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30 individuals involved in Abu Sayed murder

Say ICT investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal has found involvement of 30 individuals in the murder of Abu Sayed, prosecutor Mizanul Islam told a press briefing yesterday.

The Begum Rokeya University student was shot dead during the mass uprising in Rangpur on July 16 last year.

Mizanul said the prosecution had received the investigation report along with some documents and was making preparations to press charges at tribunal 2 on Sunday.

The report identified the involvement of 30 individuals, and through review, the number of accused may be increased or decreased, he added.

ICT investigators say they submitted the probe report to the prosecution on June 24. The investigation took four months.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Mourners cry near the body of a Palestinian child who was killed in what the Gaza Health Ministry said were overnight Israeli airstrikes on tents sheltering displaced people, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli fire, strikes kill 56 in Gaza

Say medics; six of them waiting to collect aid

AGENCIES

Rescuers in Gaza said Israeli gunfire and airstrikes killed 56 people in the territory yesterday, including six who they said were waiting to collect aid.

Local health authorities said an Israeli airstrike killed at least nine people at a school housing displaced families in the Sheikh Radwan suburb in Gaza City, while another strike killed nine people near a tent encampment in Khan Younis in the south of the enclave. Several people were injured in both strikes.

The new deaths come as Arab mediators, Egypt and Qatar, backed by the United States, reached out to the warring parties in a bid to hold new ceasefire talks, but no exact time was set for a new round, according to Hamas sources, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, Israel has halted aid supplies to Gaza for two days to prevent them being seized by Hamas, an official said yesterday after images circulated of masked men on aid trucks whom clan leaders said were protecting aid, not diverting it to the Hamas members.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that aid deliveries had been temporarily suspended for two days to allow the military time to develop a new plan.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday said Gaza was in a "catastrophic situation of genocide" and urged the European Union to immediately suspend its

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

89% drug cases filed in 5 years still pending

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) filed over 1.22 lakh drug-related cases in a little over five years, but only 11 percent of those have been disposed of.

It paints a grim picture of the country's anti-narcotics efforts.

According to DNC's latest annual report, only 13,376 of the 1,22,422 cases lodged between January 2020 and April 2025 have been resolved.

Among the disposed cases, accused in 7,539 cases or 56.36 percent were acquitted, raising concerns about the quality of investigations and prosecutions.

The report also shows that 1,30,882 people were arrested in the 1,22,422 cases. However, only 14,329 faced trials.

The trend continues this year as well. In the first four months of 2025, 1,073 drug cases were resolved. Of them, 599 resulted in acquittals. At least 1,143 accused were tried and 632 of them were cleared.

Officials involved in dealing with drug-related cases have blamed weak evidence, poor case preparation, and delays in legal proceedings as the key reasons behind the high rate of acquittals.

Mukul Jyoti Chakma, DNC deputy director, told The Daily Star that charge sheets are submitted within 15 days if all the accused are arrested and the evidence is ready. If not, investigators can seek an extension of 30 days, and further time if needed.

However, he acknowledged that in many cases, reports are submitted within 15 days regardless of the cases' readiness.

"The disposal of cases depends on the courts, but issues like weak evidence and inadequate case preparation can delay proceedings."

Another DNC official said that in the rush to meet deadlines, investigators often rely heavily on the FIRs. As a result, charge sheets are submitted without proper

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

808 institutes, structures renamed

They had been named after Sheikh family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has so far renamed 808 institutions and structures across Bangladesh that were previously named after ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members, including her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The renaming process for another 169 structures bearing the names of the former premier and her family members is currently underway, according to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing yesterday.

Since 2009, 977 public infrastructures and institutions were named after Hasina, her family members and Awami League-affiliated politicians, it said. These included military cantonments, air bases, naval ships, major bridges, roads, buildings, educational institutions, hospitals and research centres.

The names of various organs under 34 ministries

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

'Energy budget mirrors past regime's policies'

CPD says lingering crises in power sector still not addressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By not introducing any major changes in priorities, the interim government appears to have followed the previous administration's approach to preparing the budget for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) observed yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion, CPD analysts said the government has no plans to address the financial crisis facing the Bangladesh Power Development Board, nor is there any move to prioritise domestic gas supplies over imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

They pointed out that although the government has doubled the Energy Division's budget, the allocation remains insufficient to realise its plans to reduce import dependency and boost domestic supply by investing resources in gas exploration.

