

23 more pushed in from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Twenty-three people were pushed into Bangladesh from India through the Malkadanga and Shingroad borders in Panchagarh early yesterday. Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained the 23 individuals after they were pushed back by India's Border Security Force (BSF), said Lt Colonel Sheikh Mohammad Badruddoza, commanding officer of BGB-56 Battalion. According to the CO, 17 individuals were detained near the Malkadanga border in Boda upazila around 1:00am after crossing into Bangladesh. Meanwhile, six others were detained near the Shingroad border in Panchagarh Sadar on the same day around 3:00am. During primary interrogation, the detainees -- seven men, eight women, and eight children -- said they were

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A group of friends ride side-by-side in two rickshaws, chatting and laughing as they enjoy a drizzle. The photo was taken in the TSC area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Star wins two accolades at WAN-IFRA Digital Media Awards



STAR REPORT

The Daily Star has earned regional recognition at the South Asian Digital Media Awards 2025, presented by WAN-IFRA (World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers) -- this time for its campaign "Maa Shob Pare", developed in partnership with Meghna Group of Industries. The campaign received Gold in the Best in Audience Engagement category and Silver in the Best Native Advertising Campaign category, making The Daily Star the only media outlet from Bangladesh to be recognised at this year's awards. Held in Chennai, India, the awards ceremony brought together some of South Asia's most innovative publishers. This year, over 105 entries were submitted from across the region, celebrating digital creativity, impactful storytelling, and audience-first strategies. Launched to celebrate International Mother's Day in 2024, the "Maa Shob Pare" campaign highlighted a very real challenge: the growing digital gap between generations.

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July dengue cases exceed June total

HELEMUL ALAM

Though July is yet to end, the number of dengue cases has already surpassed the total figure recorded in June, indicating an alarming rise in the mosquito-borne disease across the country. According to the DGHS, at least 18 dengue-related deaths were reported as of July 18, compared to 19 in the entire month of June. In terms of infections, 5,985 cases have been recorded so far this month, already exceeding June's total of 5,951. DGHS data shows that dengue cases were relatively low earlier in the year, with 1,161 cases in January, 374 in February, 336 in March, 701 in April, and 1,773 in May. Deaths during the same period were 10 in January, three in February, seven in April, and three in May. Experts warned the situation could worsen significantly in August due to the current rainfall pattern, which creates ideal conditions for the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit the virus. "Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus, which is already present across the country," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman. He said Aedes mosquitoes are more active during overcast or gloomy weather, which has persisted nationwide. "During the monsoon, the number of dengue cases can be up to nine times higher than during the dry season," he said. Saifur urged all to take precautions, such as wearing full-sleeve clothing, using mosquito nets, and conducting regular cleaning drives at home to eliminate breeding grounds, including rooftops. He also criticised the authorities for inadequate anti-mosquito drives. "They

often fail to conduct proper operations in infected areas and even in homes where cases are reported," he said. Jahangirnagar University entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar predicted that August may see at least three times as many dengue cases as July, with a possible further increase in September.



Dengue cases in July (5,985) already crossed June's total (5,951)

18 deaths reported in July so far; June saw 19

Experts warn August could see triple the cases

Monsoon rain creating ideal breeding conditions

All 64 districts now vulnerable, say entomologists

"The current rain pattern is one of the main causes behind the surge. Once the outbreak starts, cases tend to increase at a geometric rate," Bashar said. He emphasised the need for widespread larva and breeding site control. "When both mosquito populations and infected individuals

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The house in question never belonged to Ray family

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Media reports claiming that the government is demolishing the ancestral property of renowned filmmaker and author Satyajit Ray are not right, said the foreign affairs ministry yesterday. "Detailed inquiry into the archival records re-confirmed that the house in question never had any relation with the ancestors of the esteemed laureate Satyajit Ray," it said in a statement. The statement said the house was originally built by local Zamindar Shashikant Acharya Chowdhury -- next to his bungalow "Shashi Lodge" -- for his employees. After the zamindari system was abolished, the property came under the control of the government and was later allocated to the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Since then, the house has been used as the office of the District Shishu Academy under a long-term lease. The land itself was a government-owned non-agricultural (Khas) land. District authorities reviewed land records and confirmed that, as per past

