and the Bangladesh government to further deepen the bilateral relationship and translate the partnership into concrete gains for both countries. "I look forward to meeting and to working closely with the Honorable State Minister and, of course, the Government of Bangladesh to build on our strong partnership and deliver tangible benefits for both our countries," she said.

Rangpur Family-of-Four Murder

residence in Machuapara area. Following the incident, Gopinath Chakraborty, elder brother of the deceased Ganapati Chakraborty, filed a murder case with Kotwali Police Station against unidentified accused persons. Police later arrested two youths—Mugdha Das, 23, and Siddhartha Das, 19—from the same area. Police said the two suspects subsequently gave confessional statements before a court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On Tuesday, Simanta, a friend of Mugdha and Siddhartha, gave a statement before the court as a witness. Police have claimed that Mugdha, Siddhartha and Simanta consumed yaba together on the night of the incident.

Measles: 4 more children die;

to 19,218. Since March 15 this year, a total of 137,347 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised across the country, of whom 132,292 have recovered, according to DGHS data.

Malaysia to hire 200,000

various medical colleges, including Dhaka Medical College and Mymensingh Medical College, in Bangladesh.Replying to a question regarding the movement of e-rickshaws or battery-powered rickshaws on the city streets, he said: "We will not allow e-rickshaws to ply on the main roads." "Arrangements will be made to allow them to ply on internal roads in eight zones. It will be divided into three parts," he said. Regarding a policy on the operation of e-rickshaws, Shahe Alam said the policy is at the final stage."The policy will now be sent to the Law Ministry for vetting. After the vetting, it will be announced as soon as possible. Once we announce the policy in line with the law, electric rickshaws will come under regulation," he said.The state minister said the meeting also discussed the technology of rubberised road carpeting used in Malaysia.

He said Malaysia has agreed to provide technical assistance to

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Where does the judiciary stand in this emerging AI landscape? AI use is inevitable and will enter the judicial arena. Therefore, the need of the hour is a pragmatic directive on the use of AI in the judiciary. A key concern is low AI literacy among justice sector actors, including judges, lawyers, and judicial staff. A second problem is the availability and quality of digital legal databases. The absence of full digitisation and systematic indexing of legal databases increases the likelihood of legal citations being inaccurate or fabricated. Another problem is lack of an effective citation-verification mechanism particularly suited to the judiciary of Bangladesh.

In this regard, Bangladesh should form a judicial AI-use policy that is based on international experiences. The policy should clearly define areas where AI use should be restricted or prohibited. It must also prescribe appropriate sanctions for the misuse or irresponsible use of material produced by AI in the course of judicial proceedings. The Bangladesh Bar Council should frame rules for lawyers on the use of AI tools to ensure that they verify citations generated by AI and clarify accountability for submitting false legal authorities. Equally important is the education and training of judges, lawyers, and court staff in terms of AI use. In addition, Bangladesh should strive to create a reliable, authentic, and easily accessible digital legal database comprising up-to-date statutes, judgments, and other legal authorities, which would enable independent cross-checking of information generated by

AI. Lastly, any material assistance received from AI systems in preparing petitions, pleas, or legal submissions must be disclosed transparently. If properly guided and regulated, AI can become an innovative assistive tool to support legal research, case management, drafting, and other administrative functions, thereby potentially contributing to the reduction of case backlog. Bangladesh should therefore consider formulating a judicial AI policy that is best suited to its specific legal, institutional, and technological context.

Bangladesh in the use of polymer-modified bitumen (rubberised bitumen). "It is usually used for road carpeting. You know that there is a lot of rain in Malaysia, but their carpeted roads do not deteriorate easily. They use rubber along with the carpeting," Shahe Alam said.

11 Jamaat MPs challenge

that decision was filed at the time, following which the High Court declared the decision unconstitutional, he said.“According to the Rules of Business, the Constitution of Bangladesh and judgements of the higher courts, such a decision is beyond legal authority and unlawful,” the lawyer said.The government issued a gazette notification on August 27, assigning 30 ministers, state ministers and whips district-wise responsibilities to oversee and coordinate government activities.According to the notification, they will supervise and coordinate district-level activities relating to law and order, prevention of corruption and drug abuse, good governance, transparency and accountability, as well as development and public welfare programmes.

The government said it took the decision amid concerns over alleged misuse of development allocations in various districts through widespread corruption.It also expressed concern that proceeds from such activities have allegedly been siphoned abroad or used for activities linked to drug abuse, social degradation and threats to public and state security. The district-wise assignments are intended to strengthen supervision and coordination of government activities and ensure greater transparency, accountability and proper implementation of development programmes.

Govt keen to take Bangladesh

Bangladesh and Malaysia into a more effective economic partnership. Local Government Division Secretary Md Shahidul Hassan and senior officials of the ministry were present at the meeting.

Major curriculum overhaul

redesigned from the 2028 academic year as a comprehensive reform of the entire curriculum, he said. As the first step, new subjects on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence and sports will be included to the curriculum from next year (2027 academic year), he told BSS in an exclusive interview here recently.Mahdi Amin highlighted the government's visionary outline for the education structure, comprehensive curriculum reforms, teacher evaluation, rehabilitation of dropped out students, and industry-academia collaboration and employment exchange.He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has clearly mentioned that the education sector is the top priority of his government. According to the BNP government's election manifesto, the issue of forming an Education Reform Commission to restore discipline in the education system is being considered with utmost importance, he said.However, the education adviser said, as an interim measure, the government is revising, adding and subtracting as much as possible in the textbooks for the next academic year (2027).Comprehensive reforms will be brought in the curriculum for the 2028 academic year, he said, adding that this would make it possible to create a sustainable and groundbreaking curriculum outline in the country in global context.The adviser said from the next academic year, four new books and subjects are being added to the country's primary and secondary levels.From the class-IV, sports and physical education-based books - 'Sports and Culture' and from class-VI, 'Learning with Happiness' and 'Technical Education' are being included in the curriculum, said Mahdi Amin.He said the aim of the government's new steps is to introduce students to robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and modern education based on the technology of the fourth industrial revolution.



Battery-powered rickshaws to be banned on Dhaka's main roads

Staff correspondent

Battery-powered and electric rickshaws will not be allowed to operate on Dhaka's main roads, while registered e-rickshaws carrying up to four passengers will be permitted to run on internal roads, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Co-operatives Mir Shahe Alam said on Sunday.

Six-passenger e-rickshaws will not be eligible for registration with either of the two Dhaka city corporations, he said while speaking to reporters after a meet-

ing between Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mohd Shuhada Othman and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at the Secretariat. Shahe Alam said the policy for regulating auto-rickshaws is at the final stage and will soon be sent to the Ministry of Law for vetting. "Once it comes back after vetting, we will issue it within a week or the following week, as quickly as possible," he said, adding that once the policy is issued, battery-powered rickshaws and e-rickshaws will come under a regulato-

ry framework. The proposed policy will make certification from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and engineering universities and automobile departments of government polytechnic institutes at the district level mandatory for registration of e-rickshaws, the state minister said. He said a traffic department fitness certificate will also be required before any e-rickshaw can be registered. "We will not provide registration without certification from BUET, and engineering universities and the automobile departments

◆ see page 7

Sudharpur Upazila Health Complex's Sudden Visit by the Health Minister



Biplob Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

The Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Mo. Sakawat Hossain has made a sudden visit to the Sudharpur Upazila Health Complex in Faridpur. On Sunday around 12 PM, the Health Minister arrived at the Sudharpur Upazila Health Complex. He stayed there for about two hours. During the hospital visit, the min-

ister directly inspected various wards and spoke with the service recipients standing in line at the ticket counter.

At this time, the victims deprived of medical services expressed their anger by highlighting various irregularities and poor conditions of the hospital in front of the Health Minister. The minister took their complaints into account. Additionally, in light of the hospital's doctor shortage and manpower crisis, dirty environment, and various complaints from patients, he gave strict instructions to the hospital authorities. Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Mo. Sakawat Hossain stated that no negligence or irregularities will be tolerated in ensuring health services for the general public. He directed

◆ see page 7



BGB intercepts yaba consignment in Naf River; 3 held with drugs worth 5.7 crore taka

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) foiled a major drug smuggling attempt from Myanmar, detaining three traffickers along with 1,900,000 Yaba tablets and a motorized wooden boat following a high-speed chase in the Naf River.

?The operation was conducted on Saturday afternoon near the Sabrang border under the jurisdiction of Teknaf Battalion (2 BGB).

?The detainees have been identified as Md. Jamal Hossain (38) from Kulalpara, and Md. Emran (25) alongside Md. Ismail (24) from Noapara in Sabrang, Teknaf.

?According to BGB sources, acting on a tip-off regarding a large shipment of contraband entering Bangladesh from Myanmar, a specialized patrol team took up positions at strategic points along the river. When a suspicious engine boat crossed the zero line into Bangladeshi waters at high speed, BGB personnel signaled it to stop. ?Ignoring the warning, the smugglers attempted to flee, triggering a pursuit by the BGB unit. Sensing capture, the perpetrators threw a plastic sack into the water to dispose of the evidence. However, BGB personnel intercepted the boat and apprehended the three individuals on the spot.

?Based on information provided by the detainees, a joint team from Sabrang and Shah Pari Dwip border outposts launched a search operation and recovered the floating sack near Jaliapara. Upon inspection, 190,000 pieces of Yaba pills were seized from the bag.

?Lieutenant Colonel Md. Hanifur Rahman Bhuiyan, Commanding Officer of Teknaf Battalion (2 BGB), confirmed that the detainees

◆ see page 7

Kobir stresses high-level exchanges to deepen Saudi ties

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir today underscored sustained high-level exchanges and regular engagements between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia to maintain the current momentum and further elevate bilateral relations. He made the remarks when Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Zafer bin Abiyah called on him at the foreign ministry here, according to a ministry statement.

During the meeting, the state minister and the Saudi envoy expressed satisfaction over the steady progress in cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.

Kobir stressed the importance of maintaining regular

◆ see page 7

Mirza Abbas likely to return home on Sept 2

Staff correspondent

BNP Standing Committee Member and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Mirza Abbas is expected to return home on Wednesday (September 2), following five months of treatment in Singapore and Malaysia. BNP Media Cell member Shayrul Kabir Khan today confirmed the information to BSS. He said Mirza Abbas is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka by Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 9:00 pm on September 2. After undergoing medical treatment in Singapore and Malaysia for an extended period, he has recovered considerably following the advice of the medical board. On March 11, Mirza Abbas suddenly lost consciousness during iftar. He was admitted to Evercare Hospital in the city, where a medical team comprising neurological specialists subsequently performed brain surgery on him. Following the surgery and subsequent treatment, doctors advised him to undergo physiotherapy, leading to his transfer to Malaysia. He was then taken by air ambulance to Singapore General Hospital

◆ see page 7



UNDP to strengthen partnership with Bangladesh on investment, trade facilitation

Staff correspondent

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has expressed interest in strengthening cooperation with Bangladesh to attract investment, facilitate business and trade, reduce logistics costs and enhance the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The UNDP also expressed readiness to work with Bangladesh to enhance export capacity and develop the country's skills in international trade negotiations, said a press release. The issues were discussed at a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar and UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Stephen

Rodrigues at the Secretariat here today. At the meeting, the UNDP representatives said Bangladesh's investment potential is growing gradually, stressing the need to capitalize on the opportunity while strengthening local businesses and ensuring environmental and social standards in the business sector. The commerce minister said the government has taken various initiatives to simplify business licensing and approval procedures. "Previously, some processes took nearly three months to complete, but now they can be completed within two weeks," he said, adding that necessary measures would be taken to make the processes simpler, faster and more effective. The meeting

◆ see page 7



Strong Foul Odor in Wards of Sarail Upazila Health Complex, Concerns Over Patients' Health Risks

Taslima Khandakar Nurat, Sarail Upazila Correspondent

Allegations of strong foul odor have been raised in the wards designated for patients at Sarail Upazila Health Complex. As a result, patients, their relatives, and ordinary people coming to receive medical services are suffering severely. Questions have been raised about the overall management of the hospital due to the foul-smelling and unhygienic environment.

