



PM urges Japanese envoy to help ensure safe, dignified Rohingya repatriation

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday urged Japan's Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar Yohei Sasakawa to play a role in ensuring the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland. Sasakawa, who is also Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat

Shadhin. During the meeting, the Japanese special envoy said he had been working for nearly 50 years to promote peace and address inequality in different parts of the world, and briefed Tarique on his role in Myanmar's national reconciliation process. Highlighting the severe pressure the Rohingya crisis has placed on Bangladesh, Sasakawa said he was aware of the situation and outlined Japan's humanitarian assistance and grants for the Rohingyas. Tarique

Rahman thanked Sasakawa for visiting Bangladesh and appreciated his long-standing humanitarian work. PM urges Japanese envoy to help ensure safe, dignified Rohingya repatriation. The Prime Minister described the Rohingya crisis as one of Bangladesh's biggest challenges, thanking the Japanese government for standing by Bangladesh in addressing it. "Bangladesh is already a densely populated country. Hosting a huge number of Rohingyas

Mirsarai Economic Zone at 10: A Decade of Growth, Investment and Industrial Challenges



Mirsarai, Chattogram Correspondent

The Mirsarai Economic Zone, officially renamed the National Special Economic Zone, is marking a decade of progress, investment and industrial transformation. Over the past ten years, the zone has gradually

emerged as one of Bangladesh's most important hubs for industry and investment, driven by the establishment of new factories, infrastructure development and expanding employment opportunities. Its strategic location, easy access to the national highway and proximity to Chattogram Port have attracted growing interest from both local and foreign investors. Alongside the expansion of industrial establishments, the economic zone has also created new opportunities for local businesses, transportation and service sectors. However, the shortage of natural gas has emerged as one of the major challenges to industrial growth. While electricity supply remains largely uninterrupted, many investors are being forced to use LPG as an alternative fuel due to the lack of adequate gas connections. This has increased production costs and placed additional pressure on industrial operations. Stakeholders believe that ensuring a reliable energy supply, developing a skilled workforce, protecting the environment and providing modern civic

Only 30,311 doctors serving in govt hospitals against 88,909 needed: Health Minister

Staff correspondent

Only 30,311 doctors are currently working in government hospitals across Bangladesh, while the country needs around 88,909 physicians to meet the minimum doctor-population ratio in line with international standard, said Health Minister Sardar Md Sakawat Husain on Monday. "According to a government-funded study conducted in 2026, Bangladesh will need around 88,909 doctors in 2026 to meet the WHO's minimum standard of 0.50 doctors per 1,000 population," he told Parliament. The minister made the remarks while replying to a scripted question from ruling BNP lawmaker Md Jahander Ali Miha (Madaripur-2) during the question-and-answer session in Parliament. The sitting began around 3:00pm with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, in the chair. The health minister said the number of total approved posts for doctors is 41,806 in government hospitals, of which 30,311 doctors are currently working, leaving 11,495 posts vacant. He



8 arrested over killing of SB sub-inspector at Savar

Staff correspondent

Eight more accused have been arrested in connection with the murder of a Special Branch (SB) sub-inspector in Savar have been arrested, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said Monday. Of them, four were arrested from the Munshiganj launch terminal area by RAB-10, while the remaining four were arrested from Aminbazar in Savar by RAB-4. The arrestees are Alauddin, Apon, Jihad, Imran, Nur Mohammad Rudra, Rakib Mia, Sabbir Ahmed and Md Wasim. RAB-10 Commanding Officer Additional DIG Md Asaduzzaman disclosed the information at a press briefing at the RAB Media Centre at Karwan Bazar. Earlier, police arrested Jahirul, the prime accused in the case. According to RAB, SB SI Altaf Hossain, 58, was beaten to death in Bordeshi area of Aminbazar on Aug 5. The incident took place between around 8:30pm and 11pm after Altaf protested when a private car driver and his associates were beating the owner of an auto-rickshaw garage, leading to an argument between the SI and those beating the garage owner. At one point, Altaf identified himself as a police officer but they became more aggressive. To save his life, Altaf ran into a garment factory owned by his son Ariful. The attackers followed him there and called 15 to 20 more associates before breaking open the factory gate and entering the premises. They then beat Altaf and his son Ariful indiscriminately with local weapons and sticks and vandalised machinery and furniture inside the factory. Locals rescued the injured father and son

Govt to introduce 'mid-day meal' in all primary schools next year: Bobby

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj today said the government plans to introduce the 'mid-day meal' programme in all government primary schools across the country by next year to ensure children's nutrition and prevent school dropouts. He said this while replying to questions from journalists at a press briefing held at the Secretariat this afternoon on the occasion of International Literacy Day 2026. The state minister said providing nutritious food plays a highly effective role in ensuring 100 percent attendance among children aged 4 to 10 in primary schools and retaining them in institutional education. He said students in 151 upazilas are currently receiving nutritious food under the school feeding programme. The government plans to expand the programme and introduce it in government primary schools in all upazilas across the country by next year, he added. Regarding food quality and management, Bobby Hajjaj said regular monitoring has been strengthened to maintain nutritional stan

Four people from the same family killed in Rangpur, Shanto Das confessional statement in court



Mohinul Islam Sujan, Crime Reporter

New information has come to the fore in the investigation of the four murders of the same family discussed in Machuapara (Daspara) of Rangpur Nagar. After the murder, Siddharth Das, one of the accused in the case, confessed to him about killing four people - a young man named Shanto Das gave a statement in the court under section 164 as a witness.

the matter. The investigating officer said that on the night of August 22, Siddharth Das and Mochad Das bought three yaba from Shanta Das. At that time Shanto saw scratches on Siddharth's body. He asked Siddharth to know the reason for the scratch as the matter seemed unusual to him. Then Siddharth Das told Shanto, "I killed four people including Ganapati

Creative talents should be brought under loan facilities: Amir Khosru

Staff correspondent

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today called for bringing talented people in the country's creative economy under loan facilities to help turn their potential into entrepreneurship. "Alongside conventional enterprises, creative talents should also be brought under the financing facility. The government will make arrangements for providing them with the necessary additional support," he said. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Small Business and Micro Enterprise Financing Fund organised by Karmasangsthan Bank at Osmani Memorial Auditorium here. The minister said financing should not be confined to conventional small businesses or poultry and agriculture-based enterprises. Entrepreneurs involved in music, films, theatre and traditional handicrafts should also be provided with loans, skills development, modern

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President Fakhrul lays foundation stone of Thakurgaon University

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday laid the foundation stone of the long-awaited Thakurgaon University. The President formally inaugurated the construction of the public university by unveiling a plaque and laying the foundation stone at a ceremony held in Jamalpur area of Sadar upazila beside Thakurgaon-Pirganj highway. The university is being established on around 86 acres of land. The President said the foundation stone laying marked the fulfilment of a commitment made by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Responding to a question from journalists, the President said politics of tolerance, rather than confrontation, must be

established in the country. The President said a university is not merely an institution of higher education; it is also a centre for knowledge, research, innovation and human resource development in a region. He expressed hope that Thakurgaon University would open new avenues for modern and quality higher education for students in the northern region and play an important role in producing skilled, competent and humane citizens for national development. After unveiling the plaque and laying the foundation stone, the President offered prayers seeking the university's overall progress and prosperity. He urged all concerned to complete the university's infrastructure within the stipulated time while maintaining high

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10,000 Bangladeshi workers can go to Italy legally each year: Shahe Alam

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam yesterday said there is an opportunity for 10,000 Bangladeshi workers to legally go to Italy every year, while the number stands at 12,000 including their families' members. He revealed this information while talking to reporters at the Secretariat here after Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Antonio Alessandro met Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan. State Minister Mir Shahe Alam and Local Government Division Secretary Md Shahidul Hasan were present at the meeting. Shahe Alam said there are a large number of illegal immigrants in Italy, while about 60 to 70 percent of the 250,000 Bangladeshis living in Italy are from Shariatpur and Madaripur. To reduce the risk of illegal migration to Italy

by sea, a joint workshop has been proposed in Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur regions with local administration and public representatives, he said. The state minister said there has been no discussion on legalising those who are living in Italy illegally. The Ministry of Home Affairs will take action against those who are going illegally through brokers, he said. He said Italy has also agreed to work on food waste prevention and food security in Bangladesh following the model of Italian Milan city. Khulna City Corporation has been chosen to this end, he said. About the outcomes of the yesterday's meeting, the state minister said both sides agreed to increase the skills of Bangladeshi workers, language training and mutual cooperation in environmental management. An invitation has been extended to train Bangladeshi architects in Italy to improve their skills, he

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BB lists 131 eligible collateral valuation firms for banks

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has listed 131 institutions and companies as eligible collateral valuation firms for assessing securities submitted against loans taken or to be taken by borrowers of scheduled banks. According to a circular letter issued by the central bank yesterday, the listed firms have been divided into two groups-98 institutions in Group 'A' and 33 in Group 'B'. The Bangladesh Bank's Banking Regulation and Policy Department-1 said the list was prepared under the policy on enlistment of collateral valuation institutions or companies introduced through a circular issued on November 28, 2023. The central bank advised scheduled banks to conduct valuation of collateral provided against loans through the enlisted institutions in accordance with the relevant policy and other instructions issued by Bangladesh Bank from time to time. The enlistment will remain valid for three years. The enlisted institutions will have to apply for renewal six months before the expiry of the validity period, according to the circular. However,

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Acting Editor



Md. Neyamul Hossain
Acting Editor

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Law and order must be strengthened

Words of assurance not enough to convince citizens

Reports of several recent cases of fatal mugging and robbery have again shaken the public. The latest incident, involving a body found on the Dhaka Elevated Expressway in Banani on September 4, has left many feeling insecure. According to police, the victim was allegedly killed inside a Dhaka-bound bus by the driver and other staffers after they noticed he was carrying Tk 2-5 lakhs and plotted to rob him. Another incident involved a headteacher who died after falling from a moving rickshaw as muggers snatched her bag. This, incidentally, happened in an area housing the very complex where laws are passed to ensure citizens’ safety and wellbeing.

Safety seems elusive even within the four walls of homes; the gruesome murder of Ganapati Chakraborty and his family late last month in their Rangpur residence is a case in point. Analysing crime reports from February to September 5, this daily has found at least 19 incidents in which at least two members of the same family were murdered, leaving around 50 people dead. Despite such frequent reports of gruesome crimes, the home minister at a recent press meet rejected the perception that the law-and-order situation has worsened. Referring to Police Headquarters (PHQ) data, he said it presents an opposite picture. However, a comparative analysis of crime data by categories between the last six months of the interim administration and the first six months of the BNP regime, based on PHQ data, reveals a less straightforward picture. While cases involving robbery, theft, and mugging declined, those relating to murder, attacks on law enforcers, and violence against women and children have risen.

Meanwhile, compilations of human rights violation reports by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) show that 195 incidents of rape and gang rape occurred between August 2025 and January 2026, while 345 took place between February and July 2026. Since PHQ and ASK use different methodologies, the figures are not comparable. Nevertheless, it is a gross overstatement to say that the law-and-order situation is “satisfactory.”

