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Farmers manually pollinate onion flowers in the Naldanga area of Natore, as excessive pesticide use has driven away bees and butterflies, disrupting natural pollination. Despite this, growers say seeds are forming and will be harvested after drying, with hopes of good prices. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Fuel crisis deepens amid persistent hoarding

STAR REPORT

The ongoing fuel crisis has continued to worsen public suffering across the country, even as the government keeps carrying out drives against fuel stockpiling to tackle the situation.

Mobile courts in different districts have recovered large quantities of fuel from hoarders and fined them.

In Gazipur, a mobile court fined Abul Hossain, 65, a fuel trader, Tk 20,000 for illegally stockpiling around 3,000 litres of diesel at a roadside shop along the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Kaliakair upazila early yesterday.

Besides, police seized 880 litres of diesel from a shop at Uttar Salna Porabari area of Gazipur city and detained shop owner Abdur Razzaq, 35, yesterday morning.

In Chattogram, Bangladesh Coast Guard (East Zone) personnel yesterday detained 10 people and seized a fishing trawler from the outer anchorage near Chattogram carrying 22,500 kilogrammes of potatoes and 230 litres of diesel while the items were being smuggled to Myanmar.

In Jashore, a mobile court seized 875 litres of fuel and 850 litres of lubricant from an unauthorised storage facility in Manirampur upazila on Saturday night.



I am unable to till my cropland, as none of my three tractors is operational amid the diesel shortage. I have been going from one filling station to another, but I am yet to get any fuel.

MD JAHID HASAN

A farmer of Islamgati village in Pabna

In Bagerhat, a joint team of the district administration, Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard and police detected a significant discrepancy in fuel stock at the Mongla Oil Installation of Jamuna Oil Company Limited, leading to the temporary suspension of its depot manager Md Al Amin Khan and a halt to fuel supply.

According to an investigation report seen by The Daily Star, two tanks had excess

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MOB VIOLENCE

Interim govt failed to curb it due to weakness

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the interim government had failed to control mob violence because it was weak, adding that since the elected government took office, there have been no such incidents except one or two isolated cases.

"The government is not giving any space to mob violence or disorder," he said, adding that political parties would be allowed to hold meetings and express democratic views through regular means without causing public suffering.

He made the remarks during a courtesy meeting with French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean-Marc Séré Charlet at the Secretariat, according to a home ministry release.

Salahuddin said restoring law and order was a top priority, outlining short, medium, and long-term plans to strengthen policing and rebuild public trust.

"We are working on police reform with utmost importance. But this development cannot happen overnight; through continuous and phased improvement, we want to build a people-friendly police force," he said.

On Rab reform, the minister said an elite force was necessary in any state structure. According to him, the

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Stay active, coordinate to address issues

Tarique directs BNP lawmakers at parliamentary party meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has instructed the health minister to visit hospitals even on government holidays to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services for the public.

He gave the directive at a time when the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) is struggling to cope with a surge in measles cases, with infections rising since January and putting additional pressure on already stretched healthcare services.

Tarique also asked ruling BNP lawmakers to work in coordination, remain united in addressing problems, and stay active in their constituencies to ensure prompt service delivery and address public concerns.

The directives came at a parliamentary party meeting of the ruling party held yesterday morning at the Jatiya Sangsad, according to meeting sources.

The country's fuel and energy situation, as well as the law and order situation, was also discussed at the meeting.

Tarique told lawmakers to remain active in their areas so that no one can create artificial crises by exploiting local weaknesses or poor coordination, sources said.

Several MPs stressed the need for close monitoring of supply and stock to prevent shortages, according to those present at the meeting.

The meeting also discussed ordinances issued during the interim period and matters related to the July Charter.



Leader of the House Tarique Rahman at a meeting of BNP parliamentary party in the parliament yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

A proposal was placed to form a committee comprising ruling party MPs, opposition lawmakers, and academics to examine the issue further, sources said.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister made surprise visits to several ministries and offices at the Secretariat to check

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Gen Z doesn't want 1972 Constitution

Hannan Masud tells Parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party lawmaker

Abdul Hannan Masud

yesterday told the Parliament that those belonging to Generation Z (Gen Z) no longer want the Constitution of 1972.

Identifying himself as someone who belongs to Gen Z, Hannan said, "If you ask what Gen Z wants, they want an answer to why, despite being born 30 years after independence, they have not had the right to vote," he said.

While speaking in the Parliament during the discussion on the President's address,

Hannan said, "We received a new flag, a map, and boundaries. Our forefathers shed blood in 1971 to build a safe Bangladesh for us. But have we received a safe Bangladesh? We have not."

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Army chief leaves for US on official visit

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman left Dhaka on Saturday for the United States on an official visit.

During the trip, he will attend a special lecture in the Senate Chamber and accept an award presented by the Georgia State Capitol in recognition of the commendable contributions of Bangladeshi peacekeepers to United Nations missions, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release yesterday.

He is also scheduled to participate in bilateral meetings with US officials concerned.



BTV, Betar, BSS to collaborate with Turkish media

Dhaka, Ankara to sign MoU

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Turkey have reached a decision in principle to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for knowledge sharing, information exchange and technical cooperation in modern information management.

The decision was made during a bilateral meeting between Professor Burhanettin Duran, director of Turkey's Presidential Communication Directorate and Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan, held on the sidelines

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'Child drowning a nationwide crisis'

Lawmaker says govt to prioritise policy action at dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has committed to preventing child drowning through incorporating the issue into national policies as a priority and allocating budgetary resources to this end.

Lawmaker Fakhar Uddin Ahmed said this while addressing a policy dialogue as chief guest at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

The dialogue, titled "Sustainable Public Financing for Drowning Prevention", was organised by Somosti Media Communication & Development Foundation, with support from the US-based Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA).

Parliamentarians, ministry representatives, development partners, public health experts, academics, journalists and civil society members attended the event.

Mir Masruruzzaman, executive director of Somosti, delivered the welcome remarks and moderated the session.

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'Police threatened crossfire, shot him'

July survivor recounts friend's death in Jatrabari at ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survivor of the July uprising yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that police opened fire "like rain" on protesters in Dhaka's Jatrabari before allegedly shooting his friend at close range after threatening to stage a "crossfire".

Testifying as the first prosecution witness in a case over the killing of Imam Hasan Bhuiyan Tayim, a 12th grader, on July 20, 2024, Md Rahat Hossain described how he narrowly escaped death while his friend was fatally shot.

Earlier, the tribunal framed charges against 11 former police officers in connection with the killing.

Rahat told the court that he and two friends -- Tayim and Shahriar -- had joined a protest near the Kajla foot overbridge

during a brief relaxation of a nationwide curfew imposed amid the anti-discrimination student movement.

According to his testimony, hundreds of police advanced from both sides of the road, some in armoured vehicles and others on foot, firing live rounds at protesters.



"Bullets were falling like rain," Rahat said, recalling how people around him screamed and collapsed while trying to flee.

Terrified and disoriented, the three friends ran for cover and took shelter in a roadside tea stall, but it lasted only moments.

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