

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 26, 2026

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXVI No. 151

ASHAR 12, 1433 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 10, 1448 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

China pledges full support for Teesta management

13 MoUs inked as Tarique holds talks with Chinese premier, business leaders

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China has pledged its full support for the management of the Teesta and other rivers in Bangladesh as the two countries signed at least 13 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) yesterday covering political, economic, and strategic cooperation.

The assurance came during a meeting between Chinese Water Resources Minister Li Guoying and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing during the premier's official visit.

After years of deliberation, Bangladesh also signed an MoU on joining China's Global Development Initiative (GDI), which promotes the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tarique had a packed schedule yesterday, which included bilateral talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, attending the Bangladesh Investment Forum, and meeting with senior Chinese political leaders and business executives.

Among those who met him were the chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the chairman of the Export-Import Bank of China (China EXIM Bank), senior officials of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PM'S DAY IN CHINA

Investment push in Beijing

Railway modernisation discussed

Friendship Hospital support sought

Backing for security, sovereignty secured

BNP-CPC agreement signed

Xi-Tarique meeting today



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang during a visit to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday, where the two sides held bilateral talks and signed more than a dozen memorandums of understanding. Earlier in the day, Qiang accorded Tarique a red-carpet reception and a ceremonial guard of honour.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



Neymar and Vinicius Junior celebrate after Brazil's 3-0 victory over Scotland in Miami yesterday, a result that saw the Selecao advance to the World Cup Round of 32 as Group C winners. While Neymar made his long-awaited return for Brazil, Vinicius stole the show with a brace.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Neymar inspires, Vinicius delivers

NABID YEASIN

If not Neymar, then who?

The answer to that question, often asked whenever doubts emerge around Brazil, is being delivered by Vinicius Junior at this World Cup -- perhaps without the attention he deserves, but certainly with greater conviction than ever before.

The loudest cheer inside Miami Stadium on Wednesday came in the 76th minute. Unsurprisingly, it was reserved

for Neymar, who stepped onto the pitch for the first time at this tournament and marked his return to Brazil colours after 981 days away.

Yet by then, the contest was already over.

Brazil were well on their way to sealing a comfortable 3-0 victory over Scotland, and once again Vinicius had been at the heart of it.

It was a night that gave Brazil supporters plenty to celebrate. Neymar

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Mbappe, Haaland set for WC duel

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Having already secured their places in the Round of 32 of the FIFA World Cup by winning their opening two Group I matches, tournament favourites France and dark horse Norway will face off in a highly anticipated clash in Boston tonight to determine the group champions.

However, beyond the battle between the two teams lies another fascinating contest -- a showdown between two of the finest footballers of the modern era, Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland. Both



stars have already lit up North America with their brilliance, making this encounter a true clash of titans and a compelling "match within a match."

Although they play in different leagues -- Mbappe for Real Madrid and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bribes rose 15.9% during interim govt

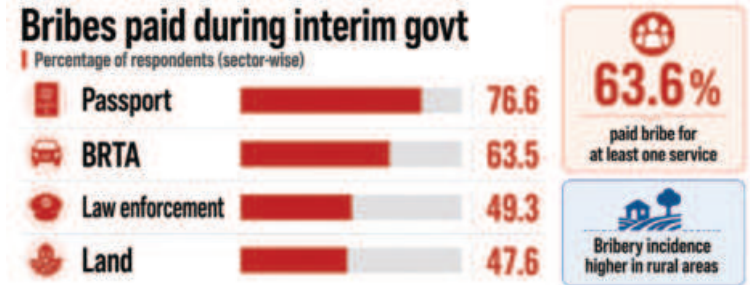
TIB survey finds people paid Tk 12,633cr in speed money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As much as Tk 12,633.2 crore was paid in bribes during the period of the interim government in service sectors, up 15.9 percent from 2023, found the Transparency International Bangladesh's (TIB) latest National Household Survey.

The amount is equivalent to 1.58 percent of the national budget for fiscal 2024-25, underscoring the high economic cost of corruption, said the survey "Corruption in Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2025", which was unveiled yesterday.

TIB conducted the survey from November 2024 to October 2025 and found that corruption in service sectors has worsened.



As many as 81.6 percent households experienced corruption in at least one service sector, up from 70.9 percent in 2023.

