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Women artisans weave sheetol pati, a traditional mat, in Hailakathi village of Jhalakathi yesterday. The craft, passed down through generations in parts of Jhalakathi, Rajapur and Barishal, is declining as falling demand forces many families to leave the profession. A mat sells for Tk 800-2,700, depending on size and quality.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

IN FOCUS

Strong children mean a stronger nation: PM

UNB, *Dhaka*



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh's foundation would grow stronger in a competitive world if every child was given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities.

"Children are the pillars of their families. When children are given the right environment and opportunities to grow and flourish, families also become stronger," he said at a programme marking Children's Rights Day 2026 and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Shishu Academy in the capital.

Tarique urged children to develop themselves not only through education but also through sports, Quran recitation, music and other cultural activities.

The PM said the government was working to provide children with opportunities to develop their talents in sports, arts, culture and music, particularly as many families could not afford such facilities.

"We are trying to create these facilities at the school level -- whether it is art, culture, sports or music -- so that every child can choose according to

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ABRAR MURDER

Seven years on, case still stuck in appeals

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Seven years after the murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad, the judicial process is still awaiting final settlement, with appeals pending before the Appellate Division.

Although both the lower court and the High Court



delivered verdicts in the case, the final disposal and execution of the sentences remain stalled as several convicts appealed against the HC judgement.

On December 8, 2021, a Dhaka speedy trial tribunal sentenced 20 accused to death and five others to life imprisonment.

The HC upheld the

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DSCC starts dredging work at Dhanmondi Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday began dredging and development work at Dhanmondi Lake to restore its navigability and improve its environment and appearance.

Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam and DSCC Administrator Md Abdus Salam inaugurated the Tk 26 crore project, which is expected to be completed in around a year.

The 3.10-kilometre-long lake, with an average width of 56 metres, has accumulated an estimated 1,62,534 cubic metres of sludge. DSCC plans to remove it using two floating excavators and four barges.

The approximately 86-acre Dhanmondi Lake area, including a 55-acre waterbody, was developed in the 1960s from remnants of the old Pandu river.

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Dengue deaths hit 281, third highest in 26 years



At least 10 dengue patients died, the highest single-day toll this year, while 1,996 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours to 8:00am yesterday.

HELEMUL ALAM

With 10 more dengue deaths reported yesterday, the death toll from the mosquito-borne disease this year has risen to 281, making it the joint third-highest annual toll since Bangladesh recorded its first major dengue outbreak 26 years ago.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, the highest number of dengue deaths was recorded in 2023, when 1,705 people died. The toll was 575 in 2024 and 281 in 2022.

A death review by the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), led by its Director Prof Quazi Ahmed Zaki, found that more than one-third of dengue patients who died did so within a day of hospital admission.

The review of 119 deaths found that 62.5 percent of the patients died from dengue shock syndrome, 31.2 percent from expanded dengue syndrome and 16.1 percent from dengue with bleeding, while 12.5 percent died from other causes, according to Prof Zaki.

It also found that many patients had faced delays of at least three days before being diagnosed.

Medicine specialist Dr ABM Abdullah said repeated infections,

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Textile sector concerns to be raised in JS

Says Shafiqur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman has assured textile sector leaders that he would raise their concerns in parliament and discuss them with the government when necessary.

He gave the assurance during a meeting with leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at the official residence of the leader of the opposition on Minto Road in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

The meeting discussed incentives for the textile sector, gas and power supply, challenges following Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC category, taxes and duties, and various complications.

At a briefing after the meeting, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said opposing every government initiative was not their political culture.

Porwar said the party would support government initiatives that serve public and national interests, while criticising decisions that go against public interests and protesting if necessary.

Khulna district sees 33 killings in nine months

Rupsha, Paikgachha, Koyra and Dighalia hotspots

DIPANKAR ROY

Like every day, Akhtar Dhali, 55, was sitting at a tea stall beside a mosque in Durjanimahal village of Rupsha upazila after Maghrib prayers on Monday.

Around 6:30pm, gunshots rang out. Locals and family members rushed to the spot and found Akhtar lying face down beside a bench. He was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police said armed assailants wearing helmets and riding three to four motorcycles were involved in the attack.

Akhtar had been struggling to cope with the murder of his son, Joy Dhali, who was hacked to death and had his throat slit on August 15. Akhtar had reportedly received threats from various quarters and was also worried about his financial condition and safety.

His killing has added to concerns over violence in Khulna, where 33 murder cases were recorded in the first nine months of this year.

According to district police, violence was spread across several areas and linked to different types of conflicts, with Rupsha, Paikgachha, Dighalia and Koyra upazilas emerging as hotspots.

The four upazilas recorded 24 murder cases between January and September 29, including 11 in Rupsha alone.

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Echoes of the past from Rajshahi chars

BGB hands over recovered artefacts to national museum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Around 26 ancient stone idols and 1,818 metal coins, including a rare stone sculpture of "Revanta" believed to date back to the seventh century, were handed over to the National Museum by Border Guard Bangladesh.

The artefacts, recovered at different times from charlands and border areas of the Barind basin in Rajshahi, were formally handed over to the museum's History and Classical Art Department on September 24.

BGB's Rajshahi Battalion, led by its commanding officer Lt Col Reaz Shahrear, handed over the antiquities to a four-member National Museum delegation headed by Director Sadekul Islam and Keeper Mohammad Monirul Hoque.

"All the antiquities we recovered from February 2025 to July this year were handed over together. They had been preserved in our custody until now," Lt Col Shahrear said.

The Revanta sculpture is considered particularly significant.

According to religious accounts, Revanta -- the Hindu deity of horses, hunting, travellers and forests -- is the youngest son of the solar deity Surya and his wife Sanjna. Worship and representations of Revanta were prevalent in mediaeval eastern India, particularly Bengal and Bihar, with sculptural evidence dating back to as early as the sixth century.

The museum's History and Classical Art Department believes the recovered sculpture dates to the seventh century.

Two other notable pieces are a Jain Tirthankara, believed to date from the ninth or 10th century, and an Aparajita sculpture from the 11th or 12th century.

The collection also includes stone sculptures of Chamunda -- a fierce manifestation of the goddess Durga -- and Nataraja Shiva in dancing form.

Most of the black-stone Vishnu sculptures represent the sculptural tradition of the 11th and 12th centuries, according to the department.

The 1,818 metal coins recovered from the Padma's charlands belong to different periods, including the British era, colonial India, Pakistan and independent Bangladesh.

The museum is preparing the artefacts for preservation and documentation. Once conservation work and information panels

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