During an on-site visit, it was found that the hospital wards, where people come for treatment to get well, are in an unhealthy condition. Many fear that the suffering of patients and their relatives may

◆ see page 7

US Ambassador Visits Teesta Barrage Holds Meeting with Officials



Mohinul Islam Sujon

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen has visited the Teesta Barrage, the country's largest irrigation project, located between Hatibandha Upazila of Lalmonirhat and Dimla Upazila of Nilphamari. As part of his three-day tour of northern Bangladesh, he inspected the important infrastructure and held a meeting with local administration and Bangladesh Water Development Board officials. At around 11:30 am on Sunday (August 30), the US ambassador, accompanied by his delegation, arrived at the Teesta Rest House in Gaddimari Union of Hatibandha Upazila, Lalmonirhat. Earlier in the morn-

ing, he arrived at Saidpur Airport by air from Dhaka. During his three-day visit, he is scheduled to visit various important and tourist sites in Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Nilphamari. After arriving at the conference room of the rest house, the ambassador took part in a high-level meeting with local administration officials, senior officials of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), and political leaders. The meeting discussed the operation of the Teesta Barrage, water distribution, and flood control and management in the northern region. The meeting was attended by BWDB Director General Ruhul Amin, Chief Engineer of BWDB's Northern Region in Rangpur Dr. Sarfaraz Band, Supervising Engineer of Rangpur Circle-1 Ahsan Habib, Supervising Engineer of Circle-2 Mizanur Rahman, Executive Engineer of Dalia BWDB Amitabh Chandra, Hatibandha Upazila

◆ see page 7



Opposition MPs skip discussion on Human Rights Commission Bill

Staff correspondent

Opposition lawmakers on Sunday boycotted discussion on National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026, alleging that the government is pushing the legislation through a "one-sided" process by ignoring views of political parties, rights organisations and civil

society. The opposition MPs boycotted the discussion on the bill at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Bills on human rights, enforced disappearance placed in Parliament. The committee held its third meeting at the Jatiya

◆ see page 7

RUET students submit memorandum for removal of illegal structures

Staff correspondent

General students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET) submitted a memorandum demanding the removal of illegal structures built on land owned by RUET and the restoration of the university's boundary wall. Students submitted the memorandum to the Administrator of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mahfuzur Rahman Riton at Nagar Bhaban at 11:30 am this morning.

At that time, the RCC Administrator received the memorandum from the students. He assured them that the matter would be considered with importance and necessary legal action would be taken. In the memoran

◆ see page 7

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

ডাঃ মানিক চন্দ্র নাথ

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

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

সিরিয়ালের জন্য যোগাযোগ :
01675-271725
01815-092341

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

DOCTOR'S CHAMBER

চেম্বারে আসার পূর্বে অবশ্যই মোবাইলে যোগাযোগ করে আসবেন।

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

Battery-powered rickshaws

of government polytechnic institutes at the district level, as well as fitness certification from the traffic department,” Shahe Alam said.Registration will be issued by city corporations and municipalities, he said.

The policy will also have provisions on charging points for e-rickshaws, the state minister said. “The government plans to gradually introduce solar-powered charging facilities and eventually make solar charging mandatory.”Charging points will also require licences from the relevant city corporation or municipality, depending on their location, he added.

Shahe Alam said e-rickshaws are being manufactured indiscriminately at different locations, including Dhaka, while the government has no specific data on the number of such factories.Under the proposed policy, manufacturers will also be brought under a regulatory framework, he said.Factories producing e-rickshaws according to designs certified by BUET or engineering universities will have to be registered and obtain licences from the relevant city corporation or municipality, the state minister said.

Besides, the government is considering dividing Dhaka into eight zones — four in the north and four in the south — based on a proposal from the traffic department, he said.

Each zone will have a separate colour code, and e-rickshaws registered in one zone cannot operate in another, Shahe Alam said.

He said city corporations and the traffic department will jointly determine the routes on which e-rickshaws can operate. “Geofencing technology will also be introduced for the vehicles.”The state minister said e-rickshaws will not be allowed on major roads in the capital but will be permitted to operate on internal roads within designated zones.

He said introducing separate rickshaw lanes on major roads and ensuring orderly passenger boarding and drop-offs will be difficult and time-consuming. “We will not allow e-rickshaws on the main roads. We will create eight zones so that they can operate on internal roads,” he said>About the categories of e-rickshaws, Shahe Alam said, “We will divide them into three categories. In Dhaka, e-rickshaws will have a passenger capacity of two or four. We will not bring any six-passenger vehicle or e-rickshaw under the registration system of the Dhaka city corporations.”However, e-rickshaws carrying two, four or six passengers will be eligible for registration for operation in rural areas and rural roads in district towns, he said.

Mirza Abbas likely

on March 15. He was later shifted to Prince Court Medical Centre, where he underwent physiotherapy for about a month, resulting in significant improvement in his health condition.

UNDP to strengthen partnership

also discussed reducing Bangladesh's high logistics costs and improving efficiency in port and terminal management.Muktadir said the government is committed to enhancing Bangladesh's trade competitiveness by reducing the time and costs involved in handling goods through internationally benchmarked management practices.Highlighting MSMEs as an important component of the country's economy, the minister sought UNDP cooperation in identifying financing gaps in the sector, providing training and developing entrepreneurs' business skills and creating effective market linkages.Stephen Rodrigues said the UNDP would explore ways to connect small and medium-sized enterprises with global supply chains and make them more export-oriented.He also expressed the UNDP's willingness to support Bangladesh in reducing unnecessary delays in customs procedures, facilitating trade and enhancing the country's capacity in negotiating international trade agreements through training, necessary tools and exchange of international experiences.Expressing optimism about Bangladesh's recent changes and economic prospects, Rodrigues said the UNDP's support would be realigned in line with the government's priorities in creating employment, promoting economic growth and diversifying the economy.He also noted that international investors are viewing Bangladesh's recent changes positively.Joint Secretary (FTA) of the Ministry of Commerce Mahbuba Khatun Minu, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne, Assistant Resident Representative Anwarul Haque, Economic Adviser Yase Parry and Project Manager Maruf Azam were present at the meeting.

Sudharpur Upazila Health

the local administration to take necessary steps to quickly improve the quality of hospital services and to eliminate the broker syndicate.

Meanwhile, taking into account various complaints about the hospital, immediate transfer orders were issued for three senior nurses.

Present during the visit were District Civil Surgeon Dr. Mo. Jalal Uddin Mollah, Sudharpur Upazila Executive Officer Sharif Shaon, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Mominur Rahman Sarkar, among others.

BGB intercepts yaba consignment

and the seized narcotics are being handed over to Teknaf Model Station for legal proceedings, with a case currently being filed. He added that strict surveillance and a zero-tolerance policy against drug smuggling will continue along the border.

Strong Foul Odor in Wards of

increase further if they have to stay in such an environment for a long time.

Some relatives of patients at the hospital expressed their anger and said, “It has become unbearable to stay in the ward due to the foul odor. Even when we come to see patients, we have to endure this suffering.”

In this regard, the head of the hospital could not be found even after going to his office to speak with him. An official in the adjacent room said that he was in the district town.

Local residents and victims have requested the authorities of Sarail Upazila Health Complex to urgently look into the matter, identify the source of the odor, ensure cleanliness, and create a hygienic environment for patients.

A hospital is a place of refuge for people's health. Therefore, it is extremely important to ensure a clean, odor-free, and safe environment there.

Mount Adora, Noora Health sign

patients at home with practical, potentially life-saving knowledge on recognising danger signs, administering medication, managing wounds and supporting patients’ recovery after discharge.The programme will be rolled out across the hospital’s inpatient wards and outpatient departments through nurse-led education sessions, printed and digital health education materials in Bengali, and phone-based follow-up support for discharged patients and their families.

Health experts at the MoU signing event said family caregiving education can improve patient health outcomes, enable family members to provide better support during recovery and increase satisfaction with hospital services.According to a press release, Noora Health has equipped more than 6.5 crore family caregivers and patients across Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Nepal through its training programmes since 2014.

US Ambassador Visits Teesta

Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dipjon Mitra, and Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Imranuzzaman.

Former Member of Parliament from Nilphamari-1 constituency and convener of AB Party Engineer Shahrin Islam Chowdhury Tuhin, Nilphamari District Jubo Dal General

Secretary Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, and other local political leaders and eminent personalities also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Ambassador Brent T. Christensen visited the control room of the Teesta Barrage from 12:40 pm to 1:10 pm. During the visit, he closely observed the current water level of the Teesta River, the process of supplying water to irrigation canals, and the overall operations of the barrage. Later, the ambassador walked across the main bridge of the barrage and inspected the facility. Tight security measures were put in place in and around the Teesta Barrage ahead of the ambassador’s visit.

Kobir stresses high-level

engagement between Dhaka and Riyadh to build on the existing momentum in bilateral relations.He said sustained high-level exchanges would help further strengthen the longstanding relationship and advance cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The meeting came amid growing engagement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia aimed at expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Opposition MPs skip discussion

Sangsad Bhaban, with the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026 on its agenda.Jamaat-e-Islami parliamentary spokesperson Md Najibur Rahman said the opposition would not participate in any stage of the passage of the bill, which he described as inconsistent with international human rights conventions and aimed at weakening the National Human Rights Commission.However, they participated in the discussion on the Property Transfer Bill at the same meeting.Speaking to reporters at the tunnel of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after leaving the meeting, Najibur Rahman said an initiative has been taken during the interim government to reform the law relating to human rights with the objective of strengthening the legal framework.“But instead of strengthening the existing law, provisions have been included in the proposed bill to further weaken the National Human Rights Commission,” he alleged.He also criticised the decision to ask the parliamentary committee to submit its report on the bill within only two working days.“The hands and feet of the parliamentary standing committee have been tied before the bill is placed in Parliament. It has been asked to submit a report within just two days. This does not leave the committee members enough scope to express their independent opinions,” he said.Najibur Rahman alleged that the committee has effectively been reduced to a “rubber stamp”, making it impossible for the opposition to remain involved in the process.Calling the proposed legislation a “controversial” and “black law”, he said the bill did not provide adequate protection for citizens if their human rights were violated by law enforcement agencies.He said the opposition believed parliamentary committees should have sufficient independence to scrutinise legislation and express their views freely.Najibur Rahman further alleged that there were instances in the past when government lawmakers attempted to give independent opinions or submit notes of dissent in parliamentary committees, but were subsequently asked at the highest level of government to withdraw those notes.“We consider this a process of parliamentary fascism,” he said.He said turning parliamentary committees into rubber stamps is not good for democracy and could open the way for authoritarian practices.