So, we urge the government to look beyond crime statistics and instil a sense of safety in citizens through effective measures—proper investigations, quick trials, strong evidence, and witness and victim protection. When more than half of all murder cases end in acquittal (as a Police Bureau of Investigation study shows), hollow words of assurance are not enough. Besides, the government must ensure that political influence and partisan appointments will not obstruct police work or demotivate them. It must deliver on its election-time promises of improved law and order.

Bangladesh’s ‘Tesla’ crisis is really a crisis of regulation

Md. Neyamul Hossain

associated with charging these vehicles could be causing around Tk 4,000 crore in annual revenue losses. These numbers are significant, but they also require a distinction that is often missing from the public debate. A driver who pays a garage owner to charge a battery is not necessarily the person who arranged an illegal electricity connection. The battery-rickshaw economy includes drivers, vehicle owners, garage operators,



charging businesses, and manufacturers. Electricity theft, therefore, needs to be pursued through the networks that facilitate it, rather than by treating every driver as equally responsible. Importantly, the electricity consumed by these vehicles is not going to disappear if the vehicles are simply banned. If battery-powered transport remains part of Bangladesh’s urban economy, its electricity demand needs to be brought into formal energy planning. The same logic applies to transport. Battery rickshaws are not merely an informal nuisance. They fill a genuine gap in Dhaka’s transport system. The January 2026 study cited earlier found that 82 percent of surveyed passengers preferred battery rickshaws, primarily because they were faster and relatively inexpensive, while most trips were between one and three kilometres. They are particularly important for the last mile between major transport corridors and residential areas. A 2025 study of Dhaka metro users found that around 43 percent relied on informal rickshaws as their primary transport to metro stations. This creates a legitimate policy dilemma. Removing battery rickshaws without providing affordable alternatives could leave passengers stranded and workers without an accessible source of income. That, however, does not excuse unsafe driving. At least 30 percent of surveyed passen-

gers, who participated in the January 2026 study by Innovision Consulting, reported accidents involving battery-powered rickshaws, compared with 18 percent involving pedal rickshaws. It also found that 44.54 percent of battery-rickshaw accidents resulted in serious or very serious injuries, compared with 29.58 percent for pedal rickshaws.

A faster, heavier vehicle requires better brakes, steering, tyres, lights, and driver training than a traditional pedal rickshaw. Yet the sector has developed largely outside the formal licensing and registration system.

And that is precisely where regulation should begin.

First, registration must become practical and affordable. Every commercially operated battery rickshaw should have an identifiable registration number linked to its owner and basic vehicle information. Second, drivers should receive basic training and licensing. Training should cover traffic rules, pedestrian safety, braking, overtaking, passenger limits, and emergency procedures. The cost must be low enough that formalisation does not push poor workers further into informality. Third, vehicles need minimum safety standards. Brakes, steering, tyres, lights, reflectors, electrical wiring, batteries, passenger capacity, and maximum speed should be regulated.

Manufacturers and assemblers should also be brought under a formal safety framework. Fourth, charging must be brought into the legal electricity system. Licensed charging stations with metered connections would allow the government to measure demand, collect revenue, and identify electricity theft. It could also create legitimate businesses around charging, battery servicing, maintenance, and recycling.

Ultimately, the objective should not be to legitimise unsafe vehicles. It should be to make an existing transport sector safer and more accountable. Bangladesh has already moved beyond the point where battery rickshaws can be treated as a temporary phenomenon. They are part of the urban transport economy and an important source of income for thousands of workers. That is why the debate should move beyond the question of whether “Teslas” should be banned. The better questions are, in fact, harder: how can these vehicles be registered? How can drivers be trained? What safety standards should they meet? How should their electricity demand be regulated? And how can the state crack down on electricity theft without destroying the livelihoods and mobility networks that have grown around them? And this is precisely where government intervention can wield the best results.

PM urges Japanese envoy to

for a prolonged period has created additional pressure on our economy, infrastructure and overall management,” he said. Tarique said Bangladesh is ready to provide necessary cooperation for the rehabilitation of the Rohingyas in Myanmar after their repatriation.Sasakawa said he discussed the Rohingya issue with the Myanmar’s president and believes that the Myanmar government is sincere about resolving the crisis.However, he said the complex situation in Rakhine State meant that progress on Rohingya repatriation would take time. Tarique said Bangladesh is ready to extend all-out cooperation for the repatriation of Rohingyas, as their return to their homeland would create opportunities to improve their living standards including access to education and healthcare.PM urges Japanese envoy to help ensure safe, dignified Rohingya repatriation Sasakawa assured the Prime Minister that he would make his utmost efforts to help resolve the Rohingya crisis. The two sides also discussed the need to strengthen multilateral initiatives and international cooperation rather than relying solely on bilateral efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

The Prime Minister also sought the Japanese envoy’s cooperation in establishing a vaccine production centre in Bangladesh. Sasakawa said he would work on the matter sincerely.

Tarique also said Bangladesh is keen to attract Japanese investment and his government is working to ensure an investment-friendly environment in the country.He also expressed Bangladesh’s interest in further improving bilateral relations with Myanmar. Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Finance and Planning Adviser Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, State Minister-1 for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir, State Minister-2 for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed and Prime Minister’s Special Assistant Shakirul Islam Khan were present.

Creative talents should

design, branding and market-linkage support, he added. “Many educated and creative people in the country cannot utilise their talents because of financial constraints. Their access to the banking system is also limited,” he said. Amir Khosru said one of the major objectives of such financing programmes should be to take funding opportunities to these talented people and create entrepreneurs. He said creative activities contribute around 10 percent to the economies of some countries, while Bangladesh has set a target of raising the contribution of its creative economy to at least 3 percent.

The minister also highlighted the importance of developing the rural economy by supporting people engaged in traditional occupations.

“Families involved in weaving, brassware, pottery and other traditional professions have been carrying on these occupations for generations. If they are provided with skills development, modern designs, quality raw materials, branding and marketing support, the value of their products can increase manifold,” he said.He said a product worth Tk 100 could be sold for Tk 200 to Tk 300 through improved design and quality.

Amir Khosru also stressed the importance of using online international marketplaces to take Bangladeshi traditional and creative products to consumers in different countries. He said providing loans alone would not be sufficient for entrepreneurs in micro, small and cottage industries.“They have to be identified and provided with an integrated package of training, skills development, design, branding and marketing support,” he said.

The minister said loan financing also creates a sense of responsibility among entrepreneurs as they have to repay the money along with the associated cost or interest.

Because there is a cost involved with loan money, entrepreneurs have an incentive and responsibility to make their investments successful. On the other hand, grant money provided without any cost is not always utilised in the desired manner,” he said.He said financing programmes have already created employment opportunities for around 1.3 million people, while another 900,000 jobs are expected to be created, taking the total employment opportunities to around 2.2 million.Karmasangsthan Bank Chairman Dr AFM Matiuur Rahman presided over the programme. Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Finance Division Secretary Dr Md Khairuzzaman Mojumder and Financial Institutions Division Secretary Nazma Mubarek, among others, addressed the event.

President Fakhru lays foundation

standards of construction and reiterated the government’s commitment to the education sector. Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu, State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Dr Mamun Ahmed, Thakurgaon University Vice-Chancellor Dr Md Israfil and senior officials were present at the ceremony.

Mirsarai Economic Zone

facilities will be essential to unlocking the zone’s full potential.

After a decade of progress, the Mirsarai Economic Zone has opened a new chapter in Bangladesh’s industrialisation and economic development. If existing energy and infrastructure challenges are effectively addressed, the zone is expected to play an even greater role in boosting the national economy, exports and employment in the years ahead.

Only 30,311 doctors

said international and national health workforce standards are taken into consideration when determining the number of doctors required in proportion to the country’s population.The total number of doctors in the country and the number working in the government healthcare system are not the same, he said.He said the government has already taken various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts in government healthcare institutions and increase the number of doctors.“A significant number of doctors have been recruited through the 44th and 48th special BCS examinations, while the recruitment of assistant surgeons through the 45th, 46th, 47th and 50th BCS examinations is also underway,” he said.The minister said the government will continue its ongoing recruitment process to gradually fill vacant posts in government healthcare institutions. He said new posts would also be created as necessary to ensure accessible, quality and people-friendly healthcare services for the country’s population.

8 arrested over killing

and took them to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka where doctors declared Altaf dead.

The victim’s wife filed a murder case with Savar Model Police Station naming 15 people and several unnamed others as accused.RAB official Asaduzzaman said Apon is a ringleader of a juvenile gang and a drug supplier. He has three cases filed with different police stations.According to RAB, Apon hit SI Altaf on the head with an SS pipe during the attack, while Jihad seriously injured him with a knife.

In response to a question from journalists, the RAB official said the incident was an isolated one and that all the accused

were under the influence of drugs at the time.

Govt to introduce ‘mid-day

dards in the food menu and ensure an uninterrupted supply. Besides, transparency in food distribution is being ensured by forming ‘Mothers’ Committees’ involving local mothers and women at the grassroots level, he added.Mentioning that feedback from the pilot project would be reviewed, Bobby Hajjaj further said new items would be added to the food menu, if necessary.Responding to a question about the recruitment and training of teachers for the new subject to be introduced in Class IV, the state minister said an introductory textbook on Sports and Cultural Education is being provided to Class IV students. A full-fledged curriculum will be implemented when this batch moves to Class V in 2028. For now, assistant teachers will receive theoretical training, he added.Regarding the recruitment of head teachers, he said more than 35,000 head teacher posts were vacant or involved in legal proceedings. Discussions have begun with the Public Service Commission (PSC) so that recruitment and placement of teachers in these posts can be ensured as quickly as possible. Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Jesmin Nahar, Director General (Additional Charge) of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education Monowara Ishrat, and Director General of the Directorate of Primary Education Shahina Ferdousi, among other senior officials, were present at the press briefing.

10,000 Bangladeshi workers can go

said.Once a specific list is prepared, the mayors and architects of the city corporations will be sent on this visit, he said. As part of the exchange of skilled manpower, Italy will send representatives to teach Italian language to Bangladeshi workers and trainers, Shahe Alam said.About the worker’s recruitment in Malaysia, Shahe Alam said the High Commissioner of Malaysia has been requested to recruit 200,000 Bangladeshi workers.Talking to reporters, the Italian envoy said they discussed trade, migration and friendly relations between the cities of the two countries. He said although it was a courtesy meeting, there was a fruitful discussion on how to work together to further strengthen the relations between Italy and Bangladesh, he said.

BB lists 131 eligible

Bangladesh Bank may remove any institution from the list before the expiry of the three-year period if it fails to comply with the prescribed conditions and instructions or for any reasonable cause, the circular said.The enlisted valuation firms have also been asked to submit annual reports to the Banking Regulation and Policy Department-1 of Bangladesh Bank by January 15 of the following year in the prescribed format.The central bank issued the directive under Section 29KA of the Bank Company Act, 1991, as amended up to 2023, and said it would come into effect immediately.Of the 98 firms in Group ‘A’, the list includes Bangladesh Inspection & Survey Pvt Ltd, Mollik Adjusters Ltd, Saybolt Adjusters Ltd, City Engineering Inspection Co Ltd, Baltic Control (BD) Limited, MSK Inspection Company Ltd, Amanah Survey & Engineering Inspection Ltd and Professional Survey and Engineering Ltd, among others. The 33 institutions in Group ‘B’ include Dhaka Survey Company Ltd, Prime Consulting (BD.) Ltd, Rightway Surveyors, The Radiant Surveyors, Prime Survey & Consultancy Ltd, Asian Surveyors Ltd, Pyramid Survey and Inspection Ltd and Geotech Survey Co. (Pvt.) Ltd.

