



Invest in edn, health to build nation: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Emphasising that “investment in children’s education and health is the most important investment in nation-building,” Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has issued a message on the occasion of the “Primary School Gold Cup Football Tournament (Boys and Girls) 2026,” which begins today.

In his message, the prime minister said sports, culture and creative activities are essential alongside academic education for building a confident, skilled and humane generation.

He described the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A group of young roller skaters hold onto two moving CNG-run auto-rickshaws to gain momentum in the capital’s Paribagh area yesterday. Although skating is popular among youths, using vehicles to increase speed poses serious safety risks amid city traffic.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Measles deaths climb to 670

Experts urge early screening, stronger vaccination drive

UNB, Dhaka

Four children died with symptoms consistent with measles in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, taking Bangladesh’s combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 670.

The Directorate General of Health Services has classified the latest deaths as suspected measles fatalities.

With the latest update, the number of suspected measles deaths has risen to 577, while the number of laboratory-confirmed measles deaths remains unchanged at 93.

A total of 1,078 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, taking the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 90,982.

Meanwhile, 96 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, bringing the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections to 10,869.

Since March 15, a total of 75,156 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised across the country, of whom 71,396 have recovered.

Meanwhile, health experts have urged the government to prioritise the ongoing measles vaccination drive and set up “fever corners” at local health complexes for early screening of diseases such as measles and pneumonia.

They proposed four specific measures: continuing the priority vaccination drive, establishing fever corners at district and upazila health complexes for quick screening, distributing WHO approved treatment guidelines among all health workers, and raising mass awareness.

Shahjahan Khan likely to face trial at ICT soon

Prosecution says formal charge may be filed in seven to ten days

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The trial of Awami League leader Shahjahan Khan is likely to begin soon, as the International Crimes Tribunal’s investigation agency has recently submitted a probe report over crimes against humanity.

In the probe report submitted to the chief prosecutor, the investigation officer brought command responsibility charges against the former shipping minister in connection with the killing of three persons in Madaripur during the July 2024 uprising.

Confirming the development to The Daily Star, ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said they are currently analysing the report against Shahjahan Khan, a former lawmaker from Madaripur-2.



“We have received the investigation report following a lengthy probe. Evidence regarding his involvement in crimes against humanity has been found,” Aminul said.

“We aim to submit a formal charge to the tribunal in seven to ten days upon scrutiny,” he added.

Apart from the three specific fatalities in Madaripur, the prosecution revealed that Shahjahan Khan will be implicated in the killing of around 1,400 protesters across the country during the uprising.

The chief prosecutor said the influential figure was actively present and supported top-level government decisions to violently suppress the student movement during the uprising, particularly on July 15, 17, and 24 in 2024.

“His presence alongside senior leaders like Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, combined with his explicit support for decisions to crush the movement, directly incited the nationwide violence that claimed nearly 1,400 lives,” Aminul said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Jamaat to revive its youth unit

Party says existing structure being made active to engage young people, develop leadership

MAMUNUR RASHID

Jamaat-e-Islami is stepping up the activities of its youth unit across the country to strengthen its organisational base among young people and increase their involvement in political and social initiatives.

The party has moved to make the unit, which has long existed within its organisational structure but remained relatively low-profile, more visible and active.

According to Jamaat leaders, the youth unit is gaining renewed importance as the party seeks to keep young members engaged after their student years and involve them in community-based activities. The initiative is also aimed at expanding the party’s political presence and nurturing future leaders.

As part of this effort, Jamaat reconstituted the committee of its Dhaka North Metropolitan Youth Unit on May 19. At a conference of departmental officials, former central president of Islami Chhatra Shibir Yasin Arafat was named president, while Mostafa Faisal Parvez was appointed general secretary.

Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair, assistant secretary general of Jamaat and president of its central youth unit, said the party is working to make the unit more active to help develop leadership among young people, encourage healthy lifestyles, and steer them away from social ills such as drugs, terrorism, extortion, and illegal weapons.

He said the youth unit was

incorporated into Jamaat’s annual organisational plan in 2019, and a committee was formed that year. However, the political circumstances at the time limited the scope for regular organisational activities.

“In the current context, organising young people has become a renewed priority,” Zubair said.

Unlike other political parties that maintain separate youth wings, Jamaat has established a departmental structure within the party to work with young people, he said.



Within Jamaat, Shibir members traditionally move directly into the parent party after their student years. As a result, party activists have long argued for expanding the role of the youth unit as an intermediate platform for young people.