The National Human Rights Commission Act was enacted in 2009.During the tenure of the interim government, the law was amended and a new ordinance was issued. The 13th Parliament subsequently repealed that ordinance and restored the 2009 law.On Thursday, Law Minister Asaduzzaman placed the National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026, in Parliament seeking to repeal the 2009 Act and enact a new law.The bill was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs with instructions to submit its report within two working days. Najibur Rahman said the opposition would also boycott discussion on the National Human Rights Bill when it is taken up in Parliament.

RUET students submit memoran

dum, students mentioned that for a long time, various structures including a public toilet have been built on a portion of the university-owned land by demolishing RUET's boundary wall.

These structures have been built using the university's land, which is adversely affecting the security, environment and normal activities of the campus.

At present, right next to it, the construction work of the 10-storey academic building of the Faculty of Civil Engineering is in its final stage, which will be opened in the shortest possible time. In this situation, on 29 August, 2026, about 600 students of RUET boycotted classes, labs and examinations and formed a peaceful human chain demanding the removal of the said illegal structures. In this context, they requested that necessary measures be taken for the speedy implementation of the demands.

The students said all unauthorized and illegal structures built on RUET-owned land, including the public toilet and those built on the footpath adjacent to the boundary wall, must be removed quickly. At the time of submitting the memorandum, Kazi Parvez Ahmed, Muhtasim Soumik, Shahan Al Riaz and other students were present.

HSBC commits Tk 10cr for flood rehabilitation in Ctg

Staff correspondent

HSBC Bangladesh has committed Tk 10 crore to support the recovery and rehabilitation of communities affected by the recent flash floods in Chattogram Division.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury formally inaugurated the initiative at an event held at Chattogram Circuit House today, said a press release.

Under the philanthropic initiative, HSBC Bangladesh will provide financial support to BRAC to implement a seven-month recovery and rehabilitation programme aimed at helping vulnerable flood-affected households rebuild their homes, restore livelihoods, rehabilitate schools and improve access to safe water and sanitation.

Triggerred by persistent heavy rainfall and upstream runoff, the recent floods caused widespread flash flooding, landslides and prolonged waterlogging across 10 severely affected districts, impacting more than 1.04 million people. Thousands of homes, schools, sanitation facilities, water sources and agricultural lands were damaged, leaving many families in need of long-term recovery support.The programme will cover six months of field implementation followed by one month of reporting and project close-out.

The initiative will focus on three key areas-schools, households and livelihoods-in Ward No. 38 of Chattogram City Corporation, Satkania and Banskhali upazilas of Chattogram district, and Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar district.Under the programme, 50 flood-damaged schools will be repaired and rehabilitated, while learning materials will be distributed among affected students.The project will also repair or reconstruct 250 flood-damaged houses, 400 household latrines and 30 damaged tube wells.

Besides, livelihood restoration support will be provided to 300 of the most vulnerable households, while need-based agricultural inputs will be provided to 600 vulnerable farming households.HSBC Bangladesh Chief Executive Officer Md Mahbub

ur Rahman said, "At HSBC, our responsibility goes beyond business to uplift the communities we serve. Through our partnership with BRAC, we are investing in homes, livelihoods, and critical services to help families recover and build lasting resilience against climate challenges."BRAC Director of Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP), Climate & Environmental Innovation Programme (CEIP), Md Liakath Ali, PhD, said BRAC had stood beside affected communities with immediate humanitarian assistance during the disaster."Beyond immediate relief, it is equally important to support affected families in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods while strengthening their capacity and resilience to future disasters," he said.He said the project would support flood-affected communities in the Chattogram region in restoring their homes, access to safe water and sanitation, livelihoods and education-related infrastructure."We hope that, through the collective efforts of relevant government agencies, local administration, and communities, this project will make a significant contribution to rebuilding the lives and livelihoods of flood-affected people and help build safer, more inclusive, and disaster-resilient communities in the Chattogram region," he added.Bangladesh Bank Director Swarup Kumar Chowdhury, Chattogram Divisional Commissioner Dr Md Ziauddin, and Chattogram Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Mohammad Zahidul Islam Miah attended the event as special guests. The programme will prioritise women-headed households, families with persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups. The initiative seeks to support affected communities through long-term, climate-resilient solutions and sustainable development through partnerships among the government, private sector and development organisations.

Home Ministry launches RDMS to streamline repatriation of trafficking victims

Staff correspondent

The Ministry of Home Affairs today launched a Repatriation Data Management System (RDMS) to make the process of bringing Bangladeshi nationals, who fall victim to human trafficking and irregular migration back home, more efficient and coordinated.The system was inaugurated at a programme held at the Board Room of Hotel InterContinental in the capital this morning, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with Justice and Care Bangladesh, according to a ministry press release.

Additional Secretary (Political and Immigration) Dr Ziauddin Ahmed chaired the programme.Special Branch (SB) chief and Additional Inspector General of Police Sardar Nurul Amin, SB DIG SCO Jahangir Hossain and Australian High Commission Counsellor Ruben Grey attended the programme as special guests.

Joint Secretary of the Political-1 wing of the Home Ministry Rebeka Khan delivered the welcome address, while Justice and Care Bangladesh Country Director Tariquul Islam highlighted the objectives and benefits of the RDMS.In his remarks, Dr Ziauddin stressed the importance of incorporating the RDMS into the Home Ministry's domain to accelerate efforts to prevent human trafficking and facilitate the reintegration of rescued victims.He said the platform has already been linked with the National Identity Card (NID) database to maintain comprehensive information on returnees and survivors.Work is also underway to integrate the system with birth and death registration and passport services to ensure accurate identification of children, he added.Dr Ziauddin praised the efforts of the Home Ministry, Foreign Ministry and Special Branch in preventing irregular migration and expressed hope that the inter-agency initiative would help protect survivors and curb illegal migration.

The RDMS has been developed by the Home Ministry with technical assistance from Justice and Care Bangladesh, while the Australian government supported its development and upgrading.The centralised digital platform will facilitate the management of information related to the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals from abroad and improve coordination among the agencies involved in the process.Several government agencies are involved in repatriation, including nationality verification, police record checks, preparation of necessary documents and communication with authorities in destination countries. As many of these procedures have traditionally been handled through paper-based documents and correspondence, repatriation can often be delayed.A presentation at the programme highlighted that the RDMS would enable centralised storage and management of repatriation case information, faster nationality and police record verification, and improved coordination among government agencies.

The system will also allow authorities to access repatriation-related information quickly, monitor progress in real time and generate reports, the presentation said.

Through the RDMS, Bangladeshi missions abroad and other relevant agencies will be able to submit repatriation applications in a more structured and coordinated manner.

It will also facilitate the exchange of information required for nationality verification while ensuring secure management and storage of personal and sensitive data.

The Home Ministry expressed hope that the new system would strengthen information management, improve inter-agency coordination and make repatriation faster, safer and more dignified for Bangladeshi nationals returning from abroad.The ministry thanked the Special Branch of Bangladesh Police, Justice and Care Bangladesh, the Australian government and other stakeholders for their contributions to developing and strengthening the RDMS.Representatives from the embassies and high commissions of the United States, India and Thailand, among others, as well as officials from the Home Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Bangladesh Police and other relevant government agencies attended the programme.

Teacher’s death during mugging attempt: Prime suspect, accomplice arrested

Staff correspondent

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested prime suspect Md Ponil alias Para Ponil, along with an accomplice, in connection with the murder of a government primary school headteacher during an alleged bag-snatching attempt near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital.It has also seized the motorcycle allegedly used in the crime.

Headmistress dies falling from rickshaw during snatching near Jatiya Sangsad bhabanHowever, the elite force did not immediately disclose when or where the two suspects were arrested. The identity of the accomplice was also not disclosed.An RAB-2 official said Additional Deputy Inspector General of police Naimul Hasan, commanding officer of the battalion, will brief the media in the afternoon in this regard.Ranjina Parvin, headteacher of Bagbari Balika Government Primary School in Bogura, died on Saturday after falling from a rickshaw during an attempted bag snatching near the South Plaza of the Parliament Complex.Police said she came to Dhaka from Bogura for medical treatment. Around 6:30am, two individuals in a motorbike allegedly tried to snatch her bag while she was travelling by rickshaw, causing her to fall and suffer a severe head injury.

She was later declared dead at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

BB revises Tk 3,000cr refinancing scheme for agri-based economic centre

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Bank (BB) today revised several provisions of its Tk 3,000 crore refinancing scheme aimed at creating a special economic centre based on agriculture in the northern region of the country.The central bank issued the revised instructions through a circular letter under its Agricultural Credit Department, replacing certain provisions of an earlier circular issued on July 6, 2026.Under the revised provision, participating banks will receive refinancing facilities from Bangladesh Bank at an interest/profit rate of 3 percent. At the customer level, the interest/profit rate will be a maximum of 7 percent.For Shariah-based financing, the profit rate charged to customers will have to be determined in accordance with the approved investment policy, but it cannot exceed 7 percent. The rate will be applicable equally to all customers.

The circular also revised the tenure of loans and investments under the scheme.For eligible sectors or projects, loans or investments provided to customers, including a three-month grace period where applicable, will have a maximum tenure of 18 months. Participating banks must repay the principal and interest or profit to Bangladesh Bank within a maximum of 18 months from the date of receiving refinancing.For loans or investments under other specified sectors or projects, including a grace period ranging from three to six months where applicable, the maximum tenure will be 36 months. Participating banks must repay the principal and interest or profit to Bangladesh Bank within a maximum of 36 months from the date of receiving refinancing.Bangladesh Bank also specified a provision for recovery in cases of misuse of the refinancing facility or charging customers an interest/profit rate above 7 percent. If such irregularities are identified, the bank concerned will have to pay an additional 2 percent interest/profit over the prescribed rate on the relevant amount as a one-time recovery.The participating banks have also been instructed to publicise the concessional loan facility by displaying banners inside and outside their branches at easily visible locations and through special campaigns.The central bank said all other provisions of the earlier circular will remain unchanged and instructed banks to implement the revised directions immediately.