Four people from the same

Chakraborty.” Hearing such words from Siddharth’s mouth, he

became worried. Later he voluntarily informed the law enforcement agencies. Investigating officer Jinnat Ali said, “Last 22 August night, Siddharth Das and Mochad Das bought three yaba from Shanta Das. Then he saw the scratches on Siddharth’s body and wanted to know the reason for this. At one point, Siddharth told him that he had killed four people including Ganapati Chakraborty. Later, Shanto Das came to the court and gave a statement as a witness under section 164. According to DB sources, the investigation revealed that Shanto Das knew important information about the incident. For this reason, his statement has been legally recorded in the court. In the court, he presented his information about the murder. The information found in his statement is being compared with the statements given by the accused, the statements of the witnesses and the evidence found so far. So far, three witnesses have given a statement under section 164 in the court in the four murder cases discussed in this regard. They are Border Das, Vidyut and Shanta Das. Vidyut is said to have served as a guard at a crematorium in the Hindu community. Mention: On August 22, the body of retired teacher Ganapati Chakraborty Jewel, his wife Pritilata Chakraborty Bhola, daughter Aayush Chakraborty Priyam’s body was recovered from his home in Machuapara, Rangpur Nagar. In this incident, the police arrested Siddharth Das and Mocha Das. Later they gave a statement under section 164 in the court. From Kotwali police station, the DB took charge of the investigation of the case. The cause of the murder, planning, the movement of the accused before and after the incident and whether anyone else is involved is being investigated seriously. However, various questions have already been raised about the various information and statements found in the investigation of the case. In particular, the information available about the drug use of the accused, the planning of the murder, the time of the incident and their movement after the murder is being verified. In the meantime, questions have been raised about the results of the dope test of the accused along with some previous statements. As a result, the investigators are looking at all the information and signs without relying on any one statement. Investigating officer Jinnat Ali said, “The investigation of the case is still going on. The information received in Shanto Das’s statement and other evidence and the information given by the accused are being verified. No information is being finalized until the investigation is over.

Affordable, quality breast cancer treatment available in Bangladesh

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh now offers quality and affordable treatment for breast cancer, with government hospitals providing low-cost or free services, prompting many patients to choose treatment at home instead of going abroad.

Forty-six-year-old Rahela Akhter (not real name) went to a physician for a breast examination, or breast screening. After conducting a physical examination, the physician suspected a problem and advised her to undergo several tests. The test results confirmed that she had breast cancer.

After visiting several hospitals, Rahela sought treatment at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in Mohakhali.

She could afford treatment abroad, but she decided to receive treatment in Bangladesh as she had heard that quality treatment was available here at a much lower cost and that many patients had recovered successfully. Instead of giving in to fear, she is facing the disease with courage.

Govt to bring electric three-wheelers under regulation: Salahuddin



Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Monday informed Parliament that the government is formulating a specific policy to bring an estimated 50-80 lakh electric three-wheelers, including battery-powered rickshaws and easy bikes, under a disciplined and regulated system. He made the statement while responding to a notice placed by BNP lawmaker Rahana Akter Ranu (Women Seat-4) under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure, seeking necessary measures to control the unregulated movement of battery-run rickshaws. The minister said battery-run rickshaws, easy bikes and similar electric three-wheelers have become an important part of the urban and rural transport system over the past decade due to their relatively low fares, easy availability and convenience for short-distance travel. The sector has also

created a large informal economic and employment network involving drivers, owners, garage owners and workers, battery and spare-parts traders, charging service providers and small entrepreneurs, he said. However, the rapid and largely unregulated expansion of the sector has created major challenges in electricity management, road safety, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, public health and institutional regulation, Salahuddin said. He said the charging of a huge number of vehicles at the same time is putting additional pressure on the power distribution system. The minister also highlighted health and environmental risks associated with the unsafe handling and informal recycling of lead-acid batteries used in many of the vehicles. He said the estimated 50-80 lakh electric three-wheelers consume around 5 percent of the country's total electricity, while the fig-

ure could be even higher. Against this huge demand, there are only around 3,300 legal charging points in the country, the minister said, adding that more than 48,000 informal or illegal charging points are in Dhaka alone. "As a result, the government is losing around Tk 4,000 crore in revenue annually due to unauthorised electricity use." He said unregistered vehicles, untrained drivers, faulty designs, weak braking and lighting systems, speeding and the movement of slow-moving vehicles on highways are increasing the risk of road accidents. According to statistics cited by Salahuddin, 6,729 road accidents occurred in 2025, killing 911 people and injuring 14,812 others. Battery-run rickshaws accounted for 13.54 percent of the vehicles involved in those accidents. He said the movement of unauthorised battery-run rickshaws has already been prohibited on major roads in the capital. The minister said joint operations are also being conducted by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) and Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) against rickshaw garages using illegal electricity connections. The illegal connections are being disconnected, and legal action is being taken against those involved, he said. Salahuddin said the government has taken steps to formulate a specific policy to bring auto-rickshaws under a disciplined and regulated system. "If the policy is formulated and implemented, it will be possible to bring auto-rickshaws under a licensing system by providing number plates for approved

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Khalilur takes UNGA chair tomorrow, elevates Bangladesh's diplomatic visibility

Staff correspondent

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman is set to assume the presidency of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) tomorrow, marking a defining moment for Bangladesh's diplomacy and enhancing the country's global visibility. The year-long presidency places a Bangladeshi diplomat at the helm of the UN's most representative organ at a critical juncture when conflicts, climate emergencies, development setbacks and eroding confidence in multilateralism are testing the

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BGB, villagers foil BSF's push-in attempt along Dinajpur border

Staff correspondent

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and villagers on Sunday night foiled an attempt by India's Border Security Force (BSF) to push 20 to 25 people into Bangladesh through Gobindapur border area in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur. Locals said they noticed a group of 20 to 25 Indian nationals being gathered near Border Pillar No.

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Muhurir Char: Lands Recorded, Possession Denied — Over 100 Farmers Trapped in a 79-Year Border Dispute

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The land record documents (Khatian) for their ancestral property remain carefully stored inside drawers, complete with clear government seals. Yet, for over a hundred Bangladeshi farmers in Muhurir Char under Parshuram, Feni, there is no right to set foot on the very soil where their ancestors poured blood and sweat. Armed with legitimate deeds but deprived of possession, these farmers have been enduring a cruel geopolitical reality since the 1947 Partition—a struggle spanning nearly 79

years. The dispute over this 92.14-acre land, formed along the banks of the Muhuri River at the Parshuram border, carries a long history between Bangladesh and India. Neither the historic Indira-Mujib Agreement of 1974, the 2011 Protocol, nor joint bilateral surveys have succeeded in resolving the stalemate. During the 2013-14 season, survey departments from both nations—supported by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF)—demarcated the area by driving

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Bangladesh, Switzerland find economic partnership key pillar of bilateral relations

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and Switzerland on Monday discussed ways to further expand bilateral trade and investment, including increased Swiss investment in promising sectors of the Bangladesh economy. Both sides recognised economic partnership as a key pillar of Bangladesh-Switzerland

bilateral relations. Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Reto Renggli paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kobir at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They agreed to pursue practical measures to enhance technical and vocational skills development opportunities for Bangladesh's workforce. The

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Students' housing crisis in Nilphamari, financial pressure increasing



Mohinul Islam Sujan, Crime Reporter

Various educational institutions in Nilphamari city are facing a housing crisis. Most government and private colleges have much less housing facilities than the students. As a result, thousands of students are forced to live in messes or rented houses. On the one hand, this is increasing the financial pressure of students, on the other hand, normal educational life is being disrupted.

Again, the education of thousands of students is being disrupted due to the inadequate infrastructure of the messes. In addition, insecurity has also become a big concern among par-

ents. There are various institutions in Nilphamari district city, including Nilphamari Government College, Nilphamari Government Women's College, Collectorate School and College, Mashiur Rahman Degree College, Chhamir Uddin School and College, and Nilphamari Nursing Institute. Where students from six upazilas of the district come to pursue higher education.

Among them, Nilphamari Government College has two hostels with 100 beds each for female students. Although there is a dormitory for students, it is also covered in moss. Currently, about 18,000 students are studying in Nilphamari Government College. Of these, 15,000 are regular students and about 3,000 are private students. There are about 3,000 students in Nilphamari Government Women's College. There is a 244-bed hostel for female students here. Which is insufficient compared to the need. In addition,

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Chattogram Customs earns Tk 600cr from auction goods till June 2026

Staff correspondent

Chattogram Customs has earned Tk 599.59 crore from the sale of goods through online and public auctions during the five and a half years from January 2021 to June 2026. Of the total, Tk 285.15 crore was earned during the last one and a half years, showing a significant rise in auction revenue. The initiative has also helped clear long-stagnant goods from the Chattogram Port yard while contributing to government revenue. Officials said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has taken a special initiative to clear long-standing containers by auctioning goods fit for sale and destroying those unsuitable for auction. According to Chattogram Customs auction records, 24 auctions were held in 2021, with 1,814 lots sold, generating Tk 115.64 crore in revenue. In 2022, 42 auctions generated Tk 130.37 crore from the sale of 1,381 lots. In 2023, 632 lots were sold through 23 auctions, earning Tk 41.13 crore. In 2024, 511 lots were sold through 55 auctions, generating Tk 27.29 crore, while 1,040 lots were sold through 60 auctions in 2025, earning Tk 127.67 crore. By June this year, 45 online and public auctions had been held, with 383 lots sold for Tk 157.48 crore. Mohammad Morshed, manager of KM Corporation, which works as auction manager and labour contractor for Chattogram Customs, told BSS that his organization has long been involved in auction management, inventorying consignments and delivering auctioned goods in accordance with the customs authority's directives. He said Tk 285.15 crore was earned from auctions from 2025 to June 2026, describing it as a record achievement in such a short period. Abu Sufian, assistant commissioner of Chattogram Customs' Auction Branch, told BSS that undischarged goods are being sold through online and public auctions in line with

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Govt to give honorarium for priests

Staff correspondent

The government has issued a notification to provide financial support under social safety net for the people working in worship centers of different religions. Under the policy workers at mosques, temples, Buddhist monasteries, churches and other religious institutions across the country will get monthly honorariums, festival allowances and skills development training. Ministry of Religious Affairs issued a gazette of the notification on Sunday in this regard. The policy was formulated in line with the present government's commitment in 2026 election manifesto to provide such support to religious priests. The notification said, people working at mosques, temples, Buddhist monasteries, churches and other religious institutions have been playing an important role in the country's socioeconomic development, promotion of religious

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New generation must read to build knowledge-based Bangladesh: Afroza

Staff correspondent

Food Minister Afroza Khanam, MP today said the new generation must become more inclined towards books to build a knowledge-based Bangladesh. "Books not only provide us with knowledge; they strengthen our power of thought, teach us to preserve history and show us the way forward. If we do not know history, we cannot understand the present, and if we do not understand the present, we cannot chart the path to the future. So, we have to

read, learn and think," she said. The Food Minister made the remarks while addressing the fifth-day programme of Zia Smriti Book Fair-2026, organized on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of BNP, on the premises of Bangla Academy in the capital. Afroza said a book fair is a highly important event. A library is a place for the pursuit of knowledge, a venue for developing reading habits and one of the key means of connecting the new generation with books. She

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Meritorious students, top institutions honored in Netrokona

Staff correspondent

Eleven meritorious students who secured GPA-5 in the SSC, Dakhil and SSC (Vocational) examinations 2026 despite poverty, landlessness and physical disabilities were honored along with top-performing educational institutions here on Sunday. The honors were conferred at a ceremony titled 'Education Success Honor & Indomitable Meritorious Student Honor', organized by the Netrokona District Administration at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room. Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Khondoker Moshfiqur Rahman attended the program as the chief guest. "Education is the bedrock of a nation," Khondoker Moshfiqur said, stressing coordinated efforts by teachers, students, officials, staff

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জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.এস. (কর্ন), এম.এস. (অপথ্যালমোলজী)
এম.পি.এইচ. (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথ্যালমোলজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথ্যালমোলজী)

সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল এন্ড ফ্যাকালি সেন্টার

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

Free treatment is provided to helpless and extremely poor eye patients.
Jalalabad Eye Hospital, Chattogram.