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ILLEGAL WEALTH
ACC sues Tarique Siddique, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed cases against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's defence and security adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique, his wife Shaheen Siddique, and their two daughters for allegedly amassing over Tk 62 crore in illegal wealth. According to ACC findings, Tk 28.59 crore in illegal assets was identified under Tarique's name. His wife allegedly owns Tk 25.77 crore in illegal wealth, while their daughters -- Nurin Tasfia Siddique and Bushra Siddique -- hold Tk 3.37 crore and Tk 4.03 crore, respectively. In total, ACC has found evidence of approximately Tk 62 crore in illegal assets connected to the family and has filed separate cases accordingly. Additionally, suspicious transactions worth Tk 122 crore have been detected in the bank accounts of Tarique and Shaheen. ACC Director General Md Akhter Hossain

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3 accused confess to Sohag murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three accused gave confessional statements yesterday in connection with the brutal killing of scrap metal trader Lal Chand alias Sohag near Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka. They are Titon Gazi, Mohammad Alamgir, and Monir alias Lomba Monir. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrates Manirul Islam, Mohammad Ehsanul Islam, and Awlad Hossain Muhammad Jonaid recorded their statements. On July 12, Titon was placed on a five-day remand, while Alamgir and Monir were granted four-day remands each on July 13. On July 9, Lal Chand alias Sohag was dragged from his shop in Old Dhaka in broad daylight and beaten to death near the gate of Mitford Hospital. His body was then crushed with large chunks of concrete and left on the street as onlookers watched in horror. Following the incident, the victim's sister filed a murder case with Kotwali Police Station. Police have so far arrested nine accused in the case as of yesterday.



Khelafat names 223 candidates for next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish has announced the names of possible party candidates in 223 constituencies in the first phase, aiming to participate in the upcoming 13th Jatiya Sangsad election. The announcement was made yesterday at a press conference held at the party's central office in Purana Paltan by its Ameer Mamunul Haque. This is the first time any political party has announced the names of its candidates to participate in the next polls, likely to be held early next year. According to the list, party Secretary General Jalaluddin Ahmed will contest from the Shariatpur-1 constituency. In the second list, the constituencies from which Mamunul and other top leaders will contest will be announced. Party leaders said in the upcoming national parliament, Khelafat supports a bicameral constitutional structure with partial proportional

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SUHRAWARDY UDYAN
Jamaat to rally tomorrow with 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan tomorrow to press home its seven-point demand, including fundamental reforms in various state institutions to ensure a fair election. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar said the party believes that if the next national election is held without reforms, fascism will rise again. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that no conspiracy can disrupt the reform process, he said. He made the remarks at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. At the event, Parwar elaborated on Jamaat's seven-point demand. These include ensuring a level playing field in the election, justice for the mass killing that occurred during the July uprising, fundamental reforms of various state institutions to ensure fair elections, a balance of power between the prime minister and the president, medical treatment for those injured in July, election through proportional representation (PR) system, ensuring voting rights of expatriates, and appropriate steps to improve law and order.

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The family members of Tajuddin Ahmad, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and the first prime minister of Bangladesh, pose for a photo with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday. Tajuddin's daughter Sharmin Ahmad and son Tanzim Ahmad Sohail Taj met with the chief adviser to invite him to join the birth centenary ceremony of their father.

PHOTO: PTD

Organ donation to get easier

Advisory council approves ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory council yesterday approved the "Human Organ Transplantation Ordinance, 2025" in principle, expanding the list of eligible organ donors. Following the council meeting, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the ordinance is a significant step for the country. Speaking at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka, he said the new law will allow many patients with kidney conditions to receive transplants within Bangladesh. It also opens the door for cornea transplants, offering hope to the visually impaired. Organ transplantation in Bangladesh will now become much easier, he said. Previously, only parents, brothers, and sisters were allowed to donate organs. With the new ordinance, nieces and nephews will also be eligible donors, said Shafiqul. "This is a groundbreaking law for Bangladesh." "Many people wish to donate their bodies after death, raising questions about how organs will be harvested and whether the process is legally protected. This law clearly outlines how organs can be collected from donated bodies

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