Rangpur four murders: Siddhartha’s father, brother released after questioning

Staff correspondent

The father and elder brother of Siddhartha Das, one of the two suspects arrested in connection with the killings of four members of a family, including former schoolteacher Ganapati Chakraborty, have been released after being questioned by the Detective Branch (DB) of police.They were released from the DB office on Central Road around 11:30pm on Saturday after signing written undertakings, police said.Rangpur killings: Accused Siddhartha's father, brother taken to DB custody for questioningSiddhartha's father Binoy Das and elder brother Partha Das were taken into DB custody for questioning earlier on Saturday afternoon.Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police Sonaton Chakraborty said they were brought in for questioning and released after giving written undertakings.Speaking to reporters after his release, Binoy Das said police questioned them about various aspects of the killings. “We told the police only what we had already said to the media,” he said.The bodies of Ganapati, 65, a former teacher of Rangpur Zilla School, his wife Pritilata Chakraborty Bala, 50, daughter Agami Chakraborty Prerathi, 25, and son Ayush Chakraborty Priyam, 12, were recovered from their locked home in Machhuapara of Rangpur city on August 22.Police said all four were strangled to death.Police arrested Mugdha Das, 23, and Siddhartha Das, 19, from the same area the following day in connection with the killings.The two arrested suspects later gave confessional statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a court, while two witnesses, identified as Shimanto and Bidyut Das, also gave statements before the court.

Ex-IGP Enamul Huq passes away

Staff correspondent

Former Inspector General of Police (IGP) M Enamul Huq passed away at a hospital in the capital on Sunday. He was 88. He breathed his last in the early hours, according to a press release issued by Police Headquarters. Enamul is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.A namaz-e-janaza for him was held after Zohr prayers at the SI Shiru Miah Auditorium in the Rajarbagh Police Lines, followed by an official state funeral. He will be laid to rest at his family graveyard in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district. Additional Inspector General (AIG) AKM Awlad Hossain laid a wreath at the coffin on behalf of IGP Md Ali Hossain Fakir. Tributes were also paid on behalf of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Bangladesh Police Service Association and the Retired Police Officers' Welfare Association.

Enamul served as IGP from October 16, 1991 to July 8, 1992. During his distinguished career, he also served as the DMP commissioner, the principal of the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sarda, Rajshahi and a member of the Law Commission of Bangladesh. Enamul was the only elected member of Interpol from Bangladesh from 1988 to 1992. He also worked with various United Nations agencies. He was also an accomplished writer who authored approximately 14 books and regularly wrote columns for national and international publications.

Meanwhile, IGP Ali Hossain and the Bangladesh Police Service Association expressed deep shock at the death of the former IGP.

Padma Barrage key to tackling Bangladesh’s seasonal water extremes: Titumir

Staff correspondent

The government is overhauling Bangladesh’s river and water management system to address the country’s chronic problem of seasonal water extremes, with too much water during one part of the year and scarcity during another, Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said on Sunday.“Bangladesh’s core problem in water management is that during one part of the season there is too much water, while at another time water becomes scarce. The government is working to overcome this situation and find a solution,” he said while speaking at a seminar titled “Transboundary Water Sharing Issues and the Padma Barrage”, organised by North South University.Titumir said the government is working on how and when water can be conserved, with the Padma Barrage project set to play a major role in that effort.“Water management of the Padma basin is not merely an engineering issue, it is directly tied to the lives, livelihoods and development of tens of millions of people. Alongside ensuring the natural flow of water, we must also conserve water for the dry season,” he said.



Trump’s Venezuela oil deal faces questions over investment, US stake

International Desk

US President Donald Trump has announced what he called the “biggest oil deal in world history” involving Venezuela’s vast crude reserves, but many details of the agreement, including investment plans and the identity of a private operator, remain unclear.

The White House has released little information beyond Trump’s social media announcement Friday night. No full text of the agreement has been made public.

Venezuela’s acting President Delcy Rodríguez described the deal as an important step toward reviving and modernising the country’s oil industry. She said it would help generate jobs, improve wages and expand access to essential public services.

According to Rodríguez, the agreement covers the development of 17 oil fields with a proven potential of about 65 billion barrels. It could attract roughly \$100 billion in investment and generate more than \$209 billion in tax revenue for Venezuela.

Under the arrangement, the US government and an unnamed private operator have established a new company with rights to develop previously untapped oil fields for 100 years.

A US official, speaking anonymously because the details have not been publicly released, said the United States would receive an effective 55% share of the company’s output through an ownership stake and rights to purchase oil at cost.

Some of the oil bought by the United States would be directed to the country’s strategic petroleum reserves and the military, the official said. The new company could become the second-largest corporate holder of proven oil reserves after Saudi Aramco.

Trump has said the deal will eventually help lower gasoline prices in the United States. However, energy experts cautioned that Venezuela’s ageing and damaged oil infrastructure would require years and billions of dollars in investment before production could rise significantly.

Amy Myers Jaffe, an energy expert at New York University, said the agreement could be beneficial in the long term but would not have an immediate impact on



Iceland votes against reopening EU membership talks

International Desk

Icelanders have voted against reopening negotiations to join the European Union, effectively putting the long-running debate over EU membership to rest for a second time, the country’s national broadcaster RÚV reported Sunday.

With results from all but one constituency counted, 52.5% of voters opposed resuming accession talks, while 47.5% supported the proposal. RÚV said the remaining ballots from the southwest, where the “no” campaign was leading, were unlikely to change the outcome.

The referendum was held Saturday, asking about 265,000 eligible voters whether Iceland should resume negotiations with the EU more than a decade after previous talks were abandoned.

A euroskept government halted Iceland’s earlier accession process in 2015. The latest referendum took place amid heightened concerns about security in the North Atlantic following US President Donald Trump’s repeated statements about taking control of nearby Greenland. Although Iceland is a NATO member, supporters of closer EU ties argued that stronger European cooperation could provide additional security if similar threats were ever directed at Iceland.

Iceland’s left-leaning coalition government, elected in 2024, brought forward the referendum originally planned for next year. The move came after Trump repeatedly referred to Iceland instead of Greenland while discussing his interest in the Arctic territory.

Opponents of reopening EU talks focused heavily on the country’s fishing industry and argued that Iceland already enjoys many economic and travel benefits through its relationship with the EU without surrendering the level of sovereignty associated with full membership. They also said joining the EU could weaken Iceland’s influence in the European Parliament and limit its ability to negotiate independent trade agreements, including with countries such as China.

Supporters of EU membership, meanwhile, argued that closer integration could help reduce inflation and interest rates and provide greater economic stability by replacing Iceland’s volatile krona with the euro.

US gasoline prices.

The average US gasoline price was around \$4.08 per gallon Saturday, compared with \$3.20 a year earlier, according to AAA.

Kevin Book of ClearView Energy Partners said Venezuela has substantial scope to increase production, noting that its output had previously been more than 2.5 million barrels per day higher than current levels. But he said deploying the necessary capital and increasing production would take years.

The agreement has also sparked criticism inside Venezuela. Some citizens view it as a reversal of the longstanding position that the country’s natural resources should remain under Venezuelan control.

At a market in eastern Caracas, resident Douglas Borjas criticised the deal, saying Venezuela’s resources should benefit its people rather than political elites.

Harvard professor and former Venezuelan planning minister Ricardo Hausmann also denounced the agreement, questioning the legitimacy of Rodríguez’s government to make such a long-term commitment.

The deal has drawn mixed reactions in Washington. Trump allies praised it as a major economic and strategic achievement, while Democratic lawmakers accused the administration of pursuing Venezuelan oil at the expense of US national interests.

Sen. Tim Kaine called the agreement “corruption at epic scale,” while Sen. Chris Van Hollen accused Trump of putting US service members at risk to secure Venezuelan oil.

Several key questions remain unanswered, including who will finance the massive infrastructure investment, which private company will operate the new venture and exactly how the US 55% effective share will be divided between ownership and oil purchases.

Chevron, the only US oil company currently producing in Venezuela, declined to comment. Exxon Mobil also declined to comment.

Analysts also warned that political uncertainty, security concerns and Venezuela’s deteriorated oil infrastructure could make it difficult to attract major US energy companies, even if legal protections are provided.

Tehran calls on Islamic nations to establish unity, reject foreign dominance

International Desk

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has called on the global Muslim community to unite and confront its “real enemy,” accusing the United States and Israel of trying to create divisions among Islamic nations.

In a written statement, Khamenei warned that these adversaries strive to turn various racial, cultural, social, economic, political and geographical differences into pretexts for creating discord among Muslim people in Iran and other Islamic countries.

“From this perspective, they observe the fragmentation of the Islamic Ummah and the weakening of its forces, waiting for the opportune moment to impose their dominance over them,” Khamenei said, urging against any action that could divide Muslims.

He questioned whether the Palestinian nation would be left defenseless and subjected to the oppression and crimes of occupiers if Muslims stood united, clenching their fists with strength. Khamenei also asked whether nations and governments around the Persian Gulf would have the courage to let corrupt, identity-less scoundrels from thousands of kilometers away covet their lands and assets if they established unity under the banner of Islam. He urged Muslim heads of state to recognize their real enemy, understand its plans and confront it.

“The criminal rulers of America and the fake Zionist regime are sworn enemies of this unity and friendship,” Khamenei stated, adding that they are not only enemies of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian nation and the vast front of Islamic resistance, but also harbor animosity toward the entire Muslim Ummah, including the nations of West Asia and North Africa.

Death toll hits 38 after deadly Russian warehouse strike in Ukraine

International Desk

The death toll from a Russian strike on a warehouse west of Kyiv, the deadliest attack of the year so far, has climbed to 38, while four people remain missing, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday.

The blast sparked massive explosions and fires damaging dozens of nearby buildings, where emergency workers are neutralizing explosives.

37 killed as Russian air raids hit Kyiv region for third day

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defense Ministry announced plans for “massive strikes” on Ukraine’s energy grid in response to Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia’s oil sector and retailer Wildberries (“Russia’s Amazon”), which Kyiv says sells dual-use goods and funds the invasion.

The drone campaign has caused an unprecedented fuel crisis in Russia-one of the world’s biggest energy producers-while Ukraine prepares for its most challenging winter since the February 2022 invasion.

Guinea-Bissau votes on expanded presidential powers ahead of December election

International Desk

Voters in Guinea-Bissau went to the polls Sunday in a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would expand presidential powers and reduce parliamentary representation ahead of the country’s December general election.

The referendum is being held as the West African nation seeks to return to democratic rule following a military takeover last November after a disputed presidential election in which former President Umaro Sissoco Embaló and opposition candidate Fernando Dias both claimed victory.

The proposed constitution, drafted by the military-backed National Transitional Council, would strengthen the president’s authority over the prime minister and reduce the number of parliamentary seats from 102 to 65.

The authorities argue that a smaller parliament would facilitate more effective debate, while clearer presidential powers would help resolve longstanding tensions between the president and prime minister, which they blame for political instability.

Gen. Tomás Djassi, head of the armed forces, said the constitutional changes were intended to prevent recurring conflicts between the two top executive offices and clarify the president’s role as the country’s national symbol.

Opposition parties, however, have urged voters to boycott the referendum, arguing that the proposed constitution would concentrate power in the hands of the military leadership and weaken parliament, the prime minister and political parties.

Muniro Conté, spokesperson for the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, said the proposed charter could deepen political and social divisions and undermine the will of voters.



The military takeover last year further deepened concerns over democratic governance in West Africa, where several countries have come under military rule in recent years.

Guinea-Bissau, which gained independence from Portugal in 1973, has experienced repeated coups and attempted coups. A failed coup attempt was reported just one month before last year’s military takeover.

The country, home to about 2.2 million people, has significant natural resources but more than half of its population lives in poverty. It is also considered a major trans-

sit point for drug trafficking between Latin America and Europe, which analysts say contributes to its political instability.