Govt to bring electric three

and valid auto-rickshaws, tracing registration of drivers through QR codes and providing training to drivers in phases,” he said. The minister said the government will provide registration to auto-rickshaws, determine routes, control drivers and their movement, traffic management and law enforcement in line with the possible guidelines.He said the measures will help reduce traffic congestion in the capital, establish road discipline and ensure road safety.

Salahuddin also said 50 AI-based cameras are currently operational at 17 traffic signals in the capital to modernise vehicle control and traffic management.The cameras have produced positive results in controlling the movement of auto-rickshaws and other vehicles, he said, adding that work is underway to install another 200 AI-based cameras in the traffic divisions of Ramna and Tejgaon.More AI-based cameras will gradually be installed at other important roads and intersections in Dhaka, the minister said.

In her notice, Ranu said some discipline has gradually returned to the capital’s roads, particularly after AI-based traffic cameras were installed in several areas.She said violations such as running red lights, changing lanes improperly and exceeding speed limits have declined, but battery-run rickshaws are still operating recklessly without following rules.

As these vehicles often do not have number plates, AI cameras can identify them, but fines cannot be imposed, the female MP said.“There is no alternative to controlling these reckless vehicles. Strict steps should be taken to remove these rickshaws from the main roads at least. At the same time, I think it is important to remove the defects in auto-rickshaws' design and add number plates, train drivers and issue licenses, and bring everything under specific rules,” she said.Later, Ranu said the government should control rather than completely ban the movement of battery-run rickshaws, as the livelihoods of a large number of people are linked to the sector.“Seizing and dumping their vehicles and harassing them by police without an alternative plan for their livelihoods is not right,” she said.In reply, Salahuddin said the government will also make the use of safer, environment-friendly batteries a condition under the proposed system and introduce digital tracking linked to registration numbers.He said illegal charging stations using electricity connections from electric poles are causing revenue losses and involve corruption.The minister alleged that some officials of the power division and city corporations are also involved in the illegal charging activities, alongside those operating and using the facilities.

“We will keep all aspects in consideration so that unemployment does not increase, employment is not disrupted, the environment is protected, vehicles remain disciplined, and traffic management is improved,” he said.

Khalilur takes UNGA chair

international system.Khalilur will open the 81st session at the UN Headquarters in New York at 3 pm local time on Tuesday, succeeding Germany's former foreign minister Annalena Baerbock.His assumption of office will return Bangladesh to the UNGA presidency after four decades. Former foreign minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury was the first Bangladeshi to hold the position, presiding over the 41st session in 1986-87.Khalilur was elected on June 2 through a secret ballot, securing 99 votes against 91 received by Cyprus' candidate Andreas S Kakouris. The presidency was allocated to the Asia-Pacific Group under the UN's regional rotation system.Bangladesh earned the prestigious honour around four months after Prime Minister Tarique Rahman assumed his office on February 17. The premier is going to attend this UNGA session as well. 'Immensely proud moment' State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today described Khalilur's election as an "immensely proud moment" and a significant diplomatic achievement reflecting Bangladesh's renewed international standing.“The election of our Foreign Minister, Dr Khalilur Rahman, as President of the United Nations General Assembly is a significant diplomatic achievement for the country," she told BSS this afternoon.Shama attributed the success in part to what she described as international confidence in Bangladesh following its return to elected democratic governance.

"I believe one of the key factors behind this success was the international community's recognition of Bangladesh's return to stable, democratic governance," she said.The state minister said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's nomination of Khalilur sent a strong message about Bangladesh's political stability and democratic credentials to the world."The world saw that Bangladesh has a stable, democratically elected government with a clear mandate from the people. I believe that confidence was reflected in the outcome of the election," she said.Shama also credited Khalilur's diplomatic credentials and broad acceptability among UN member states, along with the collective efforts of officials at Bangladesh's 81 diplomatic missions during the campaign.Opportunity to raise Bangladesh's profileShama said the presidency would give Bangladesh greater global visibility and opportunities to articulate issues of importance across the multilateral system."I am hopeful that during the coming year, Bangladesh will be able to use this important position to raise its priorities and concerns more effectively across the multilateral system," she said.She particularly highlighted the Rohingya crisis, saying the presidency would provide an opportunity to keep the issue high on the international agenda and mobilise stronger global attention towards a sustainable solution.

Bangladesh has been hosting more than one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar and seeking stronger international engagement for their safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified repatriation.Shama also linked the global exposure surrounding the presidency to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's vision of transforming Bangladesh into a trillion-dollar economy."Bangladesh's presidency of the UN General Assembly will provide significant global visibility and diplomatic exposure, which can contribute to advancing that vision and strengthening Bangladesh's position on the international stage," she said.Bangladesh's soft powerState Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said Khalilur's election demonstrated Bangladesh's ability to play a constructive role in promoting international peace and stability.Describing Bangladesh as a "soft power" and an "emerging tiger", he said the country engages internationally through cooperation, dialogue and goodwill rather than coercion.Reflection of international confidenceFormer ambassador to the United States M Humayun Kabir also viewed the election as an expression of international confidence in Bangladesh at an important point in its democratic journey.“The UNGA presidency can be viewed as a reflection of the international community's confidence in Bangladesh,” he told BSS earlier.Kabir said its significance should also be viewed against the backdrop of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first visit to the United Nations as prime minister following the July Revolution and Bangladesh's renewed democratic journey."Against this backdrop, having a Bangladeshi serving as President of the UN General Assembly carries particular significance for the country,” he said.Kabir, however, noted that the UNGA president is required to serve all 193 member states impartially rather than represent the national interests of any particular country.He said Bangladesh's benefit would therefore depend significantly on how effectively Dhaka conducts its diplomacy alongside the heightened visibility generated by Khalilur's position."If Bangladesh conducts its diplomacy effectively, Dr Khalilur Rahman, while discharging his responsibilities as UNGA President, can play a constructive role on issues relevant to Bangladesh within the jurisdiction and established mechanisms of the United Nations," Kabir said.Multilateralism

under pressureIn his acceptance speech, Khalilur acknowledged the serious challenges confronting the international system."Multilateralism is under pressure and the United Nations continues to face significant financial stress," he said, warning that such challenges could undermine public confidence in the world body's ability to deliver.halilur pledged to work with all member states to strengthen the UN's effectiveness, credibility and relevance.His priorities include restoring trust in multilateralism, advancing peace and security, accelerating sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the interests of women, girls and vulnerable countries, and improving UN peace operations.His presidency will also coincide with the process of selecting the next UN secretary-general as incumbent António Guterres' term expires on December 31, 2026.Guterres congratulated Khalilur following his election and expressed confidence in his diplomatic experience and commitment to strengthening the world body.A career diplomat and economist, Khalilur joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1979 and later served in senior positions in the UN system in New York and Geneva, particularly under the UN Conference on Trade and Development.His experience in multilateral diplomacy, development economics, the Rohingya crisis and national security is expected to help him build consensus among member states amid deepening geopolitical divisions.The high-level general debate of the 81st UNGA will begin later this month, bringing heads of state and government from across the world to New York. Khalilur's presence in the chair during the gathering is expected to give Bangladesh exceptional international exposure while marking a rare diplomatic distinction for the country.

Muhurir Char: Lands Recorded

44 wooden pegs into the ground. However, that measure proved merely temporary. Despite persistent calls from the Bangladeshi government to install permanent concrete pillars, no green light has emerged from the Indian side. Consequently, the wooden pegs have rotted, their internal iron rods have rusted, and the visibility of the boundary line has faded once again.

Local civilians remain the primary victims of this geopolitical deadlock. Hundreds of bighas of land belonging to residents of Nij Kalikapur, Uttar Kautali, and Baurpathar under Mirzanagar Union currently lie under Indian control. Desperate farmers like Nurul Alam and Beyadhon Bibi paid with their lives merely for attempting to reclaim their property or cut grass. Between 1979 and 1999, border skirmishes between the former Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and BSF saw intermittent gun battles spanning 58 days. Although the rifles along the border have fallen silent over time, the farmers' uncertainty remains undiminished. Furthermore, the lack of clearly defined borders continues to heighten risks of drug smuggling and illegal cross-border movement. Despite more than seven decades of suffering, local residents are now harboring renewed hope. Ahead of a high-level government visit to inaugurate the long-awaited flood protection embankment along the Muhuri and Kahua rivers in Parshuram, farmers from Uttar Kautali and Fakirer Khil villages have raised their voices once more.

They emphasize that alongside constructing permanent concrete border pillars for territorial security, diplomatic action is urgently required to guarantee their right to cultivate their ancestral lands safely. The farmers hope that this enduring border wound will finally heal and that long-awaited good news will restore access to their rightful land.

BGB, villagers foil

289/46-S under Daudpur Border Outpost (BOP) of BGB’s 29 Battalion in Katla Union around 11 pm and took position with sticks after suspecting that the BSF was preparing to push them into Bangladesh.On information, a BGB patrol team from Daudpur BOP rushed to the area.Camp Commander Mahabur Rahman said the BSF opened a gate in the barbed-wire fence around 11pm and attempted to push the group into Bangladesh territory.“Locals noticed the incident and chased them. When the BSF noticed the presence of the BGB patrol team, it was forced to take the Indian nationals back,” he said. No presence of Indian nationals was noticed along the border on Monday morning, he said.

