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# UZ chairmen saw higher growth in wealth than MPs

Says TIB citing last five years' data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incumbent upazila chairmen are outdoing lawmakers in terms of increasing movable assets over the last five years, says a report of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Citing examples of wealth growth, the TIB said during the period, the highest growth of a lawmaker's movable wealth was reported at 3,065 percent, while the wealth of Khan Arifur Rahman, Jhalakathi Sadar upazila chairman, surged by 11,666 percent.

At a press conference in Dhanmondi's Midas Centre yesterday, the graft watchdog revealed this after analysing affidavits of all candidates and newly elected representatives taking part in the sixth upazila parishad polls.

According to the TIB, the number of candidates who have moveable or liquid assets worth at least Tk 1 crore each has tripled over the last five years.

Most of the candidates, whose average income and immovable property have gone up, were from Gazipur and Mymensingh regions.

According to the TIB's analysis, the average income and movable assets of candidates in Cumilla, Feni, and Khulna regions rose significantly.

A total of 5, 472 aspirants vied for three posts in the upazila polls. Of them, 1,864 contested for chairmanship, 2,095 for the office of vice-chairman, and 1,513 for vice-chairman in reserved posts for women.

TIB says that there is also a discrepancy between the affidavits of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates dismissing Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan during their Group A fixture of the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York today. Bumrah was the star as he claimed three wickets and helped India make a sensational comeback to beat Pakistan by six runs while defending a 120-run target.

PHOTO: AFP

# Alcaraz wins maiden French Open



AFP, Paris

Carlos Alcaraz fought back to defeat Alexander Zverev in a five-set French Open final on Sunday to clinch his first French Open title, becoming the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces.

The 21-year-old battled cramps to recover from 2-1 down in sets and win a gripping contest 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 after four hours and 19 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Alcaraz adds the Roland Garros title to his list of achievements.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

# Official linked to embezzlement of Tk 11.52 crore reinstated

BAHARAM KHAN and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The youth and sports ministry has reinstated an official who, along with three others, was earlier dismissed on charges of embezzling Tk 11.52 crore.

The reinstatement, done through a gazette notification on June 5, has raised concerns among many who said the move would call into question the government's commitment to fighting corruption.



Farhat Noor

A three-member committee formed by the ministry investigated Farhat Noor, who was the deputy director (training) at the Directorate General of Youth Development, and three other officials in connection with the embezzlement.

The committee found proof that all four had involvement in embezzling the money. They disbursed the money, which was meant for beneficiaries, to the subordinate offices under the directorate illegally.

Bangladesh Public Service Commission endorsed the ministry's decision to terminate them, after which Farhat and the three others were dismissed under Rule 3(b) of the Government Servants (Continuation and Appeal) Rules, 2018, on February 12.

The Anti-Corruption Commission also approved filing a case against the four following an investigation.

However, in the June 5 order, the ministry asked Farhat

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# UPDF supporter shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A supporter of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was shot dead by unidentified criminals in Khagrachhari's Panchari upazila Saturday night.

The deceased is Barun Bikash Chakma, 55, of Kamol Krishno Karbari Para in the upazila.

The UPDF's spokesperson Aongya Marma said, a group of armed criminals attacked Barun at his house and shot him, leaving him dead on the spot around 9:30pm.

He accused members of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) of being involved in the killing.

This correspondent was unable to provide a comment from the PCJSS as the party does not have a committee in the Panchari upazila.

Panchari Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shafiqul Azam said they could not recover the body immediately as the incident took place in a remote area.

"We are yet to identify the criminals," he added.

# Israel keeps pounding eastern, southern Gaza

Outrage grows as Palestinian death toll in Saturday's hostage rescue raid on Nuseirat camp rises to 274

AGENCIES

Israeli forces pounded eastern and southern Gaza anew yesterday, a day after killing 274 Palestinians during a hostage rescue raid, and tanks advanced into further areas of Rafah in a bid to seal off part of the southern city, residents and Hamas media said.

Palestinians remained in shock over Saturday's death toll, the worst over a 24-hour period of the Gaza offensive for months and including many women and children, Palestinian medics said.

In an update yesterday, Gaza's health ministry said 274 Palestinians were killed - up from 210 it reported on Saturday - and 698 were injured when Israeli special force commandos stormed into the densely populated Al-Nuseirat camp to rescue four hostages held since October by Hamas.

Doctors described the scenes inside Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza as a "complete bloodbath", with one medic saying the inside of the hospital "looks like a slaughterhouse". Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Al-

Aqsa and Nasser hospitals are "overwhelmed".

The EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, called it a "massacre", while the UN's aid chief described in graphic detail scenes of "shredded bodies on the ground".

- Tanks advance into further areas of Rafah
- US resumes aid deliveries to Gaza from temporary pier
- Israel's offensive in enclave killed 37,084 since Oct 7

"Nuseirat refugee camp is the epicentre of the seismic trauma that civilians in Gaza continue to suffer," Martin Griffiths said in a post on X, calling for a ceasefire and the release of all hostages.

Israel's military said a special forces officer was killed in exchanges of fire with Hamas fighters emerging from cover

in residential blocks, and that it knew of "under 100" Palestinians killed, though not how many of them were Hamas members or civilians.

Yesterday, three Palestinians were killed and several hurt in an Israeli airstrike on a house in Al-Bureij in the central Gaza Strip, while tanks shelled parts of nearby Al-Maghazi and Al-Nuseirat, reports Reuters.

The Israeli military said in a statement its forces were continuing operations east of Bureij and the city of Deir al-Balah in the centre of the coastal enclave, killing several gunmen and destroying Hamas infrastructure.

Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 37,084 Palestinians and wounded 84,494 since October 7, the Hamas-run Gaza ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the United States has resumed aid deliveries to Gaza from a temporary pier, the country's military said Saturday, after the structure suffered storm damage and underwent repairs in a nearby port, reports AFP.

# Free edn up to 8th grade on the cards

Says Mohibul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury told parliament yesterday that the government intends to provide tuition-free schooling up to eighth grade in an effort to ensure equal access to education for children from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education is already working toward this end, and the plan will be implemented at a convenient time, the minister said in response to a question from Chattogram-II MP M Abdul Latif.

In response to another question from reserved seat MP Farida Yasmin, the minister informed parliament that there are vacancies in vice-chancellor (VC) positions at 29 private universities across the country.

"There are 114 private universities authorised to operate in the country,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# Bangladeshi killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Jamtala border in Cumilla's Burichang upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased is Md Anwar Hossain, 50, of Mirpur village in the upazila.

Abul Hasnat Khandaker, officer-in-charge of Burichang Police Station, told The Daily Star that BSF troops opened fire on Anwar around 8:00am.

His body is still inside the Indian territory and it will be handed over to his family members once BSF returns it, he added.

According to local sources, Anwar trespassed into Indian territory to smuggle sugar into Bangladesh.

Killings along the Bangladesh-India border have risen over the last three years despite repeated state-level commitments to bring such killings down to zero.



Several hundred students of Dhaka University yesterday staged a protest on the campus, demanding the cancellation of the 30 percent quota for the freedom fighters' children in the first and second tier government jobs.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# WWII veteran, 100, weds 96-yr-old bride on D-Day anniversary

AFP, Carentan

It might have been the longest wait but on Saturday 100-year-old American World War II veteran Harold Terens married his 96-year-old fiancée in Normandy, just days after being honoured on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in northwestern France.



To the sounds of "I will always love you", "Ave Maria" and bagpipes, Terens and his sweetheart Jeanne Swerlin said "I do" in the town of Carentan-le-Marais at a ceremony attended by dozens of guests, some wearing military uniforms.

To top off an extraordinary day, the newly wedded couple then attended the state banquet at the Elysee Palace in Paris thrown by President Emmanuel Macron in honour of visiting US leader Joe Biden.

"I waited 96 years to find the right man and now I have a wedding like only a queen and king can have," Swerlin told AFP before the ceremony in Normandy. "I feel young again," Terens said. "It's the best time of my entire life."

Terens and Swerlin, who live in Boca Raton, Florida, tied the knot after commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 Normandy landings.