Nearly 915,000 voters are registered for Sunday’s referendum. However, many citizens say they are unfamiliar with the proposed constitution.

Some residents have decided to boycott the vote, while others plan to vote against the proposal.

Political analysts have also questioned whether the military government has the legitimacy to amend the constitution, amid growing public discontent.

Guinean political analyst Paulino Quadé questioned who drafted the proposed constitution, whose interests it serves and who would ultimately benefit from the changes.

China-Kyrgyzstan ties enter ‘golden period’: Xi

International Desk

The China-Kyrgyzstan cooperation has ushered in a “golden period” of rapid development, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Sunday as he landed here for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026 and a state visit to Kyrgyzstan.

Upon the arrival, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and his wife welcomed Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, at the Manas International Airport.

In a written speech, Xi extended sincere greetings and best wishes to Japarov and the people of Kyrgyzstan on behalf of the Chinese government and people.

Noting that China and Kyrgyzstan share a time-honored traditional friendship, Xi said that the majestic Tianshan Mountains stands as witnesses to the millennia of friendly exchanges between their peoples.

Over the 34 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the China-Kyrgyzstan relationship has withstood the test of a changing international landscape, maintained sound and stable development throughout, and reached the high level of a comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era. In recent years, bilateral trade volume and people-to-people exchanges have reached new highs, Xi said, noting that major projects including the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway have been successfully implemented, and the tangible results of mutually beneficial cooperation have broadly benefited the two peoples. Xi said that during the visit he will have in-depth exchanges of views with Japarov on China-Kyrgyzstan relations, cooperation in various fields between the two countries, and international and regional issues of common concern, and draw a new blueprint for building a China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future. “I look forward to attending the SCO Bishkek Summit, working with all parties to revisit the 25-year development experience of the SCO, jointly discuss cooperation plans, create the future of the organization, and promote the continuous new development of the organization,” Xi said.



Nepal warns of more floods as death toll hits 750

International Desk

Authorities in Nepal urged residents to remain on high alert Sunday as the rising Bhotekoshi River threatened flood-devastated communities where 750 people are dead and 3,000 remain missing.

The warnings followed alerts from Chinese officials of increased upstream water flow, according to Dharam Raj Uprety, chief executive of Nepal’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

The combined death toll in Nepal and Tibet has reached 750, with more than 3,000 people missing. Nepal’s disaster agency reported 734 deaths and 2,498 missing, while Chinese authorities confirmed 16 deaths and 546 missing.

In hard-hit areas like Galchhi, roaring waters have enveloped entire homes, vehicles and agricultural fields in sediment. Landslides and destroyed bridges have left numerous communities isolated and without power, while rescue crews struggle to clear the Prithivi Highway, Kathmandu’s vital supply route.

Exhausted residents expressed growing panic over near-constant alarms forcing them to flee to higher ground.

Storms kill 2, damage over 1,600 homes in Brazil

International Desk

Severe storms and hail have killed at least two people and damaged more than 1,600 homes in Brazil’s southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, the state Civil Defense department reported Saturday.

The fatalities included an 8-year-old child who was crushed by a falling tree in Porto Alegre, located in the eastern part of the state, and a 72-year-old man whose vehicle was swept away by raging floodwaters in Arroio Grande in the south.

The severe weather system swept through 21 municipalities between Friday night and Saturday morning.

Tres Palmeiras in the north was identified as the hardest-hit municipality, with hail damaging approximately 1,000 homes. In Quaraí, situated near Brazil’s western border with Uruguay, local authorities declared a state of emergency after hail damaged 349 houses.

In the northeastern Serra Gaucha region,



hail damaged 197 homes in Canela, while Civil Defense issued a red alert to residents and tourists in both Canela and Gramado.

Rio Grande do Sul remains on high alert for further extreme weather events linked to El Niño. The region is still recovering from one of Brazil’s worst climate disasters in 2024, when catastrophic floods affected nearly 90 percent of the state’s territory and claimed more than 180 lives.

wed debate over its economic and security relationship with Europe.

Haitian gang releases 13 women, children after mass kidnapping

International Desk

A gang in Haiti has released 13 women and children who were among more than 50 people kidnapped following a deadly attack on a community near the capital, according to UNICEF.

The United Nations children’s agency said late Friday that six children and seven women were freed.

The children include three under the age of two, a 7-year-old and two teenage girls. UNICEF Deputy Representative in Haiti Yannig Dussart described the release as a rare moment of hope amid the violence affecting children across the country.

He said the kidnapping in Kenscoff was not an isolated incident but highlighted the scale and frequency of attacks on children in Haiti.



Tom Cruise to reprise ‘Days of Thunder’ role in 2028 sequel



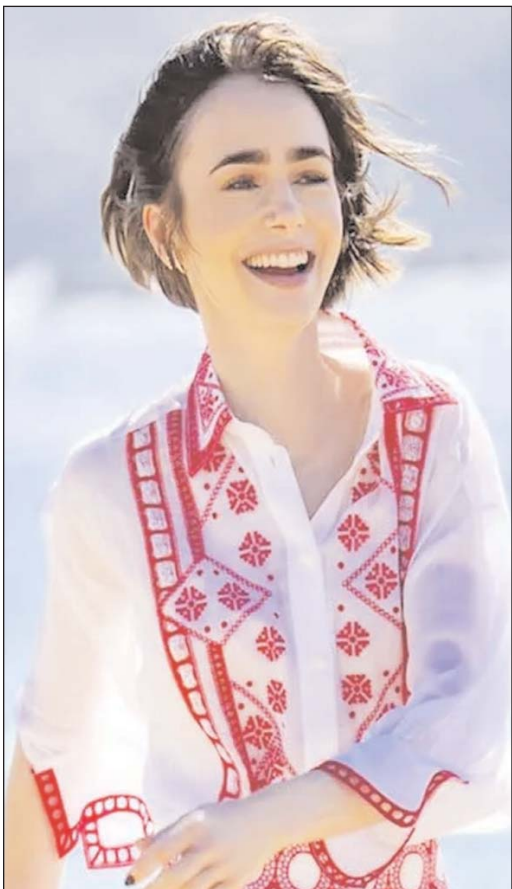
Entertainment Desk

Tom Cruise will return as NASCAR driver Cole Trickle in a sequel to the 1990 racing film “Days of Thunder,” with the follow-up scheduled to hit theaters in June 2028. The 64-year-old actor announced the project Saturday at Daytona International Speedway, hours before the NASCAR Cup Series regular-season finale. He also attended the pre-race drivers’ meeting and spoke about the importance of NASCAR’s racing culture and community. Cruise said the new film will seek to give audiences a deeper understanding of NASCAR as a team sport and community while showcasing the speed, excitement and danger of racing. Anne Hathaway will co-star in the film, portraying a team owner and engineer. Paramount Pictures has set June 2, 2028, for its theatrical release. Cruise will produce the movie alongside Jerry Bruckheimer and Tommy Harper. Jonathan Levine will direct from a screenplay by Will Staples. Bruckheimer, Harper and Staples also joined Cruise at the drivers’ meeting.

Cruise made a high-energy appearance at the speedway, jumping onto the stage before posing for photographs, greeting fans and military personnel and preparing to watch the race from pit road. The sequel follows years of speculation about a follow-up to “Days of Thunder.” The Hollywood Reporter reported in November 2024 that Cruise had discussed the project with Paramount. The original film, directed by Tony Scott and produced by Bruckheimer, was a commercial success despite receiving poor reviews and drawing criticism within NASCAR circles for its exaggerated portrayal of stock-car racing. Over the years, however, it developed a cult following

among NASCAR fans.

Cruise’s character, Cole Trickle, was loosely inspired by late NASCAR driver Tim Richmond. The film helped introduce NASCAR to a broader mainstream audience at a time when stock-car racing had limited exposure outside its traditional fan base. Four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jeff Gordon has previously encouraged Cruise to make a sequel. Gordon and Cruise have remained friends, raising the possibility that Hendrick Motorsports could potentially be involved in the new project. Cruise, known for performing many of his own stunts, also recalled filming a dangerous sequence at Daytona for the original movie. He said a car he was driving at high speed suddenly caught fire while he was filming on the backstretch. “Suddenly, the whole car was in flames,” Cruise recalled, describing the incident as turning “from a barbecue to a bonfire.” The upcoming sequel will mark Cruise’s return to the NASCAR world more than three decades after “Days of Thunder” first brought the sport to Hollywood’s mainstream audience.



Emily in Paris moves to Greece for final season

Entertainment Desk

Since “Emily in Paris” debuted in 2020, it has been a powerhouse for Netflix. But, the show is sent to end with a bang. The announcement came via Instagram earlier this year, where the cast and crew shared behind-the-scenes photos of production in Greece. Collins also shared a message to viewers on social media, promising “season six will bring you everything you love about the show and serve as the final chapter in Emily’s adventure of a lifetime. The new season will pick up after the events of Season 5, which saw Emily return to Paris after setting up a Rome office for her marketing firm. Her Italian chapter also brought a brief romance that ultimately fizzled out, while her complicated relationship with chef Gabriel, played by Lucas Bravo, remained unresolved. The first-look images suggest that Gabriel could once again be at the centre of Emily’s story. The final season will reportedly revolve around some major personal and professional decisions for Emily. Netflix’s synopsis teases a clash between her ambitions, relationships and the life she has created in Paris, with the character eventually forced to decide where her future truly belongs. While the series is still filming its remaining episodes in France, the complete final season is scheduled to arrive on Netflix on December 24. Collins will return not only as the lead but also as a producer, alongside Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu as Sylvie, Ashley Park as Mindy and Samuel Arnold as Julien. Bravo, Lucien Laviscount, Bruno Gouery, William Abadie, Minnie Driver and Paul Forman are also part of the returning cast.

Sadia Ayman, Shafin Ahmed star in short film ‘Aro Kichukhon’



Entertainment Desk

Sadia Ayman and Shafin Ahmed have come on board for significant roles in upcoming short film ‘Aro Kichukhon’. The short film sets in a busy city, the film follows two strangers whose paths cross, leading to a few unexpected moments of connection. Sadia Ayman plays the female lead, while Shafin Ahmed plays the male lead. Having worked in advertising for years as a filmmaker, Shafin Ahmed found acting to be a different experience. Directed by Rubayet Mahmud, the approximately 29-minute film will be released on G Series. Director Rubayet said that Sadia’s role required subtle emotional expression. He praised the actor for portraying those emotions naturally.

The filmmaker said the story focuses on how relationships can create meaningful moments even in a busy urban environment. Rubayet Mahmud also emphasized the importance of the screenplay, describing the project as an experiment with a structured screenplay. He said a weak screenplay can prevent even large-budget productions from connecting with audiences. Rubayet previously directed the drama “Tobuo Bhalobashi” for “Closeup Kache Ashar Golpo” in 2018 and the series “Kabaddi” in 2023. He has also continued working in advertising. Ripon Chowdhury handled cinematography, while Mazhar Rony edited the film and Chinmoy Roy worked on color grading. Jahid Nirob composed the background score and songs. “Aro Kichukhon” will be available on G Series.