Bangladesh, Switzerland find

Ambassador congratulated the State Minister on his assumption of office and expressed confidence that the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Switzerland would be further strengthened.Bangladesh, Switzerland find economic partnership key pillar of bilateral relations The State Minister also underscored the importance of regular exchanges in strengthening political, cultural and people-to-people ties between Bangladesh and Switzerland.The Ambassador of Switzerland hoped that operationalisation of the new Embassy of Bangladesh in Bern could facilitate in strengthening existing bilateral relations in depth and dimension, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to shared values, including democracy, human rights, multilateralism, respect for international law and rules-based international order.They reiterated their commitment to working together in multi-lateral fora to uphold these values. Appreciating Bangladesh’s generosity in hosting a large number of Rohingyas, the Ambassador reaffirmed Switzerland’s continued support for their voluntary, safe and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar and Switzerland’s commitment to supporting international efforts towards a durable solution to the crisis.

Students' housing crisis in

there are about 300 students in Nilphamari Nursing Institute. However, although there is a 150-bed hostel for female students, there is no accommodation facility for students. Saraban Tuhura, an honors second-year student of Nilphamari Government Women's College, said, "Since there are not enough seats in the girls' hall, I am forced to stay in the mess. I have to come from far away, so I cannot attend classes on time. Besides, there is no security system for girls outside in the messes. I have to spend extra money on that.

Md. Harun-or Rashid, a student of the English department of Nilphamari Government College, said, "If you live in the mess, you have to bear various expenses including electricity bills, boiler bills and seat rent. Especially those who are financially weak, it becomes very difficult for them to continue their studies. But if you get a seat in the college hostel, you don't have to spend these extra expenses." Shahidul Islam, principal of Nilphamari Moshir Rahman Degree College, said, "There is a housing crisis for students. Since this college does not have a hostel, students have to live in hostels outside. This causes them financial problems as well as insecurity. In addition, many students travel regularly. As a result, it becomes difficult to attend classes every day. Currently, about 2,000 students are studying in this college. AKM Siddiqur Rahman, principal of Nilphamari Government College, said, "Although this college has two hostels for female students, they are insufficient compared to the demand. It has become urgent to renovate them. Although there is one hostel for students, it is not sufficient.

Chattogram Customs earns

NBR directives."As the frequency of auctions has increased over the past few years, revenue from the sale of auctioned goods has also risen," he said. He added that efforts are also continuing to clear the port yard by disposing of goods that are not suitable for auction.

Contraceptive supply

ensuring uninterrupted essential services for the public, he said.The procurement process for contraceptives, essential

medical supplies and medicines is now at almost the final stage, and efforts are underway to complete the process and ensure swift distribution at field level, the minister added. Human resource development, protection of public health, expansion and modernisation of medical and nursing education, and ensuring healthcare at all levels remain among the government's key priorities, he said, adding that the health ministry, under the prime minister's leadership, has adopted a comprehensive action plan in this regard.The Directorate of Family Planning is currently formulating and implementing strategies in line with the government's election manifesto, Bangladesh's population policy and its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sakhawat said. He said the directorate is providing client-centred services, counselling and information on family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, adolescent health and nutrition, from the national to the grassroots level.These services are delivered through three specialised national hospitals – the Maternal and Child Health Training Institute in Azimpur, the Mohammadpur Fertility Services and Training Centre, and the Maternal and Child Health Training Institute in Mirpur – as well as Mother and Child Welfare Centres and Union Health and Family Welfare Centres at district, upazila and union levels, alongside home visits, satellite clinics and community meetings, the minister said.A school health education programme is also being run in secondary schools across the country to curb child marriage and adolescent pregnancy and to raise awareness of adolescent health issues, he said.On efforts to tackle staff shortages, Sakhawat said the directorate has 1,549 approved entry-level posts for Medical Officer (MCH-FP), of which 807 remained vacant.Proposals have been sent to the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), seeking recommendations to appoint 441, 49, 138 and 48 medical officers respectively through the 45th, 46th, 47th and 50th BCS examinations, he said.The directorate is also assessing manpower requirements across various grades and working to obtain clearance to fill existing vacant posts, the minister said.Regarding recruitment to 1,080 posts of Family Welfare Visitor, he said four cases are pending before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, three of which have already been decided against the government. One petition – Civil Petition for Leave to Appeal No. 3/26 – remains pending, and further action will be taken once it is resolved, he added. Sakhawat further said once the proposed "Family Planning Directorate Non-Cadre Employee Recruitment Rules, 2024" are finalised, recruitment will begin for the posts of Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer and Pharmacist at Union Health and Family Welfare Centres.

Govt to give honorarium

and moral education, development of social values and preservation of religious harmony. Considering their contributions, the new policy has been formulated to strengthen their financial and social security, it said.Under the policy, honorariums will be given to mosque imams, muezzins and khadims, as well as service providers at other religious institutions. Under the policy the government will also provide festival allowances to them on the occasion of major religious festivals. The measures are aimed at increasing the regular income and financial security of people working at religious institutions while helping improve their living standard, it said. The government policy also includes provisions for skills development training for the concerned workers to enhance their skills and create opportunities for alternative income generation. The government aims to further strengthen religious harmony and social values by ensuring the welfare of the people working at places of worship belong to different religious communities.

New generation must

said, “On this day, I recall with deep respect Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. To learn about his politics, statecraft and ideas on nation-building, one has to read his books. Various works, including ‘The Birth of a Nation’ and ‘The Outline of My Politics,’ help readers learn about a particular period and understand his life, thoughts and the history of the emergence of Bangladesh.”The food minister further said, “A book opens the door to the past, teaches us to understand the present and encourages us to think about the future.”She also paid deep respect to the memory of former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson late Begum Khaleda Zia.The food minister said the book ‘Life and Struggle of Begum Khaleda Zia’ provides an opportunity to learn about her long political journey and struggle. Those who want to know the political history of Bangladesh should read such books, she said."I also extend my respect and best wishes to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman,” the food minister said. She said, “It is not enough for the new generation to achieve good results in examinations; they have to learn, understand, ask questions and try to know the world. And books are one of the most powerful means of acquiring this knowledge.”She said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman led a very simple life; he did not like luxury as he thought about the development of ordinary people. She also recalled various memories of his honesty and simple way of life.The food minister said three members of a family had come forward to stand beside the people of the country at three different times during critical periods in Bangladesh and had saved the country from disaster.The food minister thanked the organizers and donated 100 books to the Zia Smriti Library.Chief discussant at the programme, Prime Minister's Adviser Dr. Mahadi Amin, called upon everyone to work together for the development and progress of the country. At the same time, he highlighted the importance of reading books for acquiring knowledge and developing intellectual faculties.Syed Imran Saleh Prince presided over the programme.Advocate Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, MP; Mahamuda Habiba, MP; Professor Dr. Harun Al Rashid; and Saeed Mahmud Jewel spoke as special guests.

Meritorious students

and parents to improve the education system. The DC said Netrokona secured first place in the Mymensingh division this year, with no educational institution recording a zero percent pass rate.

The eleven honored students are -- Salman Farsi of Dutta High School in Netrokona Sadar; Trisha Rani Sutradhar of Chollish Kahaniya Hafizuddin High School in Barhatta; Mst. Bushra Jahan Meem of Madan Shahid Smaronika Pilot Girls' High School; Md. Tajin Akhtar of Mohanganj Pilot Government High School; Raihana of Abdul Jabbar Rabeya Khatun Girls' School and College in Khaliajuri; Pabarn Rani Karmakar of Gopalashram Bhairab Chandra High School in Atpara; Romana Akhtar Shashi of Kendua Joyhari Spry Government High School; Dibya Das and Pritam Chakraborty of schools in Kalmakanda; Arpana Rani Shill of Bakaljora Nayapara High School in Durgapur; and Humair Tabassum of South Kajla Alhaji Maulvi Abdul Wahed Khan Dakhil Madrasah in Purbadhala.

Among the institutions, Shahid Smriti Vidyapith in Kendua topped the SSC category with a 100 percent pass rate. Netrokona Government Girls' High School and Saijura High School in Kendua secured second and third positions respectively.In the Dakhil examinations, Rammathpur D.S. Dakhil Madrasah in Kalmakanda stood first with an 85.29 percent pass rate, while Iqra Technical and B.M. College in Purbadhala topped the SSC (Vocational) category with a 100 percent pass rate.Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and ICT) , District Education Officer ,Senior district adminis-

tration and education officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers, parents and award-winning students attended the programme.

554 archaeological sites in govt list: Nitai Roy

Staff correspondent

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury on Monday told Parliament that the government has published a list of 554 gazetted immovable archaeological sites and is taking up a project to establish a National Digital Cultural Repository.“The list of 554 immovable archaeological sites gazetted by the government has already been published on the official website of the Department of Archaeology,” he said.The minister was replying to a scripted question from ruling party lawmaker Fahmida Haq (Women Seat-18) during the question-and-answer session in the House. The sitting began around 3:00pm with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad in the chair.Nitai Roy said the Department of Archives and Library has taken up a Tk 239 crore project to preserve manuscripts, folk heritage, and cultural artefacts, make them accessible globally, and transform them into digital archives.The project is currently awaiting final approval from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, he said. “If the project is approved, it will be possible to quickly implement a National Digital Cultural Repository to preserve the country’s archaeological resources, manuscripts, folk heritage and cultural artefacts and make them accessible to people around the world,” said the minister.

Madaripur records highest rainfall in 24 hrs

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) yesterday forecast rain in different parts of the country in the next 24 hours commencing from 9am."Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Barishal and Chattogram divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions," said a Met office bulletin issued this morning.Besides, it said moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places over the country.Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.The highest temperature on Sunday was 33.8 degrees Celsius in Jashore, while yesterday's minimum temperature was 23 degrees Celsius in Tangail. In the last 24 hours till 6am yesterday, the highest rainfall of 74 millimetres was recorded in Madaripur.The sun sets at 6:11pm yesterday and rises at 5:42am tomorrow in Dhaka.

ICT chief prosecutor says interim govt order allowing Abul Kalam Azad to appeal death sentence was unlawful

Staff correspondent

The interim government’s order allowing war crimes convict Abul Kalam Azad to surrender on the condition that he would file an appeal against his death sentence was unlawful, International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said today. “The order itself was contrary to our law [International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973],” Aminul told reporters at his office. Tap here to add The Daily Star as a trusted source google-preferred-source-badge He said the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 stipulates that an appeal must be filed within 30 days of a judgment.“This applies to everyone -- whether it is Sheikh Hasina, Abul Kalam Azad or any other absconding accused, or even someone who is in jail,” he said. “There is no scope for an executive order to supersede the International Crimes Tribunal Act,” the chief prosecutor said. “So, the part of the government order that allowed Abul Kalam Azad to surrender on the condition of filing an appeal was illegal and unlawful,” he said. However, Aminul said the government has the authority to suspend a sentence under Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. “We have no disagreement with the suspension of his sentence. The government has the authority to do that,” he said, adding that the prosecution had no objection to the government exercising that power.Azad was sentenced to death by International Crimes Tribunal-2 in 2013 for crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971. He had remained absconding before and after the trial.Following the political changeover after the July Uprising in 2024, the home ministry issued a notification in October 2025 suspending his death sentence for one year. Reports of his return to Bangladesh had emerged before the notification was issued.“Kalam's appeal has not been admitted or accepted by the tribunal. Therefore, there is no pending proceeding before the Appellate Division in his case to which Article 104 could apply,” Aminul said.He added that Appellate Division judges had also expressed similar views during the hearing. Aminul said Azad's lawyers might have subsequently understood the legal position and therefore did not take further steps regarding the appeal.“Once 30 days have elapsed after a tribunal judgment, I do not see any alternative except implementing that judgment,” he said.Asked whether the government was bound to suspend Azad's sentence, Aminul said it was not a matter of obligation or precedent. “Section 401 gives the government an exclusive discretionary power. The government can suspend, remit or even cancel a sentence at any time,” he said.