Flawed fuel pricing mechanisms remain in place, and there is still a lack of major investment to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, they further noted.

A panel of experts made the observations at a discussion titled "Can the Interim Government

Meet Expectations?" organised by the think tank at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

The proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was presented earlier this month and approved by the Cabinet on June 22.

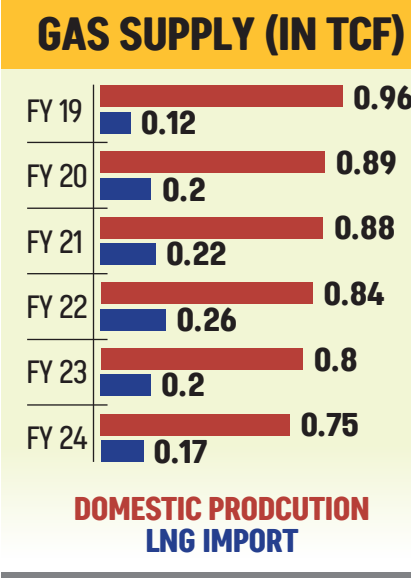
According to the budget, the allocation for the Power Division has been slashed by nearly 30 percent, with the government aiming to reduce the subsidy burden by around Tk 11,000 crore.

"Most of the cost-cutting was done in the development budget. But there has been an increase in the operating budget, from which the unnecessary expenditures were supposed to be reduced," said the CPD's senior research associate Helen Mashiyat Preoty while presenting the keynote paper.

The Power Division has urged the finance ministry to convert its Tk 56,600-crore debt into subsidies, citing substantial losses from purchasing electricity at high prices from private rental, quick rental, and independent power producers, revealed the keynote paper.

The share of coal and LNG used in power generation has increased and will continue to do

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Zurich researchers pioneer recycling rare earth from e-waste

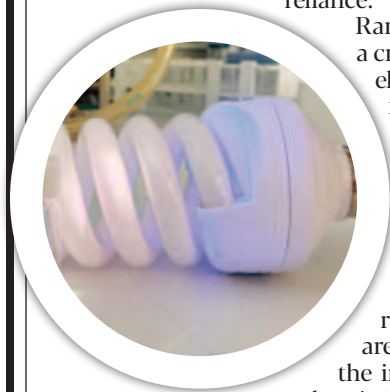
REUTERS, Geneva

Researchers at ETH University in Zurich have developed a new method to efficiently recover rare earth elements from electronic waste, advancing sustainable recycling and reducing mining reliance.

Rare earth elements play a crucial role in modern electronics, powering fluorescent lamps, magnets in hard drives and are used in the production of generators for wind farms.

Currently less than one percent of rare earth materials are recycled, due to the immense energy and chemical effort to separate elements in the materials, which comes at significant expense, according to ETH Zurich University.

ETH Pioneer Fellow, Dr Marie Perrin and her supervisor Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Professor Dr Victor Mougel developed a new method that allows the efficient separation of these elements, using a specially designed extractant to alter their solubility.



A yellow monitor lizard slithers through a waterbody in Khulna's Bilpabla. Also known as the golden monitor, these reptiles are found across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and parts of Pakistan. Common near wetlands, farmlands, and village edges, they are often mistaken for snakes due to their forked tongue. Feeding on rats, insects, snakes, frogs, fish, and carrion (decaying flesh of dead animals), they play a vital role in controlling pests and cleaning up the environment. Despite their ecological value, they are widely hunted and nearing endangered status. Locally called "guishap", these shy, misunderstood reptiles are crucial for a healthy ecosystem.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

52 pushed in from India

STAR REPORT

At least 52 people were pushed into Bangladesh allegedly by India's Border Security Force through different borders in four districts yesterday.

At least 25 of them were pushed through two areas in Moulvibazar – 19 through Kakmara in Sreemangal upazila and six through Dhalai in Kamalganj upazila, police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said.

Md Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sreemangal Police Station, confirmed that all 19 were citizens of Bangladesh.

They were wandering in the border area, he said, adding that police detained them upon being informed by locals.

Sreemangal Upazila Nibahi Officer (UNO) Md Islam Uddin, however, said the authorities were verifying the identities of the 19 people after police detained them.

In Kamalganj upazila, at least six people were detained after being pushed into Bangladesh through Dhalai border early in the morning, said Lt Col ASM Zakaria, commander of BGB 46 Battalion.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1