

FAST  
BUILD

WITH BSRM FASTBUILD  
YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME  
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS

BSRM  
building a safer nation

COMPLETE  
GUIDANCE APP FOR  
HOME BUILDING

GET IT ON  
Google Play  
Download on the  
App Store

## HSC exams postponed till Aug 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The HSC and equivalent exams under all education boards scheduled for July 28, 29, 31, and August 1 have been postponed.

Mohammad Abul Khair, the public relations officer of the education ministry, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, the authorities postponed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams of all education boards scheduled for July 18, 21, 23, and 25.

These newly postponed exams will be scheduled after the previously postponed exams are held, said Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chairman of the Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee and the chairman of Dhaka Education Board.

Earlier, all public and private universities had been declared closed due to the violence surrounding the quota movement.

Additionally, all secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions (schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions) under the Ministry of Education, polytechnic institutes, and all primary schools in city corporation areas were been declared closed until further notice.

## BENAZIR, FAMILY ACC fails to estimate value of some assets Plans to collect info on their properties abroad

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission could not determine the value of some of the properties amassed by former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed, his wife, and two daughters.

It is planning to collect information about their assets outside the country.

The commission has mentioned this in the progress report prepared for submission before the High Court. The report was supposed to be submitted last week, but it could not be done due to the ongoing nationwide curfew and general holidays.

A senior ACC official told The Daily Star that the progress report is likely to be submitted next week.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent yesterday, "I have received the progress report prepared by the ACC. It will be submitted if the High Court sets a date."

According to the report, an investigation began on April 22 against Benazir and her family members following allegations of amassing wealth beyond known sources of income. Benazir, his wife Jissan Mirza, eldest daughter Farheen Rishtha Binte Benazir and second daughter Tahseen Raisa Binte Benazir have amassed illegal properties worth Tk 43.46 crore. It has been determined by the government value of land, houses, flats registered, and other assets.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Indian union govt the sole authority on foreign affairs

Says spokesman after Delhi gets Dhaka's note protesting Mamata's comments

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The union government of India has the sole prerogative when it comes to matters of foreign affairs, said a spokesperson of its external affairs ministry acknowledging Dhaka's note issued after Mamata Banerjee's remarks.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata on Sunday said her state government would provide shelter to people from violence hit Bangladesh "if they come knocking on our doors".

Following this, Dhaka issued a diplomatic note to Delhi.

India confirmed that it received the note from Bangladesh which protested Mamata's remarks on Bangladeshi students' quota protest and ticked Mamata off by suggesting that she remains within her state government's jurisdiction.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## FEATHERS IN DUALITY

A male pied kingfisher with his catch of the day, spotted recently in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila. The only black-and-white species of kingfishers are widely distributed across Africa and Asia. The males have two black stripes on the breast, while the females have one single broken line. What further distinguishes them from other kingfishers is their habit of hovering over clear lakes and rivers before diving for fish, which they usually swallow mid-flight. However, they also prey on frogs, insects and even snakes sometimes. They are fast-moving (flying at speeds up to 50kmph) and also have specialised vision systems to detect movement. They are able to see in wide angle views and can also see into the ultraviolet range due to their excellent colour vision. They are sociable and tame birds and prefer staying in groups.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHOBUJ



## Remembering rock legend Shafin Ahmed

Bangladesh's music industry is reeling from the sudden loss of Shafin Ahmed, the iconic bassist and vocalist of the renowned band Miles. The rebellious rock star passed away at 63 in Virginia, USA. A musical prodigy born to legendary artistes Kamal Dasgupta and Firoza Begum, Shafin's journey from classical roots to rock stardom captivated generations. His untimely death has left fans and fellow musicians in shock, with tributes pouring in from across the country. As Bangladesh grapples with this significant loss, Shafin's enduring legacy continues to shine.

STORY ON PAGE 10



## Israeli forces advance in southern Gaza

Tanks active in Rafah; 30 more Palestinians killed in airstrikes, shelling

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli forces advanced deeper into some towns on the eastern side of Khan Younis in southern Gaza yesterday and tanks advanced in central Rafah, with airstrikes and shelling killing 30 Palestinians over the past day, health officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who told US lawmakers on Wednesday he was actively engaged in bringing hostages home, was expected to meet US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris later yesterday.