Road crashes claim 481 lives in August alone

Staff correspondent

At least 481 people were killed and 664 injured in road accidents across Bangladesh in August, according to a report by the Road Safety Foundation (RSF).Of the deceased, 61 were women and 58 were children, the report said.It said 183 motorcycle accidents claimed 176 lives, accounting for 36.59 percent of the total deaths and 35.67 percent of all road crashes during the month. The RSF prepared the report based on information published in nine national dailies, 17 national and regional online news portals, electronic media and its own sources.cording to the report, 163 accidents, or 31.77 percent, occurred on national highways, while 217 (42.30 percent) took place on regional roads, 62 (12.08 percent) on rural roads and 71 (13.84 percent) on city roads. The report said trucks, covered vans, pickups, tractors, trolleys, lorries, dump trucks, oil tankers and 14-wheel lorries were involved in 28.57 percent of the accidents. Motorcycles were involved in 25.90 percent, passenger buses in 13.75 percent and three-wheelers in 14.95 percent.Among the fatalities, motorcycle riders accounted for the highest share at 176, followed by three-wheeler passengers at 78, occupants of trucks and similar heavy vehicles at 51, and bus passengers at 37.The report also showed that 21 people travelling in locally made vehicles such as Nasimon, Bhatbhati and Mahindra were killed, while five rickshaw and bicycle riders died.



Indonesia keeps several airports closed as volcanic eruption weakens

International Desk

Indonesia kept several airports closed and allowed schools in affected areas to shift to online classes Monday, as volcanic activity from Anak Krakatau eased after an eruption that disrupted around 2,300 flights and spread ash across several areas. The eruption lasted about 25 hours and ended Sunday, producing a lava fountain and a powerful boom that could be heard as far as 700 kilometers (435 miles) away, according to the country's Geological Agency. However, the volcano remained active Monday, with moderate and intermittent eruptions, dark ash clouds and small local earthquakes, the agency said. Poor weather conditions were also making it difficult to observe the volcano clearly. AirNav Indonesia said tests detected volcanic ash in the air-space over Jakarta and several other cities. As a precaution, authorities closed eight airports until 6 p.m. Monday. The closures included four commercial airports operated by state-owned InJourney Airports — Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta and Halim Perdanakusuma international airports, Husein Sastranegara in West Java and Radin Inten in Lampung, on the southern tip of Sumatra. InJourney Airports said the closures had disrupted about 2,300 flights and affected 268,539 passengers at its four airports. The eruption also affected education. The government allowed

schools in ash-affected areas, including parts of Jakarta, West Java, Banten and Lampung provinces, to temporarily conduct classes online from students' homes to limit their exposure to volcanic ash. Lana Saria, head of the Geology Agency, warned that the risk of further eruptions remained high in the coming days. She said potential dangers included volcanic rocks, heavy ash-fall and lava flows if the eruption continued for a prolonged period. Anak Krakatau is a volcanic island in the Sunda Strait, located between Indonesia's main islands of Java and Sumatra. Its name means "child of Krakatau" because it emerged from the remnants of the notorious Krakatau volcano. Krakatau's massive 1883 eruption triggered a period of global cooling and remains one of the most powerful volcanic eruptions in recorded history. In 2018, Anak Krakatau erupted and triggered a tsunami that killed at least 430 people on the coasts of Sumatra and Java. Researchers believe the eruption caused an underwater landslide, sending a large section of the volcano's southwestern slope into the sea and displacing a huge volume of water. Indonesia has more than 120 active volcanoes and regularly experiences eruptions because it lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of seismic faults surrounding the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquake and volcanic activity occurs.

Iran to announce restricted zone near Strait of Hormuz, says security official



International Desk

Iran will announce a restricted zone outside the Strait of Hormuz in the coming days and impose sanctions on ships that attempt to pass through the area without coordinating with Tehran, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei said. In an interview with state-run IRIB TV aired Sunday night, Rezaei said the zone would stretch from the point where the US naval blockade begins toward the Strait of Hormuz and into the Persian Gulf on the opposite side of the waterway. He said vessels entering the zone without prior coordination with Iran could face sanctions that would affect their insurance coverage and their ability to use the waterway in the future. Rezaei described the planned move as part of a wider change in Iran's military and diplomatic strategy aimed at putting greater pressure on Washington. He also rejected US claims that ships and oil tankers are continuing to pass through the

Strait of Hormuz, insisting that the strategic waterway is completely closed. According to Rezaei, some vessels have attempted to cross through a route near Oman, sometimes turning off their navigation systems to avoid detection. He claimed that most of those ships "receive blows." However, he said Iran does not currently plan to sink the vessels because of concerns over possible environmental damage. Rezaei also said Iran had test-fired a domestically developed anti-destroyer missile over a US aircraft carrier for the first time about 48 hours earlier. He described the test as a warning that the US naval blockade could be challenged. "The special missile created a hell for the Americans, and they fled," he said. Rezaei said the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until the United States takes practical measures to meet its commitments under a peace memorandum of understanding signed by Tehran and Washington in June. He added that Iran and Oman would announce a new international corridor for ships seeking to pass through the strait in the coming days. The corridor, he said, would be managed by Iran. The latest restrictions followed US-Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28. Tehran subsequently limited passage through the Strait of Hormuz, while US forces imposed a naval blockade targeting vessels traveling to or from Iranian ports and coastal waters.

Nepal observes day of mourning as flood death toll surpasses 1,300

International Desk

Nepal observed a national day of mourning Monday for those killed in devastating floods that struck the country and Tibet on Aug. 26, with government offices lowering national flags to half-staff as families completed traditional mourning rituals. The floods have killed more than 1,300 people in Nepal and Tibet and left around 5,000 others missing, including foreign nationals, according to Nepal's disaster management agency. Monday marked the 13th day since the disaster. In predominantly Hindu Nepal, close family members traditionally observe a 13-day mourning period, culminating in rituals to pray for the souls of the deceased. Some families whose relatives remain missing have held symbolic funerals. Cremation is an important final rite in Hindu tradition, and conducting the rituals even without recovering a body can provide families with a sense of spiritual closure. The government had earlier declared Monday an official day of



mourning and ordered flags at government offices to be flown at half-staff. In Kathmandu, relatives of missing people gathered near the prime minister's office and key government ministries, urging authorities to intensify search and rescue operations for hundreds of workers at hydropower plants who were swept away by the Bhotekoshi River or buried under debris. Search operations continued Monday for hundreds of people still unaccounted for. Rescuers on Saturday pulled a Chinese national alive from a power plant, while two Nepali workers were rescued from another section of the facility on Friday. Authorities said rescue teams are increasingly concentrating on 12 hydropower projects where around 900 workers remain missing, with about 500 believed to be trapped inside tunnels. Specialized teams from India, China, South Korea and the United States have joined the search, combing through debris, damaged structures and tunnels in efforts to locate survivors.

At least 5 killed as Amazon cargo plane crashes at Miami airport

International Desk

At least five people were killed and five others injured after an Amazon cargo plane overran a runway at Miami International Airport on Sunday and crashed into vehicles before catching fire, authorities said. The plane, which had arrived from San Juan, Puerto Rico, went off the runway at around 2pm and crossed a road used by warehouse workers and businesses surrounding the airport. Miami-Dade County officials said three of the injured were in critical condition, while two others suffered less serious injuries. It was not immediately known whether the pilots survived or whether all those killed were in vehicles when the aircraft struck. Miami-Dade Rescue Fire Chief Ray Jadallah said the crash trapped the pilot and copilot inside the cockpit and also trapped people in vehicles. Firefighters had to rescue one person who was pinned beneath a vehicle. The crash sent thick black smoke into the sky and disrupted operations at the busy airport for much of the afternoon. Around 200 emergency personnel responded to the scene, where they found the aircraft engulfed in flames and smoke from a fire in the engine area. Firefighters used specialised airport equipment to put out the blaze, but a fuel leak from the aircraft remained a concern several hours later. Images showed the Prime Air aircraft resting on its belly beside a roadway near two semitrucks. The plane appeared largely intact despite the fire. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, and authorities had yet to determine whether weather conditions contributed to the accident. The National Weather Service reported thunderstorms and wind gusts of up to 30 mph (48 kph) in the area at the time. The flight was operated by North Carolina-based cargo carrier 21 Air. The 32-year-old Boeing 767 was originally built as a passenger aircraft and flew for several airlines before being converted into a freighter in 2015, according to Flightradar24.



The accident caused widespread flight disruptions, with more than 160 flights cancelled and nearly 325 delayed by late Sunday, according to FlightAware. Some flights were diverted to Orlando International Airport, more than 200 miles (320 kilometres) north of Miami. The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending an investigative team led by Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy to Miami. Amazon said it would cooperate with the investigation and expressed condolences to the victims' families.

Aviation safety experts said investigators would likely examine whether the aircraft touched down within the designated landing zone and why the crew did not abort the landing if it landed too far down the runway. Retired United Airlines pilot and aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said a Boeing 767 typically has a pilot and copilot on domestic flights, while additional pilots are required for longer international flights. Former Transportation Department inspector general Mary Schiavo said video of the landing appeared to show the aircraft remaining airborne over the runway for an extended period before touching down. She also noted that Miami International Airport does not have an engineered arresting system designed to stop aircraft that overrun runways. The Federal Aviation Administration says such systems have been installed at more than 120 US airports and have helped save hundreds of lives.

Death toll rises to 6 as rescuers search collapsed New Delhi building

International Desk

Rescue teams searched through the remains of a collapsed building in New Delhi on Monday as the death toll from the incident rose to six, officials said. The five-story building, which operated as a hostel for male students, collapsed Sunday in Satya Niketan, a densely populated area known for private student accommodations near a Delhi University campus. Police, firefighters and teams from India's disaster response agency continued search operations for a second day. Earthmoving machines removed large amounts of debris while sniffer dogs were deployed to help locate people who might still be trapped under the rubble. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said rescuers had pulled at least 12 people alive from the debris. About 80% of the rubble had been removed by Monday, with only debris from the basement still left to clear. Gupta said six people had died and six others were injured in the collapse. Residents said the building was at least 55 years old and had been undergoing renovation for several months. Although the work was reportedly incomplete, the building was reopened to tenants, most of them students, in August. Prakash Chand, a local resident, said workers were digging in the basement when the building suddenly collapsed. Gupta said preliminary investigations indicated that water had accumulated in the basement and that ongoing repair work on the aging structure may have contributed to the collapse. She said the government would introduce a policy requiring regular structural inspections and safety certificates for buildings used by the public. The proposed rules would cover student accommodations, nursing homes, schools and similar facilities. "No public activity will be permitted" in buildings that fail to meet the required safety standards, Gupta said. Building collapses are a frequent danger in some parts of India during the June-to-September monsoon season, when heavy and prolonged rainfall can weaken older structures and increase the risk of collapse.



Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon kill 9, injure 13

International Desk

Israeli aircraft conducted two strikes on the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Ruman early Monday, leaving at least nine people dead, including women and children, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The ministry reported that one strike struck a building, killing eight people, among them a child and two women. Eleven others were injured, including four children and two women. A second airstrike targeted a vehicle in the village, killing a paramedic affiliated with the Lebanese Islamic Risala Scout Association and injuring two other people. The attacks occurred as tensions between Israel and Hezbollah intensified, marking another escalation in the ongoing conflict



Bad Bunny, Sabrina Carpenter, Octavia Spencer win 1st Emmy

Entertainment Desk

The Emmy Awards are one of the most prestigious awards in the entertainment industry. The first night of this year's Creative Arts Emmys was a stage to make history! Three popular stars from the music and acting worlds – Bad Bunny, Sabrina Carpenter and Octavia Spencer took home the first Emmy trophies of their respective careers. Puerto Rican music star Bad Bunny won an Emmy for Outstanding Live Variety Special for his magical 'Super Bowl LX Halftime Show'. He not only performed on the show, but also served as an executive producer. This is only the second Super Bowl show in Emmy history to win the title of best programme. Previously, Dr Dre and Snoop Dogg's historic hip-hop show received the honour in 2022. Not only that, but Bad Bunny's show has won a record 7 Emmy trophies in one night! It also made history by becoming the first Spanish-language show to win in this category.

This new crown comes just seven months after Bad Bunny won its first Grammy for Album of the Year for a Spanish-language album. On the other hand, the new crush of the music industry, Sabrina Carpenter, is not stopping her winning streak! After winning two Grammys for the song 'Espresso' last year, she now takes home her first Emmy trophy. She received the Emmy for Best Variety Special in the pre-recorded category for Disney Plus' popular 'The Muppets Show'. Out of six nominations, the show alone has bagged four Emmys. With this Emmy win, both Bad Bunny and Sabrina Carpenter are halfway to becoming 'IGOTs' (Oscar, Grammy, Emmy and Tony winners)! Now all they have to do is win an Oscar and a Tony Award. But the biggest surprise of the night was Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer, who stunned everyone by winning an Emmy in the 'Best Narrator' category for her voice work on the true-crime series 'Lost Women of Alaska'. Spencer's stunning win briefly put 100-year-old naturalist Sir David Attenborough on the verge of making history.



Joheirry Mola Dominguez wins Miss World crown

Entertainment Desk

Joheirry Mola Dominguez of the Dominican Republic has won the Miss World 2026 crown. According to a BBC report, she won the Miss World title on Saturday evening in Nha Trang, Vietnam, beating 111 contestants. Joheirry Mola won the title of Miss World Dominican Republic 2025. By winning that competition, she got the opportunity to compete in the world pageant. Joheirry, who is successful in the world of fashion



‘Widow’s Bay’ leads early Emmys with eight wins, ‘The Pitt’ takes four

Entertainment Desk

Apple TV's horror-comedy series "Widow's Bay" emerged as the biggest winner at the early Emmy ceremony on Sunday, collecting eight awards for its first season, while HBO Max's "The Pitt" secured four. The ceremony, held eight days ahead of the main Emmy awards show, also saw "DTF St. Louis" take six trophies in limited-series categories, with David Harbour and Linda Cardellini earning their first Emmy Awards. "Widow's Bay," starring Matthew Rhys as the mayor of a small New England town facing an ancient curse, won awards in several technical categories, including cinematography, sound, music and production design. Betty Gilpin also won best guest actress in a comedy for her performance in the series. "The Pitt," which led this year's nominations with 25 after winning best drama for its debut season, added four awards to its tally. Among its winners was Ernest Harden Jr., 73, who won best guest actor in a drama for his portrayal of Louie Cloverfield, a troubled alcoholic who is a familiar figure in the show's emergency room. Harden, a veteran actor whose career includes a role in the 1975 film "Three Days of the Condor" and appearances on "The Jeffersons," became a first-time Emmy winner. Andrew Bird and Gavin Brivik won for original music and lyrics for a song written for "The Pitt." The Television Academy has rebranded the traditionally known Creative Arts Emmys as the opening two nights of the 78th Emmy Awards. The weekend ceremonies mainly recognize behind-the-scenes contributors, although guest acting categories and several other awards

featuring prominent performers are also presented. Harbour won best supporting actor in a limited series for "DTF St. Louis," while Cardellini won best supporting actress in the category. Both were first-time Emmy winners. The ceremony also featured a tribute to late actor and filmmaker Rob Reiner, who posthumously won best guest actor in a comedy for his role in "The Bear." He received a lengthy standing ovation from the audience, including his "Bear" co-star Jamie Lee Curtis. Reiner and his wife, Michele Singer Reiner, were killed in December. Their son has pleaded not guilty to charges in connection with their deaths. Other winners included "Pluribus," another Apple TV series from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan, which collected four awards, and Shailene Woodley, who won her first Emmy as best guest actress in a drama for "Paradise." "Spider-Noir," the Nicolas Cage series canceled by Amazon Prime Video after one season, won five awards, including for visual effects and stunts. Emmy host Mariska Hargitay also received two awards for her documentary "My Mom Jayne," about her mother, actress Jayne Mansfield. Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy for his Super Bowl halftime show, which earned seven awards at Saturday's ceremony. The weekend's ceremonies will be edited together for broadcast on FXX on Sept. 12 and streaming on Hulu the following day. The main Emmy ceremony will be held Sept. 14 at the Peacock Theater, hosted by Hargitay, and will air live on NBC and stream on Peacock. "Widow's Bay" and "The Pitt" could each win up to six additional awards during the main ceremony.

and modelling, is also a teacher, journalist, and social activist. Last year's Miss World Thailand, Opal Suchata Chuangsrri, placed a blue crown on her head. From now on, the Dominican beauty will represent the Miss World organisation's various charity works and the 'Beauty with a Purpose' campaign around the world at the international level. The first runner-up in the competition was Spain's Elisabeth Reines, and the second runner-up was Miss Malaysia Tanusia Chetty.

I still can't believe you're gone: Shabnur remembers Salman

Entertainment Desk

Even though three decades have passed since the death of the immortal hero of Dhallywood, Salman Shah, his co-stars and the audience have not forgotten him. Especially the on-screen chemistry of Salman and Shabnur still holds a special place in the minds of the audience. Actress Shabnur remembered her beloved co-star in an emotional message on the 30th anniversary of his passing.

Salman Shah: An immortal hero of Dhallywood

Entertainment Desk

There are some stars who come on screen, shine, and then disappear in the stream of time. Some others remain in the hearts of the audience even after they leave. Their acting, laughter, costumes, dialogues, or on-screen presence are rediscovered across generations. Salman Shah is one such name. Even though it has been three decades since his death, his popularity does not seem to have waned. Rather, as time passes, new interest, emotion, and nostalgia are being created around the dream hero of the nineties. 'Baba Bole Chhele Naam Korbe, Sara Prithibi Take Mone Rakhbe' -these lines of the song seem to strangely match Salman Shah's life. What he has done in his short career is still a separate chapter in the history of Bengali cinema. With a sweet smile, smart presence, fluent acting, and his own fashion-all of this combined, he became the dream hero of a generation. The afternoon that brought the country to a standstill was September 6, 1996. That Friday began like any other day but as the afternoon wore on, the atmosphere of the country changed. When Bangladesh Television's 5:00pm news reported that popular film star Salman Shah was no more, the entire country seemed to be stunned in an instant. Fans could not accept the sudden death of a young man who had become the centre of love of millions of viewers in just a few years of his film career. A shadow of grief fell all around. The news of Salman's death also gained importance in the media at home and abroad. After his departure, a kind of void was created in Dhallywood, for which no immediate alternative could be created. To capitalise on his popularity, many actors were later tried to beautify Salman's image on the screen. His style of dress, hairstyle, and behavior were all his. But no one could replace Salman, who had captured the hearts of the audience. Because Salman was not just a hero, he was a cultural symbol representing a time. Before becoming a hero, star Salman Shah made his film debut in 1993, with the movie 'Keyamat Theke Keyamat' directed by Sohanur Rahman Sohan. This young actor, known as Emon, became a new discovery for the audience in his first movie. After that, the name 'Salman Shah' gradually became a star identity. However, his appearance in the world of acting was not entirely sudden. In the mid-eighties, he acted in a music video for the show 'Kothar Kotha', written and presented by Hanif Sanket. The young Salman was seen in the role of 'Apurba' in the video for the song 'Naamti Chhilo Tar Apurba'. From there, an important chapter of his journey in the entertainment industry began. Salman Shah was born on September 19, 1971, in his paternal home in Dariapara, Sylhet. His father, Kamaruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, was a magistrate. His mother, Neela Chowdhury, was involved in poli-



tics and music. Growing up in a cultural environment, Salman had a special attraction to art since childhood. Salman was a trendsetter off-screen too, and the biggest feature of his popularity was that he influenced a generation not just with his acting but also with his style. When it comes to the clothing and hairstyles of the youth in the 90s, Salman's name inevitably comes to the fore. Backbrushed hair, bandana on the head, T-shirt, jeans, various hats, and handkerchief on the collar or watch on the hand – almost every fashion accessory he used became a must-have for the youth. When he went out on the street, young people could be seen with hair or clothes like Salman. It can be said that along with acting, he himself became a fashion trend. The craze of fans surrounding him was also amazing. Ananda Bichitra reported that such an incident happened in 1994 while he was in Cox's Bazar during the outdoor shooting of movie 'Tumi Amar'. A young woman tried to jump off a cliff after not getting an autograph. When Salman noticed the matter, he quickly stopped her and convinced her not to do such a thing. The incident is still discussed as an example of the countless fan craze surrounding Salman. Even after his death, discussions about him on social media, reminiscing about him, or the spread of his old photos and videos prove that Salman's popularity is not limited to a single period. Many popular heroes have appeared in Bangladeshi films and have also been loved by the audience. But in the case of Salman Shah, the matter is a little different. His career was short, but his impact was long-lasting. He was a star who was ahead of his time. In addition to acting, everything from clothes, hairstyles, and speech patterns to the hero's presentation on screen had its own uniqueness. The characters he played were also diverse – sometimes a romantic young man, sometimes a rebellious young man, sometimes a passionate lover. He left his own unique mark in each character. Perhaps this is why he has not become old even for the new generation. Rather, thanks to social media, that dream hero is coming back to the new audience again and again. Mystery of death, search for memory the mystery and controversy surrounding Salman's death has also kept his memory in the spotlight. Since his sudden death in 1996, various questions have been swirling around him – suicide or some other reason? There have been many discussions and investigations surrounding Salman's death for a long time. On August 9, villain actor Mohammad Ashrafal Haque alias Don was arrested in connection with the hero's death. He was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. On behalf of Salman's mother Neela Chowdhury, his brother Alamgir Kumkum filed a murder case with the capital's Ramna Police Station in October last year. A total of 11 people, including Salman Shah's ex-wife Samira Haque, villain actor Don Haque, were named as accused in the case. The other accused are Samira's mother Latifa Haque Lucy, businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai, David, Javed, Faruk, Ruby, A