The survey's findings reflect the state of corruption during the interim government's tenure and could serve as a baseline for assessing future anti-corruption efforts, said TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzzaman.

Passport services remained the most corruption-prone sector, with 84.4 percent of users reporting corruption, followed by BRTA services (79.3 percent), judicial services (71.3 percent), law enforcement agencies (69.4 percent) and land services (66.3 percent).

In terms of bribery, passport services also topped the list, with 76.6 percent of the users reporting they paid bribes.

It was followed by services from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (63.5 percent), law enforcement agencies and agricultural services (49.3 percent each), and land services (47.6 percent).

Overall, 63.6 percent households reported paying bribes to access at least one service sector, compared with 50.8 percent in 2023. The incidence of bribery was higher in rural areas (66 percent) than in urban

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

India to resume issuing tourist visas from Sunday

Trivedi announces

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has announced the resumption of tourist visas for Bangladeshi citizens from June 28, nearly two years after they were suspended following the 2024 political changeover.

Dinesh Trivedi, the newly appointed Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, made the announcement at the Indian Visa Application Centre in Jamuna Future Park after presenting his credentials to President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"I am very happy to be able to announce the launch of general travel visas again. Visa applications can be submitted starting June 28. Urgent medical visas will continue to be provided for humanitarian reasons," he told journalists.

He said visas would be issued through five centres -- Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, and Khulna -- and that services would be expanded further in the future.

"We hope that this will further strengthen the people-to-people ties

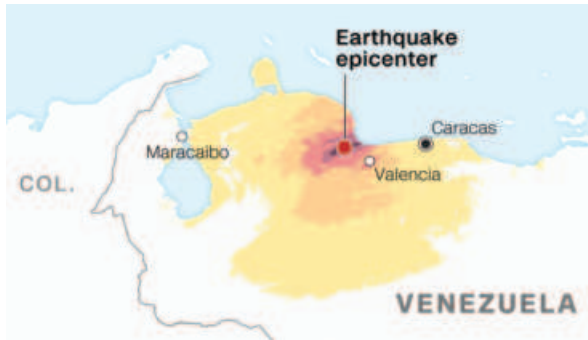
SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, we will be available online during the holiday.

Venezuela twin quakes kill 188

Scores injured; death toll to rise as rescuers scour ruins amid widespread devastation



AGENCIES

Desperate Venezuelans battled yesterday to rescue loved ones trapped alive beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings after two major earthquakes killed at least 188 people.

Buildings cracked and crumbled and residents fled into the streets after the quakes, which the United States Geological Survey measured at magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5, hit northern Venezuela within a minute of each other on Wednesday night.

Offers of rescue support and aid flooded in as National Assembly chief Jorge Rodriguez said the death toll had risen to 188, with 1,520 injured.

The death toll is expected to rise.

The USGS, using predictive modeling to estimate the death toll, said it would most likely run into the thousands, with a substantial probability of exceeding 10,000.

A website set up to track missing people and posted

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



People stand in front of a damaged apartment building following an earthquake in Catia La Mar, La Guaira state, about 30 km northwest of Caracas, Venezuela yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mother, three daughters killed in Lakshmipur

Suspect beaten to death by mob

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A woman and her three daughters were killed in an attack at their rented home in Lakshmipur's Raipur upazila yesterday, while the suspected attacker was later beaten to death by a mob, police said.

The victims were identified as Shahinur Begum, 38; her eldest daughter Saima Akter, 21, who recently passed HSC exams; Ikra Akter, 17, a college student; and Shifa Akter, 9.

The alleged attacker was Antar Mazumder, 35, said Lakshmipur Superintendent of Police Md Abu Tareq.

According to police, the attack took place between 10:45am and 11:15am at the family's rented house in the Godown Road area under Ward 3 of Raipur Municipality.

Quoting locals, police said the family hailed from Cumilla's Homna and had been living in the rented house for several years.

After Shahinur's husband was electrocuted a few years ago, she had been living there with her three daughters and a son.

Antar, a resident of Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila, previously lived in the same building. Although he moved elsewhere about a year ago, he continued to visit the house regularly, according to locals and police.

Police, quoting locals, said Antar entered the residence yesterday with a sharp weapon and attacked Shahinur and her three daughters, leaving them critically injured.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4