The director also said that Shafin’s personality and screen presence suited the character. The director decided to make the film after years of working primarily in advertising, where he felt there was limited scope to tell stories in his own way. “I regularly work in advertising, but there is very little opportunity to tell stories in my own way. At one point, I felt that it was time to make a story of my own. That thought led to ‘Aro Kichukhon,’” he said.

Bapparaj returns after year-long hiatus

Entertainment Desk

Renowned actor Bapparaj, sons of legendary film actor Razzak has signed a new film titled ‘Gulshan-er Chameli’ after a long break from the big screen. Gulshan-er Chameli explores politics, the abuse of power and the darker realities concealed beneath the veneer of elite society. “Gulshan-er Chameli” is directed by M D Iqbal and produced by Jahangir Sikder. Speaking about Bapparaj’s involvement, director Mohammad Iqbal remarked that he did not want to reveal details about the character of Bapparaj 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,” he said. The director added that the cast is being selected based on the demands of the story and its charac-



ters. “We are choosing actors who are suitable for their respective characters. The role Bapparaj will play is important to the development of the story. We believe that his experience and acting skills will enrich the character even further,” he said. Pre-production work for “Gulshan-er Chameli” is currently underway. According to the director, discussions with the artistes, location scouting and other preparations are in progress. If everything goes according to plan, shooting is expected to begin next December.

The film’s mahurat ceremony was held at a hotel in the capital on the 2nd of this month, officially marking the beginning of its journey. Several well-known artistes from Bangladesh and Kolkata are expected to appear in the film. Tollywood actress Madhumita Sarcar will be seen in Gulshan-er Chameli, alongside Bapparaj. The cast also includes Azmeri Haque Badhan, Omar Sani, Misha Sawdagar, Rozina, Ashish Khandaker and several others.



Karisma Kapoor recalls Kareena’s burqa shot in Refugee

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood star Karisma Kapoor recently opened up about her younger sister Kareena Kapoor’s debut film ‘Refugee’. Recalling Kareena’s first close-up from the film, Karisma said she could immediately sense that Kareena was destined to become a superstar. Karisma shared that director J.P. Dutta, who launched Kareena with Refugee, had earlier worked as an assistant to their father, actor Randhir Kapoor. Recalling a visit to the sets during the shoot, she said, “Then when she did Refugee, there’s a very interesting story. J.P. Dutta Sir was my father’s assistant long ago, and later he launched Kareena. It felt like history coming full circle. I remember we went there while the shoot was underway. Kareena’s first close-up was when she lifted her burqa, and you could just see that she was going to be a superstar. I think the way her eyes express emotions is on another level. Karisma also spoke about how different the sisters were in terms of their personalities while growing up. Describing herself as the simpler one, she said Kareena was more spirited and bold.



“I am quite a simple, low-key kind of person, whereas Kareena is a much more spirited and bold girl. Generally, that’s how it is: the older child tends to be a little simpler, while the younger one is more hot-blooded. I would often have to save my sister from my mother, saying, ‘No, no, let it go, let it go.’” For the uninitiated, Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor are both considered as one of the finest actresses of Bollywood. Both the actresses are the granddaughters of legendary actor Raj Kapoor and daughters of actors Randhir Kapoor and Babita. While Karisma made her Bollywood debut in early 90s, Kareena ventured into acting in 2000.

Apu Biswas recounts terror of the Nepal’s flash flood

Entertainment Desk

Dhaliwood actress Apu Biswas and the crew of her upcoming movie Shikar have returned safely to Dhaka on Friday (August 28) after severe flash floods and landslides disrupted their shooting schedule in Nepal. Apu Biswas shared her terrifying experience with the media. The actress revealed that a catastrophic natural disaster struck a hilly area two to three hours away from Kathmandu on August 26. “We narrowly avoided a major accident. The accident happened pretty near the path we were meant to follow to reach Kathmandu. We were supposed to travel on the 27th, not the 26th, by the grace of Allah. But the catastrophe was so bad that traffic will not be allowed on the road for the next 15 to 20 days,” said Apu. Apu Biswas noted that the disaster occurred very close to the route they were scheduled to take back to Kathmandu. Describing it as inhumane to continue filming under such dire circumstances, Apu stated that she consulted with the entire unit to suspend the shooting of songs.





Messi scores four, provides assist as Inter Miami thrash Montreal 7-1



Sports Desk

Lionel Messi scored four goals and set up another as Inter Miami produced a dominant second-half display to beat CF Montreal 7-1 in Major League Soccer on Saturday night. Messi's four-goal performance was his first in MLS, with three of his goals coming after halftime. Inter Miami scored six unanswered goals after Montreal had levelled the match. Carlos Casimiro opened the scoring for

Miami in the 20th minute, heading in from a corner by Telasco Segovia. It was the 34-year-old midfielder's first league goal in his sixth appearance, while Segovia registered his ninth assist of the season. Montreal equalised in the 37th minute through Fabian Herbers, his first goal of the campaign. Messi restored Miami's lead in the 40th minute with a free kick, his 15th goal of the season. The Argentine superstar struck again in the 52nd minute to make

it 3-1 before Luis Suárez extended the advantage to 4-1 in the 80th minute, converting Messi's assist. The assist was Messi's 10th of the season. Messi completed his four-goal haul with goals in the 83rd minute and the sixth minute of stoppage time, with the final goal also coming from a free kick. Rookie Alexander Shaw added another for Miami in the 89th minute, scoring his first goal in just his third appearance. The victory was Inter Miami's fifth straight over Montreal and lifted their season record to 12-4-6. Goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair made three saves. Montreal, who fell to 5-11-6, had goalkeeper Thomas Gillier make five saves. The win was Miami's first since beating Montreal 1-0 away from home at the end of July, when Suárez scored the decisive goal from the penalty spot in the 81st minute. Messi, the reigning MLS Golden Boot winner and league MVP, entered the match two goals behind FC Dallas forward Petar Musa in the league scoring race.

Five-wicket Abbas has Lord's landmark as Pakistan set 389 to win second Test



Sports Desk

Mohammad Abbas finally achieved a coveted place on the Lord's honours boards with a five-wicket haul on Sunday, but Pakistan were still set a daunting 389 to win the second Test against England. The veteran seamer took 5-57 in 22 overs as England were dismissed for 208 in their second innings on the fourth morning as they looked to go an unassailable 2-0 up in this three-match series. Pakistan will have to set a record if they are to achieve an improbable win. The highest fourth-innings total to win a Test at Lord's is the West Indies's 344-1 in 1984 that featured an unbeaten double century from Gordon Greenidge. The omens are not promising. Pakistan were dismissed for 171 and 135 in an innings and 103-run thrashing by England during last week's first Test at Headingley. They then slumped to 110 all out in their first innings at Lord's, although injured opener Imam-ul-Haq was unable to bat.

Cricketers who take at least five wickets in an innings or 10 in a match or score a century in a Test at Lord's have their achievements recorded on one of the honours boards in the home and away dressing rooms at the 'Home of Cricket'. Abbas, 36, had come close before with a trio of four-wicket hauls, including a return of 4-73 during England's first-innings 290 in this match. But having ended a third day cut short by rain and bad light with 3-48, he wasted little time in reaching the landmark after England resumed on 177-7 under sunny skies. Dan Lawrence was exactly 50 not out to follow his comeback 51 in Leeds. He had added just four runs to his overnight score when he was bowled by a superb seaming delivery from Abbas. England's 186-8 became 187-9 when a typically skilful 79 mph (127 kmh) ball darted back into Robinson, with wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan -- stood up to the stumps -- holding a sharp catch off the outside edge, before an elated Abbas was mobbed by his team-mates. England No 11 Josh Tongue, following his Test-best 30 not out in the first innings, struck two successive boundaries off Mohammad Ali. But the innings ended in unexpected fashion when Pakistan captain Babar Azam, belying the tourists' reputation as a poor fielding side, ran out the sluggish Tongue by a distance with a direct hit from the covers.

Emotional Federer inducted into tennis Hall of Fame



Sports Desk

A tearful Roger Federer was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday, describing his formal entrance into the sport's pantheon as one of the "greatest honors of my life." The 45-year-old 20-time Grand Slam singles champion was frequently overcome with emotion as he addressed a crowd bristling with tennis royalty at a ceremony in Newport, Rhode Island. The Swiss legend, who retired from tennis in 2022, paid tribute to the opponents, officials, fans, family and friends who had shared his career during a lengthy address that unfolded as a love letter to the sport. "This is one of the greatest honors of my life," Federer said. "They call this the Hall of Fame, but fame was never the goal. "My goal was to spend my life doing something I love... with people who I love it as much as I do." In a light-hearted preamble, the eight-time Wimbledon champion totted up his career in some of his lesser-known statistical milestones. "Not the obvious stats like the number of majors or number of weeks at number one,"

Federer said. "I'm talking about the numbers that really paint a picture. Between 1998 and when I first went on the ATP tour, and when I retired in 2022, I wore more than 5,000 headbands. That's more than (Bjorn) Borg and (John) McEnroe combined. "And if you think that's impressive, I wore probably over 7000 pairs of socks. That's probably twice as many as most of my opponents, because I doubled them up. "But really, there's no way to measure what it means to be here. It's hard to put it into words," Federer said, reflecting on his journey from being a 13-year-old ballboy at an ATP tournament in Basel to the pinnacle of tennis. "I really want to thank every ball kid who ever stood through my matches or all our matches, for that matter, for hours on end," Federer said. "I see you. I thank you. I was you." Federer had to wipe away tears as he name-checked his idol Stefan Edberg, other tennis stars, family and support staff who had inspired him throughout his career. "I need tissues and sunglasses and everything to protect me right now," he joked. "This is such a mess." "It's been an incredible journey," Federer said. "For me, the International Tennis Hall of Fame provides a great opportunity to look back, but also to look ahead," he added. "As you can tell, I'm still writing my love letter to tennis. My time as a player is done, but tennis will always stand at the intersection of everything I care most about: my family, our friendships, the past 40 years, the future we're building. Tennis for me is responsible for it all



Messi's fantastic four as rampant Miami snap winless streak

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi scored four goals as Inter Miami snapped their five-game winless streak with a 7-1 thrashing of struggling Montreal in Major League Soccer on Saturday. Miami have endured a rocky spell since the resumption of play following the World Cup finals, losing four of their previous five games heading into Saturday's clash in Florida. But the reigning MLS Cup champions got back to winning ways with a confident performance against Montreal, who are languishing second from bottom in the Eastern Conference. Brazil international Casemiro, who joined Miami after the World Cup, bagged his first goal for the champions with a 20th minute header at the Nu Stadium. Montreal though hit back with a 37th-minute goal from Fabian Herbers, the German midfielder's low shot from the edge of the area squeezing into the bottom corner. But Miami did not have to wait long to regain the lead, and went 2-1 up when a low curling free-kick from Messi somehow bamboozled Montreal goalkeeper Thomas Gillier in the 40th minute.

