



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



BSRM
building a safer nation



DHAKA METRO RAIL PROJECT

Proud Construction Partner



South Africa cruise past Windies

AFP, Dubai

Skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits fired South Africa to a crushing 10-wicket win over the West Indies in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup on Friday.

Left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba set up the win with bowling figures of 4-29 to restrict 2016 champions West Indies to 118-6 in Dubai.

Wolvaardt, who hit 59, and Brits, who made 57, then took charge to steer last year's finalists to 119-0 in 17.5 overs.

Wolvaardt was tested early in her knock by the West Indies bowlers but once she found rhythm, the right-handed opener reached her 50 in 45 balls.

"Not that easy," Wolvaardt said of her performance in the extreme heat of Dubai. "One of the harder knocks I have had physically, especially after fielding first."

Brits also raised her

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



New Zealand off-spinner Eden Carson celebrates the dismissal of India opener Smriti Mandhana – one of her two wickets – during their 58-run victory in a Group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai yesterday. Earlier in the day, South Africa beat West Indies by 10 wickets in a Group B fixture.

PHOTO: ICC

Trump 'not fit to lead' the US

Says Republican Liz Cheney while campaigning with Harris

REUTERS, Wisconsin

Former Republican congresswoman Liz Cheney and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said former president Donald Trump is not fit to lead the US, urging voters to put country over party as they campaigned together on Thursday.

Cheney and her father Dick Cheney, who was vice president under George W Bush and is still vilified by Democrats for his bullish defense of the Iraq War, are staunch conservatives and two of the most prominent Republicans to have endorsed Harris against Trump in the November 5 election.

Both have sharply criticised Trump, the Republican nominee, calling his refusal to accept his 2020 election loss and his role in the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol disqualifying.

"I was a Republican even before Donald Trump started spray tanning," Cheney joked at the event in Wisconsin, describing herself as a Ronald Reagan conservative. "I am proudly casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris," she said, her first vote ever for a Democrat.

Cheney's comments could help Harris as she tries to court Republican and centrist voters in what polls show to be a very tight race with Trump.



Liz Cheney

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

SUNDARBANS

Tigers see slight rise in number Latest survey puts the figure between 120 and 125

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The population of Bengal Tigers in the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans mangrove forest has continued to increase at a slow but consistent rate.

The current count of adult tiger is estimated to be between 120 and 125, marking a slight rise from the previous surveys, according to a forest department source.

Two previous surveys conducted in 2018 and 2015 found the number of tigers in Bangladesh to be at 114 and 106, respectively.

"The continued increase in tiger population, albeit small, is a positive sign," said a top official of the forest department who was involved in the latest survey conducted between 2022 and 2023.

The results of the survey are expected to be officially

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Separate pay scale for teachers still not in sight

Academics say disparity between salaries, benefits for teachers of govt and pvt educational institutions must end



"To draw talented students into the teaching profession, we must guarantee respect for educators. This social respect is tied to their status and salaries. To ensure teachers' dignity, a distinct pay structure for all educational levels is essential."

SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY
Professor emeritus of Dhaka University

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A separate pay scale for teachers, aimed at ensuring their financial security and respect, remains elusive due to the indifference of successive governments towards this critical issue.

Academics believe that such a pay structure would elevate the teachers' status in the society, fostering greater respect for the

educators.

The National Education Policy 2010 proposed a distinct pay scale for teachers at all educational levels, while the University Grants Commission (UGC) recommended one for university teachers in 2017 to enhance their financial standing and dignity. However, neither of these proposals has been implemented till date.

In the absence of a separate pay

scale, disparities exist between the salaries and benefits of government and non-government teachers, as well as among those under the monthly pay order (MPO) scheme and those outside of it. Many teachers are struggling to make ends meet, according to academics.