Yasin Arafat said the youth unit is not an independent organisation but operates within Jamaat’s organisational framework.

According to him, the party has guidelines for forming committees of five to seven members at metropolitan and district levels and three to five

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Poet Al Mujahidi passes away

STAR REPORT

Ekushey Padak-winning poet, writer, and editor Al Mujahidi passed away while undergoing treatment at United Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 83.

The prominent literary figure breathed his last around 1:40pm following a cardiac arrest, family sources said. He had long been suffering from old age-related complications, including heart and kidney ailments.

As his condition deteriorated, Mujahidi was hospitalised twice on April 23 and again on June 15. He had been on life support since June 16.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter, relatives, friends, and well-wishers to mourn his demise.

The poet will be laid to rest at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals’ Graveyard today.

Born in Tangail in 1943, Al Mujahidi was involved in student politics, and was jailed several times for his participation in the anti-British movement. His father, Abdul Halim Jamali, was a playwright and organiser, and mother Sakhina Khan was a lyricist and social worker.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Hit by dump trucks, two children die in Ctg and Gazipur

STAR REPORT

At least two children were killed and two others were injured after being hit by dump trucks in separate incidents in Chattogram and Gazipur yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Chattogram’s Hathazari upazila, a schoolboy named Md Samir, 13, was killed after being run over by a speeding dump truck while trying to cross the road to attend his elder sister’s wedding reception in Diamond Touch Community Centre on the other side around 3:30pm.

The deceased was a resident of Shayesta Khan Para area in the upazila and attended Hathazari Parbati Model Government High School, said Monjur Kader Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BGB foils two more push-in attempts

STAR REPORT

The Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday said it thwarted separate attempts by India’s Border Security Force to push seven people into Bangladesh through border points in Meherpur and Lalmonirhat.

In Meherpur, BSF personnel tried to push four people into Bangladesh through the Khalpara area along the Buripota BOP border in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

“An attempt to push four people into Bangladesh through the Meherpur border was foiled early this morning. BGB members are maintaining a strict position along the border to prevent any untoward situation,” said Lieutenant Colonel Md Nazmul Hasan, commanding officer of Chuadanga Battalion-6 BGB.

According to locals, the four were seen roaming beyond the zero line on the Indian side of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

11-year-old house help dies after falling from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An 11-year-old house help died after reportedly falling from the 10th floor of a 12-storey building in Dhaka’s Dhanmondi area early yesterday.

The incident occurred around 6:30am at a building on Road 9/A. The child, Rikta Akter, was taken to Ibn Sina Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Building staff said Rikta had been working at an apartment on the 10th floor since the beginning of this month.

Sajedul Islam, a plumber at the building, said residents and staff rushed outside after hearing a loud sound.

“We searched the premises and found the girl behind the building, lying on the ground and bleeding. She was still alive and breathing heavily,” he said.

She was first taken to a nearby diagnostic centre and later transferred to Ibn Sina Hospital, where she was declared dead.

Building caretaker Shahin Hossain said the apartment where Rikta worked was occupied by a family of four. “After returning from the hospital, we rang the apartment’s intercom for about 20 minutes before someone answered. When they were told that their domestic

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Khulna solar plant lies idle for 14 years

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A 20-kilowatt solar power plant and training centre in Khulna city, set up in 2008 to promote renewable energy and create public awareness, has been lying idle for nearly 14 years due to neglect.

The facility is located beside a pond in a park in Sonadanga Residential Area.

The project was jointly implemented by the European Union, Germany’s Bremen University and Khulna City Corporation.

The initiative began in 2007, when Dr Bibhuti Roy, a former professor at Germany’s Bremen University, proposed setting up a solar power training institute and generation centre.

He prepared the “Promotion of Renewable (Solar) Energy” project for Khulna division and secured a grant of Tk 1.05 crore from donor agencies.

“I believed that small-scale individual initiatives to generate solar power at the community level, including household rooftops, tin-shed houses, pond embankments, and other unused spaces in villages and towns, could transform the energy sector in a country like Bangladesh sustainably,” Dr Bibhuti said over the phone.

“Large projects alone cannot solve the problem,” he added.

He said despite repeated efforts to keep the initiative alive and operational, little progress had been made.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Solar panels at the 20KW plant in Khulna’s Sonadanga area have been idle for 14 years. Functional but forgotten, the EU-funded project now symbolises wasted potential -- revivable at just Tk 12-15 lakh. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR