



Install solar panels on all govt building rooftops: CA

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday instructed the authorities concerned to take initiatives to generate power by installing solar panels on the rooftops of all government buildings in the country.

While addressing a meeting titled “National Rooftop Solar Programme” at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka, the chief adviser directed for prompt implementation of the programme, and instructed for necessary measures to install rooftop solar

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A boy jumps from a riverside platform into the Turag river below amid rain while his friends await their turn. In a moment, everything could go wrong and he could fall onto the stairs, leading to a major accident. The photo was taken in the Bosila area of the capital yesterday.

HSC, equivalent exams begin

19,759 absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations began across the country yesterday with the Bangla First Paper test.

The examinations started at 10:00am at 2,797 centres nationwide. Written exams are scheduled to continue until August 10, with practical exams set for August 11–21.

A total of 12,51,111 students are registered under



different education boards to take the examinations this year. The total number of examinees is 81,882 fewer than last year.

According to the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, 19,759 candidates were absent on the first day of the exams, including 14,513 from the general education boards, 4,196 from the Madrasa board, and 1,050 from the Technical board.

Meanwhile, 43 candidates were expelled for malpractice on the first day, the committee also said.

Amid a rise in Covid-19 and dengue cases, the coordination committee has enforced strict health guidelines at all venues, said Prof Khandoker Ehsanul Kabir, chairman of the Dhaka Education Board and head of the committee.

During a visit to Vashantek Government College centre in the capital, Education Adviser Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar told reporters that strict vigilance would prevent any question paper leaks this year.

EC aims to procure polls materials by September

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has stepped up preparations for the upcoming 13th National Parliamentary Election, aiming to complete the procurement of all necessary electoral materials by September.

Speaking to reporters at the EC headquarters in the capital yesterday, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said, “The procurement process will be completed by September. Some changes are being made in one of the tenders to facilitate this, and that is already underway.”

He said preparations include printing 21 types of forms, 17 types of packets, five types of ID cards, the code of conduct, posters of electoral symbols, and training and election management manuals and guidelines.

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Waterlogging, potholes plague Ashkona road

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DIPAN NANDY

With her seven-year-old daughter, Mariam Begum, 32, was heading to school on a rickshaw along the road adjacent to the water pump at Ashkona in the capital's Uttara.

As they reached the pump, their rickshaw overturned into a waterlogged crater, leaving both of them seriously injured.

Bystanders pulled them out of the knee-deep water and took them to a nearby pharmacy for first aid. Such incidents have become common in the area.

Residents are frequently injured on this stretch. Locals say the road has turned into a “death trap”, with accidents occurring daily.

One resident claimed that a schoolgirl was electrocuted after falling into a ditch, although she survived after being taken to a hospital.

Despite repeated complaints, authorities have yet to begin repair work.

The road, used daily by hundreds of commuters, remains full of potholes and submerged in stagnant water, even after light rain.

Residents say it has been in this condition for over seven years.

Although development work was supposed to be completed three years ago, not a single step has been taken. According to locals, just one hour of rain makes the road unusable for more than two weeks.

“No one from the city corporation has even come to inspect the area. Had they visited, they would have seen

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INT’L DAY IN SUPPORT OF TORTURE VICTIMS

‘End immunity enjoyed by law enforcers’

Demand survivors of enforced disappearance; BLAST calls for legal reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Survivors of enforced disappearances yesterday called for an end to the blanket immunity enjoyed by law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh.

The lack of accountability has allowed systematic torture, custodial abuse, and enforced disappearances to continue unchecked, they said.

On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, United for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (UVED) urged the government to establish independent oversight mechanisms for all security forces and intelligence agencies and to formally acknowledge the involvement of these agencies in rights violations.

In a statement, UVED said, “Weak oversight, entrenched impunity, and political interference in law enforcement and the judiciary have enabled state agencies to commit torture with near-total immunity. Law enforcement bodies routinely operate beyond legal limits, while victims face retaliation, complex legal barriers, and an inaccessible justice system.”

The group said law enforcement agencies often use remand to extract forced confessions, extend illegal

detention beyond the 24-hour legal limit, and target political opponents.

It added that political interference, weak enforcement, and the reluctance of magistrates to challenge illegal remand practices have allowed torture to become routine.

“In practice, it [remand] has become synonymous with custodial torture and inhuman treatment,” UVED said.

The group also called for the publication of a white paper, under judicial supervision, to document incidents of torture and name those responsible.

It also urged institutional reforms to ensure that confessions obtained under duress are inadmissible and that the remand system is not misused.

UVED demanded the repeal of laws it described as repressive and incompatible with international human rights standards.

These include the Special Powers Act, 1974 and the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2013, which, it argued, have been used to justify extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances.

The organisation also called for legal reforms to recognise enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity and for anti-terrorism trials

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Focus on girls’ edn, health to end child marriage

Says foreign adviser at meeting with new UNFPA country rep

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain has stressed the importance of keeping girls in school, expanding economic opportunities, and ensuring essential health services for underprivileged communities to end child marriage, which remains widespread in Bangladesh.

“Every preventable death is one too many,” he said during a meeting with Catherine Breen Kamkong, the newly appointed country representative of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), who presented her credentials at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in South Asia, with 51 percent of girls married before the age of 18 between 2006 and 2024, according to the State of World Population 2025 report released by UNFPA on June 11.

Maternal health is also a major concern, with a maternal mortality ratio of 115 deaths per 1,00,000 live births, the report stated.

During the meeting, Touhid said keeping girls

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Supporters of Ishraque call off protests

DSCC administrator joins work after 42 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia resumed duties at Nagar Bhaban yesterday afternoon as BNP leader Ishraque Hossain’s supporters reopened the office after 42 days.

Officials from the engineering department also returned to work.

Ishraque’s supporters also announced an end to their movement.

The protest began on May 14, with demonstrators demanding that Ishraque be sworn in as mayor. From May 15 to June 23, DSCC employees locked the main gate and departmental offices, suspending all civic services during the period.

Limited services resumed on June 23, when the

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Weakening the executive won’t help democracy

Says BNP leader Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said weakening the executive branch will not help strengthen the state’s democratic framework.

“Right now, there seems to be a tendency within the efforts of the Reform Commission and the National Consensus Commission to regulate the executive branch as much as possible. Yes, the executive branch has acted authoritatively in the past, but that doesn’t mean we can abolish it, nor weaken it,” he said.

He made these remarks at a discussion held at Jatiya Press Club marking the anniversary of Nagorik Oikya.

“For the same reason, we cannot abolish the

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EU envoy hopes for restoration of democracy



UNB, Dhaka

European Union (EU) Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller has conveyed to the BNP his hope that democratic order will soon be restored in Bangladesh through a free, fair and credible national election.

The EU envoy expressed this hope during a meeting yesterday with BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the party chairperson’s office in Gulshan.

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Due to years of neglect, this road adjacent to the water pump in the capital's Ashkona remains full of potholes and gets submerged in stagnant water, even after light rain, causing suffering to residents.

PHOTO: STAR