Fighting in recent days has centred around the eastern towns of Bani Suaila, Al-Zanna, and Al-Karara, where the army said on Wednesday it had found the bodies of five Israelis.

Later yesterday, Gaza's health ministry said Israeli military strikes on areas in eastern Khan Younis had killed 14 people, taking the death toll across Gaza over the past 24 hours to 30 people with 146 injured. At least 39,175 Palestinians have been killed since the Israeli offensive began on October 7.

Several were wounded in the eastern towns during Israeli tank and aerial shelling, while an airstrike east of Khan Younis killed four people, Palestinian health officials said.

Israeli bombardment intensified in several areas in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, as tanks operated north, west and in the town centre, residents and medics said. Several Palestinians were also wounded in Israeli fire earlier yesterday.

In a speech to the US Congress, Netanyahu said his government was actively involved in seeking the release of remaining hostages and was confident they would succeed.

Hamas described the comments by Netanyahu as "pure lies" accusing him of thwarting efforts to end the offensive.

Netanyahu's comments also disappointed many displaced Palestinians who had hoped for a clearer signal of an imminent end to the fighting, which has laid the overcrowded enclave to waste and created a humanitarian crisis.

"It was depressing, he didn't even mention ceasefire at all, not even once," said Tamer Al-Burai, a resident of Gaza City, now displaced in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

"People awaited some surprise, an announcement by Netanyahu as a gift to (US President Joe) Biden, but they slept with much disappointment, as Netanyahu said he was determined to pursue offensive," Burai told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

➤ Netanyahu says working for a hostage release deal

➤ Hamas describes comments by Netanyahu as "pure lies"

➤ Gaza death toll rises to 39,175

## QUOTA PROTESTS 2 more hurt in previous clashes die at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more people, who suffered bullet wounds during the recent clashes centring the quota protests, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The deceased are Zaman Mia, 19, a garment worker in Narshingdi, and Zakir Hossain, 29, an employee of a tailor shop in Dhaka's Rayerbagh area, according to the DMCH death register and the victims' family members.

Zaman suffered bullet wounds in his abdomen on the afternoon of July 21. He was rushed to DMCH and admitted to the High Dependency Unit, where he died around 6:00am, said his brother Raihan Mia.

Zakir was shot during the clashes in Rayerbagh area on July 19. Pedestrians rushed him to DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries around 12:30am, his brother Monir Hossain said.

With the two deaths, at least 156 lives have been lost since July 16, when six people were killed in clashes between agitators on one side, and law enforcers, Border Guard Bangladesh, and ruling party activists on the other.

Thirty people died on Thursday, 66 on Friday, 25 on Saturday, 14 on Sunday, six on Monday, three on Tuesday, and four on Wednesday.

The overall death toll from the violence may be higher as The Daily Star could not reach many hospitals where dozens of critically injured patients were taken.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



People of the low-income group lined up near a TCB centre in the capital's Shahjahanpur ward-11 to purchase kitchen essentials at subsidised prices during the curfew break yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: FEROZ AHMED

## Arrives a show like no other

AGENCIES

In the midst of its own political upheaval and rising global tensions, France is set to host an unprecedented Olympic showcase, marking a significant departure from traditional stadium settings for the first time since Summer Olympics began in 1896.

As athletes and visitors converge on Paris, the City of Light aims to shine through its storied past and ambitious present, hoping to leave an indelible mark on Olympic history.

In the presence of 300,000 invited guests, a staggering 10,500 athletes will parade along a six-kilometre stretch of the Seine -- set to host several swimming events after the ban to swim there since 1923 was lifted recently -- concluding in front of the Trocadero, opposite the Eiffel Tower, in an opening ceremony laden with security concerns.

France will deploy its largest post-war security operation for today's opening ceremony. A stringent security perimeter has been established along the Seine, with up to 45,000 police officers, thousands of soldiers, and private security guards

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