Amid this situation, teachers across the country are celebrating

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

4 lives lost as truck hits bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least four people were killed and eight others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck in Tangail's Kalihati upazila early yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Mizanur Rahman, 33, of Ghagra village of Dhanbari upazila of Tangail, and Mohammad Ziaul, 35, of Mahish Bayan village of Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur.

The accident took place around 1:00am on the Tangail-Mymensingh highway near the Shulakura Bridge of the upazila.

Quoting locals, Elenga Highway Police in-charge Nannu Khan told The Daily Star that the Mymensingh-bound Crown Deluxe Paribahan bus collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

The bus fell into a ditch, leaving two people dead on the spot and more than 10 others injured.

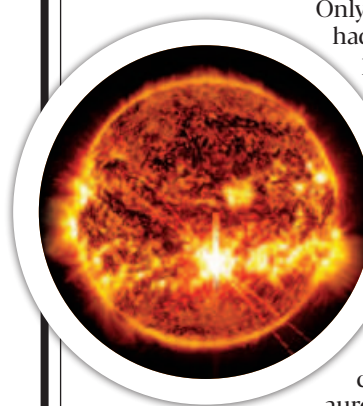
Being informed, local fire service and highway police reached the spot and carried out a rescue operation.

Powerful solar flare headed towards Earth

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A powerful solar flare has been hurled out of the Sun, and could cause disruption on Earth.

The flare comes amid increasing solar activity that has brought a run of intense space weather in recent days and weeks.



Only a day before, the Sun had released a slightly less powerful but still strong solar flare, according to the US Space Weather Prediction Centre. The recent activity had already led to radio blackouts and other effects.

As with previous flares, the newly released one could cause disruptions to communications and bring aurorae such as the northern lights that might be visible at lower

latitudes. The Sun goes through a roughly 11-year cycle during which its activity rises and falls. At the moment, it is approaching the high point of that cycle, which is expected next year – bringing increased activity and more solar flares of this kind.

The newly released flare is classed as X9.0. The X-class denotes the most intense flares, and the number refers to the strength. At those numbers, it may be the most powerful flare to have been released in this solar cycle.

Flash floods hit Sherpur

Heavy rains, onrush of water from upstream to blame; around 5,000 families stranded in 100 villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Heavy rainfall over the past two days and onrushing water from the upstream flooded 100 villages in Jhenaigati and Nalitabari upazilas of Sherpur, leaving around 5,000 families marooned.

Floodwater affected fish farms, Aman and vegetable fields, and roads, said locals.

They said villages of six unions – Sannayabhta, Baghber, Rajnagar, Nunni, Puragoan, and Nayabeel of Nalitabari upazila – have been inundated. People of three wards of Nalitabari municipality are waterlogged.

Jhenaigati upazila town and nearby areas have also been flooded, and water entered government offices, schools, and business establishments.

Md Nakibuzzaman Khan, executive engineer of the Bangladesh Water Development Board in Sherpur, said the Bhogai and Chellakhali rivers were swelling.

He said water level was also increasing in the Someswari river due to the onrush of hilly waters.

Around 225mm rainfall was recorded in the district in 24 hours as of 4:00pm yesterday, he added.

The engineer added that the water started receding in some areas.

If there is no rain and the weather is favourable, the situation will be normal in two days, he said.

Farmers are going to incur heavy losses.

Humayun Dildar, Jhenaigati upazila agricultural

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Floodwater gushes in through a breach in an embankment along the Moharashi river in Khoikora area of Sherpur's Jhenaigati upazila. Heavy rain and runoff from upstream inundated a vast swathe of land in the upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: DEBASHIS SAHA ROY

US, India to cooperate on critical minerals

AFP, Washington

The United States and India are set to work together on supply chains for critical minerals that are key to clean energy technologies, the US Commerce Department said Thursday in a statement.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal met in the US capital Washington on Thursday, inking a deal to "expand and diversify" critical mineral supply lines.

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to increase resilience in the critical minerals sector, said the statement.

Both sides will also identify ways to facilitate "commercial development of US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling, and recovery," the statement added.