Rubel impresses amid HP's disappointing Top End T20 mission

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh High Performance (HP) team were knocked out of the Top End T20 after suffering a narrow one-wicket defeat to Victoria Cricket Association in the semifinal in Darwin yesterday after coming here to clinch the trophy. Until the semifinal, they played impressive cricket to make them hot favourite to win the trophy for the second time. Led by Irfan Shukkur, Bangladesh HP played seven matches in the tournament, recording five wins in the league phase before their campaign ended in the last four. The Bangladesh side defeated Australia's Northern Territory and Victoria, New Zealand 'A', Pakistan's Hyderabad Kingsmen and Nepal during the league stage. Their only defeat before the semifinal came against Adelaide Strikers Academy, which eventually became the champions. Mystery spinner Mohammad Rubel was the standout performer.

Atletico down Sevilla to go top of La Liga

Sports Desk

Atletico Madrid put the noise of the Julian Alvarez transfer saga behind them with a convincing 3-1 victory at Sevilla on Saturday to move top of the early La Liga table. Diego Simeone's men have taken seven points from their first three matches of the league season. The club has repeatedly ruled out a move to Barcelona for wantaway striker Alvarez, who has also been heavily linked with Arsenal. The Argentina international was left out of the matchday squad in Seville, having been booed by his own fans last weekend in a 2-2 home draw with Villarreal. "Julian is going through his own personal process, and we'll be here to help him -- and for him to help us on the pitch -- because he is an extraordinary player," Simeone told Movistar of Alvarez. The two forwards who started in his absence combined to great effect to give Atletico a fourth-minute lead. Lee Kang-in, a summer signing from European champions Paris Saint-Germain, played an excellent pass in behind for Alex Baena to rifle a low shot into the net. The Rojiblancos doubled their advantage in the 26th minute, as Ademola Lookman planted a clever shot inside Sevilla goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos's near post. Atletico were three goals in front just seven minutes later as Spanish World Cup winner Baena scored his second. Baena drove a shot into the bottom corner from outside the box after being teed up by Marcos Llorente. Sevilla improved in the second half and pulled one back through Miguel Sierra's volley, but never looked like mounting a comeback. "Being a world champion boosts your confidence, especially after the strong World Cup I had. Now the goal is to keep this momentum going," Baena said. - Betis lose 100% record - Earlier, Real Betis lost their perfect start as Roger Brugue helped Levante to a 5-2 victory. Betis, whose fifth-place finish last term secured them a long-awaited return to the



Champions League, would have gone top with a third win from as many outings to start their domestic campaign. But it was not to be for Manuel Pellegrini's charges as goals from Adrian de la Fuente, Enzo Bardeli, Brugue and Jon Ander Olasagasti secured the hosts their first win of the season. De la Fuente broke the deadlock at the Ciutat de Valencia with a glancing header from a corner in the 24th minute. Shortly after the half-hour, former Barcelona centre-half Marc Bartra levelled for Betis with a forceful effort from the edge of the box. The match really sparked into life under the late summer Valencian sun as the clock ticked past 45 minutes. Bardeli displayed fantastic technique and imagination two minutes into added time as he pounced on a loose defensive pass and launched a chip from well over 40 yards that left Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles helpless. But the visitors managed to go into the break on level terms as Rodrigo Riquelme tucked in a flick-on from a corner. But a double from Brugue -- the first another set-piece goal, before he bundled home from close range after Ivan Romero had struck the post -- and a late Olasagasti header sealed the win. Real Sociedad got their first points of the season with a 2-1 home win over Espanyol.

Chelsea signs Emiliano Martínez on 3-year deal

Sports Desk

Chelsea made official the signing of Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez on Sunday. The English club said the 33-year-old goalkeeper, who won the World Cup in 2022, has signed a three-year deal, joining from Aston Villa. "Coming to Chelsea, for me and my family, was an easy decision to make and I'm just over the moon. I can't wait to get started," Martínez said. "I want to be successful here. I'm someone who wants to win at everything I do and I want to bring that here to this football club because it's a football club that wins titles, so I think it's a good match." Martínez is set to take over the starting goalkeeping spot in Xabi Alonso's squad, which saw Robert Sánchez struggle again in the team's Premier League opener against Fulham. Villa earlier this month signed U.S.-born



Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki from Parma, opening the doors for Martínez's departure. Martínez has been Argentina's regular starter since 2021, earning 67 caps. He also helped his country win the Copa America in 2021 and 2024, and reach this year's World Cup final. Martínez won the Yashin Trophy, awarded to the world's best-performing goalkeeper, at the 2023 and 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremonies. He made 256 appearances for Villa across six seasons and won the Europa League in May. "I'm all passion and I play with my heart. I will give 100 per cent every game, every training session to make the club, my team-mates and the supporters proud," he said. Martínez started his career in the youth squads of Argentine club Independiente and joined Arsenal in 2010, at age 17. After several loan stints, he became a regular for Arsenal in the 2019-20 season, starting the last 11 matches and winning the FA Cup.

Gobena and Jepchirchir power to Sydney Marathon victories

Sports Desk

Ethiopia's Addisu Gobena and Kenyan world champion Peres surged to commanding wins Sunday in the men's and women's races respectively at the Sydney Marathon. Victory was the first in a World Marathon Major for 21-year-old Gobena, who came second last year, while Jepchirchir added to her previous triumphs in Boston, New York and London. Gobena made his move in the last kilometre to power home four seconds clear of compatriot Chimesha Debele Gudeta in 2hrs 04min 42sec. Lesotho's Tebello Ramakongoana came third. The dominant run shattered the course record by almost one-and-a-half minutes, with last year's winner Hailemariam Kiros dropping from the pace in the dying stages. "I am very happy," said Gobena, who was a javelin thrower before transitioning to long-distance running, gaining international attention by winning the 2024 Dubai Marathon. "Last year I came second, I learnt from my mistake, and I went back home and I worked on my mistake to perform and break the record yesterday." The unstoppable Jepchirchir was in a league of her own, crossing the finish line in front of the Sydney Opera House in 2:18:31, nearly four minutes ahead of fellow Kenyan Irine Cheptai and Ethiopia's Shure Demise Ware. "I was prepared, but I was not sure when I came here if I would win, so I'm so glad and I'm so happy," said Jepchirchir. "It was so hilly. First half (of the race) was so tough, but the



second was better at least. But it was not easy." In the men's race, the leading pack had thinned to 15 by the halfway mark, with Gobena, world champion Alphonse Simbu and Kiros among them. Dawit Wolde, Vincent Ngetich and Gobena all attempted breakaways, but they were reeled in by a pack reduced to seven with six kilometres left. It was still the same group at the 40 kilometre mark before Gobena and Gudeta made their move, pulling clear with Gobena outkicking his countryman in the final sprint. Kenya's Priscah Cheronon went out hard among the women, opening a 20-second gap by 15 kilometres and 30 seconds by halfway. But the lead chasers, down to just Jepchirchir and Cheptai, caught the 46-year-old Kenyan just before 30 kilometres. Jepchirchir and Cheptai eased clear and the relentless world champion then put her foot to the floor, finishing nine seconds off the course record set by Olympic champion Sifan Hassan in 2025. American Daniel Romanchuk won the men's wheelchair race, while Switzerland's Manuela Schar, a three-time Paralympic gold medal winner, took out the women's. Around 40,000 runners, a record, competed over the picturesque 42.19 kilometre course through the city from North Sydney, over the Harbour Bridge to the finish line on the forecourt of the Opera House. The race was elevated last year to the seventh World Marathon Major, putting it on a par with London, Tokyo, Boston, Berlin, Chicago and New York in the elite global series.



Risk of major accident at both ends of Sarail’s Kuttapara Bridge

Taslima Khandaker Nusrat, Sarail, Brahmanbaria

The Kuttapara Bridge area on the only regional road connecting Sarail Bishwaroad intersection — the gateway to Brahmanbaria — to Sarail Upazila headquarters and Nasirnagar Upazila has now turned into a horrifying death trap. This is the only road used by thousands of vehicles every day. Huge and dangerous potholes have formed at the entrance and exit of Kuttapara Bridge. The asphalt, bricks and chips have broken away, and this death trap is getting deeper and riskier day by day. Despite this extremely busy and public-important road being in such a dilapidated condition and despite the clear risk of a major, bloody accident, there is no visible initiative from the concerned authorities to repair it. This has led to growing anger among local conscious citizens.

A spot visit found that this is the main route from Bishwaroad intersection, adjacent to the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, to Sarail and Nasirnagar upazilas. Senior leaders of various political parties, Union Parishad chairmen, members, the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of Sarail and Nasirnagar, senior officials of the local and district administration, journalists, and dignitaries from different social strata regularly travel on this road every day. Yet these dangerous potholes at both ends of the bridge have remained a permanent death trap for a long time, right in front of almost the entire administration.

Every day, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, battery-run easybikes, and goods trucks risk their lives, swerving violently to get past this broken section. Minor and major accidents occur frequently here, and vehicles break down, causing long traffic jams. What is most alarming is that thousands of young school and college students and

ordinary pedestrians use this road every day, either walking or riding in light vehicles. The potholes are so severe that at any moment, due to carelessness, a large passenger vehicle could overturn and cause a major disaster with loss of life.



Local conscious citizens expressed strong anger, saying, “At such an important and sensitive locality, death-trap-like potholes have formed at the mouth of the bridge, which thousands of people see every day. Then why is it not being repaired? Who is responsible for this negligence? After seeing this dangerous condition of a road built with people’s tax money, does the administration not even have the minimum urgency to repair it quickly?” To address this alarming mismanagement and lack of sustainable repairs, conscious citizens of Sarail and Nasirnagar have demanded immediate effective action. The victims and local residents are urging urgent intervention from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Brahmanbaria and the Executive Engineer of LGED, Sarail Upazila, to make the road safe and motorable and to ensure the safety of people’s lives and property.

BGB seizes 1.90 lakh yaba tablets, arrests three in Naf River

Cox’s Bazar Correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 190,000 yaba tablets and arrested three alleged drug smugglers during a special operation in the Naf River in Teknaf upazila of the district.

The BGB also seized an engine-powered wooden boat allegedly used for transporting the drugs, according to a press release issued early yesterday. A joint team of Sabran and Shah Porir Dwip Border Outposts (BOPs) under Teknaf Battalion (2 BGB) conducted the operation based on intelligence that a large consignment of yaba would be brought into Bangladesh from Myanmar through the Naf River. The BGB team took up strategic positions in the Naf River near Sabran around 3pm yesterday. At about 4:30pm, the patrol team spotted an engine-powered wooden boat carrying several people crossing the river towards Bangladesh at high speed. As the movement of the boat appeared suspicious, the BGB team signalled it to stop. However, the people on board ignored the signal and attempted to flee, prompting the patrol team to give chase. At one stage, the smugglers threw a plastic sack from the boat into the river. The BGB team subsequently arrested three people and seized the boat. The arrested persons were identified as Jamal Hossain, 38, son of late Kabir Ahmed of Kulapara village; Md Emran, 25, son of Shah Alam of Noapara village; and Md Ismail, 24, son of Abul Hossain of the same village in Teknaf, the release said.

Dengue Panic Grips Feni Municipality

Educational Institutions at Risk, Outrage Over Clogged Drains and Stagnant Water

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Feni’s municipal area is facing a worsening dengue situation as ineffective drainage and widespread stagnant water—especially in areas like Rampur—have led to a surge in mosquito breeding. Local residents and nearby educational institutions are bearing the brunt of the crisis, with multiple teachers, students, and family members already hospitalized.

?A spot check revealed that a pond in front of Master Bari on Rampur Bhuiyan Bari Road has turned into a dumping ground filled with waste and weeds, creating an ideal breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes. Touhidul Islam Tuhin, an assistant teacher at the adjacent Rampur Government Primary School, and his sister have both contracted dengue. Residents confirmed that four individuals from nearby Maulana Mansion and Moksedur Rahman from Rafiq Mansion were also infected, with some receiving treatment at Chittagong and Dhaka Medical College Hospitals. Furthermore, Nur Mohammad Redwan, president of the Feni Sadar Upazila Government Primary School Teachers' Association, along with several other teachers, recently tested positive for dengue.

?Locals allege that despite millions spent on reinforced concrete drains, water logging remains a persistent issue. Rain or not, broken and waste-clogged drainage systems leave roads near Rampur Bhuiyan Bari Road and Rampur Girls' High School submerged. Additionally, damage to the drain near Keramat Ali Jame Mosque has left household wastewater



flowing directly into the pond for months without repair. ?Residents expressed dissatisfaction with municipal cleanup efforts, stating that larvicide spraying and visual preventive measures remain largely absent. Primary school teacher leaders warned that all 24 government primary schools in the municipal area are at severe risk, cautioning that the outbreak could escalate among young students if mosquito eradication is not intensified immediately.

?In response, Feni Municipal Administrator Md. Didarul Alam stated that a 36-day special cleanliness and mosquito eradication drive across 18 wards is currently underway, alongside public awareness announcements via loudspeakers. Municipal Executive Officer Md. Samsuddin emphasized that schools must keep their premises clean, assuring that the municipality will maintain special oversight.



334 bullets recovered during drain excavation in Bogura

Bogura Correspondent

Police recovered 334 bullets from underground soil while excavation work was underway for the construction of a drain near the boundary wall of Bogura Zilla School on Sunday. Bogura Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ibrahim Ali said the workers discovered the cartridges while digging for the drain around 11 am. “A total of 334 bullets have been recovered from the site and the origin and age of the recovered ammunition could not yet be confirmed,” he said. “Whether the bullets are from the Liberation War or were looted from a police station during the July uprising in 2024 will be known after examination,” he said. According to police and local sources, workers were carrying out excavation work in the morning as part of the Bogura City Corporation’s master drain construction project. At one stage, a worker spotted a metallic object buried in the soil on the southern side of the drain wall. He informed the other workers, who subsequently alerted the police. A team from Bogura Sadar Police Station later rushed to the spot and recovered the bullets from the soil. Bogura Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ibrahim Ali said the workers discovered the cartridges while digging for the drain.



Fakirhat, dengue increases, hospital provides kits

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

Due to the increase in the number of patients affected by dengue fever in Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat, dengue testing kits have been provided to the Upazila Health Complex on behalf of the Upazila Parishad.

On Sunday (30 August) at 11 am, the Upazila Executive Officer, Mo: Rokunuj Zaman, handed over 800 kits to the Residential Medical Officer of the Upazila Health Complex, Dr. Tanvir Mahmud Anik, at the office of the Upazila Executive Officer.

At this time, the Upazila Project Implementation Officer Imrul Kayes, Upazila Sanitary Inspector Debraj Mitra, Certificate Assistant Nitty Ranjan Saha, and others were present. Dr. Tanvir Mahmud Anik stated that the number of patients affected by dengue fever in Fakirhat Upazila has increased. In the last 24 hours, 7 patients have been admitted to the hospital. Currently, 10 patients are receiving treatment in the hospital. From 23 August to 30 August, 17 patients have received treatment from the hospital. Many others are receiving treatment at home. Many are admitted to various hospitals and clinics. It has been reported that two people have died from dengue in Fakirhat Upazila so far, who were receiving treatment in Khulna and Dhaka.

Upazila Executive Officer Mo: Rokunuj Zaman said that the number of dengue patients in the Upazila Health Complex is increasing. For this reason, 800 kits have been provided for dengue testing by the Upazila Parishad. He said that the main task in preventing dengue is to stop the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes and to protect ourselves from mosquito bites. Water that accumulates around the house or in pots must be regularly discarded. Only awareness can prevent dengue.



Distribution of saplings by Bahirdia-Manasa Union Parishad

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

As part of the tree planting programme of the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, saplings of fruit, forest, and medicinal trees have been distributed by the Bahirdia-Manasa Union Parishad in Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat.

On Sunday (30 August) at around 11:30 AM, a total of 1,800 saplings were distributed to 360 families, with each family receiving 5 saplings, in the premises of the Union Parishad. The saplings were distributed to these families by the Upazila Executive Officer, Mr. Rokunuj Zaman.

Present at the time were among others, the Upazila Project Implementation Officer and the Administrator of the Union Parishad, Imrul Kayes, Assistant Programmer Mr. Alamgir Hossain, Administrative Officer of the Union Parishad Mr. Sohel Rana, Union Parishad members Rabindranath Haldar Batul, Khan Zahid Hasan, Dhaly A: Khalek, and female Union Parishad member Shahinara Khatun, among others.

Free vaccination provided to 3,000 cows in Rajshahi's Char Majhardia



Rajshahi Correspondent

A free vaccination programme was held yesterday to protect the health of livestock belonging to farmers and households in the remote Char Majhardia area of Haripur Union under Paba Upazila of Rajshahi.

Around 3,000 cows were vaccinated during the day-long programme, which began at 11am. The programme was organized with the initiative and self-financing of Rajshahi District Jubodal member Faridul Islam Shahebzada. Paba-Mohanpur constituency lawmaker and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Water Resources Advocate Mohammad Shafiqul Haque Milon inaugurated the programme. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the MP

Three killed in Kishoreganj road accident

Kishoreganj Correspondent

Three people, including a minor girl, were killed and three others injured in a head-on collision between a covered van and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Katiadi upazila of the district this afternoon. The deceased were identified as Rabeya, 50, Milan Mia, 35, and Zara Moni, 5, all hailed from Habiganj district. The accident occurred at noon in Tévaga area on the Bhairab-Kishoreganj highway when a covered van collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, leaving auto-rickshaw passenger Milan Mia dead on the spot and five others injured. The injured were taken to Katiadi Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor declared Rabeya and Zara dead. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Katiadi Model Police Station Md Rafiqul Islam confirmed the incident.

said Char Majhardia is a remote area where thousands of cows, goats and buffaloes are reared. “Such initiatives are important for ensuring the care and health protection of livestock,” he said, adding that the vaccination programme was arranged through the personal initiative and funding of Faridul Islam Shahebzada, son of former chairman Nazrul Islam Naju.

He said a number of cows died from diseases in the area a few days ago, causing significant financial losses to local households. “Regular measures will be taken through the Livestock Department so that no livestock dies without treatment in the future,” he said. Following the inauguration, livestock vaccination began across the area through four teams. Sajjad Hossain, president of Ward No. 1 BNP of Haripur Union, presided over the program, while Dr Sohrab Khan, Veterinary Surgeon of Paba Upazila Livestock Office and Veterinary Hospital, attended as the chief guest. Officials and staff concerned, local dignitaries, and leaders and activists of BNP and its associate organizations were also present.

Young entrepreneur sets example of integrated farming in Dumuria

Khulna Correspondent

Young entrepreneur Rahul Biswas has set an example of agricultural and fisheries entrepreneurship by producing ornamental fish, farming shrimp and vegetables, and rearing livestock and birds at his integrated farm in Banda village of Dumuria upazila in Khulna.

Rahul’s “Biswas Agro Project and Fish Hatchery” has already attracted considerable attention in the area for its diversified farming activities.

Located about four kilometers from Dumuria upazila headquarters, the project includes ornamental fish hatcheries, ponds, vegetable fields and livestock facilities.

A student of an agricultural college, Rahul had long been interested in farming. After achieving success in farming improved varieties of galda and bagda shrimp, he turned to ornamental fish production about two years ago after noticing growing demand in the aquarium fish market.

Last year, he established a specialised ornamental fish hatchery with three houses, modern water pumps and six ponds.

The hatchery now produces fry of around 20 attractive and relatively rare ornamental species, including molly, montel, comet, polar, angelfish, guppy, goldfish, koi carp, butterfly fish and tetras.

Fish traders from Khulna’s Khalishpur to Dhaka’s Katobon regularly collect fish from his hatchery. Rahul also supplies fish across the country through oxygen-packed shipments against orders.

Depending on the species, the ornamental fish are sold at Tk 20 to Tk 200 per pair or piece.

Rahul said the ornamental fish market remains active throughout the year.

His family-owned 16-bigha property has nine large ponds. Eight ponds are used for modern all-male galda shrimp farming, while bagda shrimp is cultivated in another pond using the “CP” method.

Various chemical-free vegetables, including cucumber, yard-long bean and bottle gourd, are grown along the embankments of the ponds.

The project also has cattle breeding centre, facilities for rearing improved foreign dog breeds and a rooftop pigeon breeding and marketing centre.

“Six workers are currently employed regularly at my farm. I also work alongside them full-time. After meeting all associated expenses, the project earns a net profit of around Tk 15–20 lakh annually,” Rahul said.

His initiative has drawn praise from people in the locality. Nityananda Mondal, a successful galda-bagda farmer and college teacher in Dumuria, said Rahul’s innovative approach to artificial breeding and commercial marketing of ornamental fish could serve as a model for unemployed youths in the region.

“He has also achieved remarkable success in shrimp and vegetable farming,” he said.

Dumuria Upazila Senior Fisheries Officer ZillurRahman Reagan welcomed the initiative, saying ornamental fish farming has considerable potential in shrimp-dominated Dumuria.

“Rahul’s professional approach and use of modern technology in integrated farming of all-male galda shrimp and ornamental fish are truly commendable. The upazila fisheries office is ready to provide all kinds of technical support to emerging entrepreneurs like him,” he said.

Chattogram Correspondent

Enamul Haque Enam, MP, yesterday said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has launched the 'Farmer Card' initiative to support marginal farmers in rural areas.

He said farmers without their own land would be able to grow vegetables on vacant and uncultivated roadside plots, with the government providing necessary support.

Enam made the remarks as chief guest at a programme for distributing free seeds and fertilisers to farmers in Shobhondandi area of Patiya upazila this afternoon.

Under an initiative of Mabila and Syed Foundation Chairman SM Harun Ur Rashid, seeds and fertilisers worth Tk 1,920 each were distributed among 250 local farmers.

Enam expressed concern over what he described as propaganda on social media regarding fertiliser supplies. He also alleged that banned groups were spreading misinformation and attempting to create unrest over gas and electricity.



He urged people not to engage with those spreading such misinformation and warned that action would be taken against anyone attempting to incite unrest.

The programme was presided over by SM Harun Ur Rashid. Former Upazila BNP Member Secretary Khorshed Alam, district BNP member Shafiqul Islam and former Upazila BNP Joint Convener Moinul Alam Choton, among others, attended the programme.

Local BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal leaders and activists were also present