9-day Dhaka Theatre Festival begins at Shilpakala Academy

Entertainment Desk

The second part of the 'Dhaka Theatre Festival 2026', organised by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) as part of celebrations marking Dhaka's 416th anniversary, began Sunday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) with a nine-day programme featuring nine theatre productions. Organised by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), the 'Dhaka Theatre Festival' will feature nine plays over nine days, with one production being staged each evening. The festival opened Sunday afternoon with a cultural ceremony, followed by the play in the evening at the National Theatre Hall with 'Kinu Kahare'r Theatre', a production by Prachyanat. Written by noted playwright Manoj Mitra, the play was directed by Kazi Toufik-ul Islam Emon. On the second day, Monday, Lok Natyadal (Banani) will stage the comedy 'Kanjus' at the same venue. Dhaka Padatik will present 'Trial of Surya Sen' on Tuesday, the third day of the festival. The fourth day, Wednesday, will feature 'Aleya', written by National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and produced by Bashori Repertory. On Thursday, Aranyak Natyadal will stage 'Company' as the fes-

tival's fifth-day production. On Friday, the sixth day, Theatre Art Unit will stage 'Amina Sundari' at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Teerondaz Repertory will present 'Konthonali-te Surjo' on the seventh day, followed by Drishtipat Natyadal's 'Se Ek Swopner Raat' on the eighth day. The festival will conclude with Bangladesh Theatre's production 'Sea-Morog' at the National Theatre Hall on the ninth and final day. Alongside the evening theatre productions, the festival will feature a range of cultural performances at the open-air stage outside the auditorium from 4 pm every day. The programmes will include dance, music, recitation and other cultural performances, beginning three hours before the scheduled theatre shows at 7 pm. The festival is the second part of 'Dhaka Theatre Festival 2026'. Its first part was held at the Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre auditorium in Sutrapur from Aug 16 to 23. The eight-day first part featured theatrical productions by various theatre groups from across the country, alongside open-air cultural programmes combining dance, music, theatre and recitation. The festival is being organised by DSCC in association with the coordination council of Dhaka Theatre Festival 2026.



The time before social media was difficult for women : Shreya

Entertainment Desk

Popular Indian singer Shreya Ghoshal has opened up about the existence of casting couches and pay disparity in Bollywood. In a recent interview, she said that although she has not personally faced such unpleasant situations, the casting couch has an impact on the entertainment industry. Describing the current times as a bit more convenient for women than before due to spread of social media, Shreya said, "Before social media, women in the industry had to go through a very difficult time." She added that her parents were with her everywhere she went, as she started her career at just 13 years old, "Even if someone wanted to say something, they wouldn't have the courage to do so." The singer also spoke about the pay disparity and misconceptions surrounding it among artistes in the industry.



PSG go for three in a row as Champions League returns



Sports Desk
Another UEFA Champions League season gets going this week with the beginning of the league phase as Paris Saint-Germain bid to join the tiny band of clubs to have won the competition three years running. PSG successfully defended their title last season when they beat Arsenal on penalties in Budapest, retaining the trophy they won for the first time in their history 12 months earlier. Luis Enrique's side have already secured their status as one of the competition's greatest teams by winning it back-to-back, something only Real Madrid had previously achieved since the inception of the modern Champions League in 1992. Winning three in a row would be on another level entirely. Real did exactly that under Zinedine Zidane between 2016 and 2018, The only other teams to manage such a feat are Ajax (1971-73) and Bayern Munich (1974-76), while Madrid also won the first five editions of the European Cup from 1956 to 1960. "Our objectives are clear. I want to win important trophies and there are none more important than the Champions League," said Luis Enrique, who also led Barcelona to glory in 2015. The back-to-back titles for the French giants have coincided with the introduction of the new Champions League format, with 36 teams in the league phase now playing eight games against eight different opponents. The Parisians struggled in the league phase in each of the last two campaigns, finishing outside the top eight and having to come through the additional play-off round to make the last 16. Tough draws were partly responsible for that, and PSG will face some familiar opponents this time in Manchester City, Barcelona and Aston Villa. With each passing year, the prospect of a team other than one of Europe's super clubs winning the Champions League seems

more remote. - Arsenal to take next step? - The Premier League's financial strength means all of its representatives can be expected to feature prominently, with Arsenal chief among them. Over the last three years, the Gunners have lost in the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, and then the final. There is therefore a logical next step for Mikel Arteta's side, Arsenal topped the league phase last season with a perfect record. They have a tough start this time away to Napoli. There are five English clubs involved, with Manchester City and Liverpool joined by the returning Manchester United and Villa. Bayern Munich are formidable, while Jose Mourinho has returned to Real Madrid charged with the task of leading them back to continental glory. Barcelona are itching to get their hands on the trophy again. It is hard to see beyond one of those clubs, although Inter Milan could have a say and Atletico Madrid will be desperate to reach a final to be held in their stadium. - Debutants - The only club outside Spain, England, Germany, Italy and France to have won the Champions League in the last 30 years remains Mourinho's Porto in 2004. Plenty of new names will add freshness to the competition, including Como, who finished fourth in Serie A last season under Cesc Fabregas to qualify at the expense of AC Milan and Juventus. Viking Stavanger are in the Champions League proper for the first time after winning a first Norwegian title in 34 years. Sabah start with a trip to Old Trafford after winning a first Azerbaijani title and coming through four qualifying ties. Their manager, Valdas Dambrauskas, got into coaching with the money he made appearing on the Lithuanian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. "Since I was 12, when I realised I will not be a professional player, I knew I wanted to be a football coach," he said in an interview with Flashscore. "I cannot guess what would have happened without this game, but I believe I would have found a way to achieve my dream." Sabah might not qualify for the next stage -- although compatriots Qarabag did that last season -- but just being in the league phase is worth almost 20 million euros (\$23.2m) at a minimum, significant sums for clubs from lesser leagues. The Champions League winners pocket around 90 million euros in prize money, before adding millions more, notably from television -- it is understood PSG earned around 150 million euros for each of their last two victories.

China's teenage 223cm basketball player 'just a little girl'

Sports Desk
Chinese teenage basketball player Zhang Ziyu stands 223cm (7ft 4in) and towers over opponents at the Women's World Cup -- but off the court she's "just a little girl". That was the assessment of the giant 19-year-old by teammate Han Xu after China's 74-70 overtime win over the Czech Republic on Sunday in Germany. The teenage centre scored three points in just over 10 minutes on court against a physical Czech side, having been more of a threat against reigning champions the United States in a 94-61 loss to start the tournament. After that defeat, USA superstar Caitlin Clark had warm words for Zhang, saying: "I've never played against a woman of that size and she obviously presented some challenges for us. "I think she's a wonderful player and you see how young she is. "You can tell she's still growing and learning how to play and how to leverage her advantage, which is her size. "There's not much you can do to stop her when she gets it really close to the basket." Zhang's height is listed at 223cm on the website of world governing body FIBA, making her already taller than NBA great Shaquille O'Neal, and even in a sport where height matters, she stands out in women's basketball. Zhang might be destined for the WNBA, but Clark and Han warned against placing too many expectations on the teenager. "In life she's just a little girl," said Han, who top-scored for China with 22 points against the Czechs. "I always want to give her good energy... she can finish to the rim and protect the paint. "I think she is a great player and we just keep thinking (about) how to use her better and hope she can be more aggressive."

China's teenage 223cm basketball player 'just a little girl'

Sports Desk
All-rounder Connolly's selection is another indication that the 23-year-old is seen as a long-term prospect while Kuhnemann was preferred to Todd Murphy as the second spinner behind Nathan Lyon. Neser, who like Labuschagne was born in South Africa, provides back-up for the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc. Bailey said Connolly was primarily chosen for his batting, most likely as a middle order option but potentially as high as three. "His overall development will continue to expand his ability to bat in a range of positions," he said. Australia travel to Durban for the first Test on October 9 before the series moves to Gqeberha and Cape Town. Only Cummins, Starc, Hazlewood, Lyon, Steve Smith and Matt Renshaw survive from their last Test series in South Africa, when Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were all sent home in shame. Smith was banned for a year and sacked as captain after conspiring to alter the ball using sandpaper during the third Test in Cape Town, while the now-retired Warner, considered the ringleader, was suspended for 12 months and stripped of all leadership roles. Australia Test squad: Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster



Under-fire Labuschagne named in Australia Test squad for South Africa

Sports Desk
Out-of-form Marnus Labuschagne can "still make a positive contribution", chief Australia selector George Bailey said Monday, after the struggling batsman was thrown a lifeline for the Test tour of South Africa. Number three Labuschagne has failed to score a century since 2023 and flopped again in two home Tests against Bangladesh last month with scores of one, 31 and four. He was subsequently axed from Australia's squad for three one-dayers in Zimbabwe and another three in South Africa preceding the Tests. But selectors opted against a red-ball change for what will be the team's first Test series in South Africa since the infamous "Sandpapergate" ball-tampering scandal in 2018. "We're not shying away from the fact that we'd like some more runs from Marn... but we're also confident that he can still make a positive contribution to that squad," Bailey said. "Our batting group in its entirety, not just Marn, probably hasn't been functioning as successfully as we would like." Asked if the South Africa series would be Labuschagne's last chance, Bailey dodged the question. "No, I wouldn't say that. But again, it's a hypothetical, isn't it?" he said. Cooper Connolly, Matthew Kuhnemann and Michael Neser were also included in a 16-man squad which was otherwise unchanged from the last Bangladesh Test.

Under-fire Labuschagne named in Australia Test squad for South Africa

Bangladesh suffer defeat to Sri Lanka in crucial Women's Asia Cup game

Sports Desk
A substandard performance saw Bangladesh women's cricket team tasted a four-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka in a crucial Women's Asia Cup match on Sunday, leaving them facing a tough equation to reach final. The defeat made it tougher for Bangladesh to top the group and could set a potential semi-final clash against India. In the last two editions, Bangladesh suffered defeat to India in the semi-final to be crashed out of the tournament. Batting first at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Bangladesh however managed just 114 runs, setting Sri Lanka a modest target. Sri Lanka raced to the victory in 19.2 overs with Harshitha Samarawickrama leading the charge with an unbeaten 37 ball-48. Bangladesh's bowlers led by pacer Marufa Akhter who claimed 3-21, produced a spirited fight back and at one stage looked to have the match firmly under control after reducing Sri Lanka to 44-5. But a missed catch in the 18th over proved costly as Sri Lanka regained control and eventually reached the target with four wickets in hand. Bangladesh batter Sobhana Mostary admitted that the missed chance was a turning point. "Until the 18th over, the match was in our hands. We missed a catch at deep midwicket in that over. Had we taken it, perhaps we could have won the match," she said after the game. Mostary also admitted that Bangladesh's batting effort had fallen short of expectations. "The score was not enough because our target was more than 140. We slowed down a little in the middle overs and could not make proper use of the final three or four overs," she said. The defeat leaves Bangladesh with little room for error, with their next match against UAE on Tuesday effectively a quarterfinal. A victory over their next opponents will secure their place in the semi-finals.

Sports Desk
Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe said Monday it was natural for people to consider him as a potential Ballon d'Or winner this year after his World Cup exploits. The France captain scored 10 goals at the tournament this summer to win the Golden Boot, with his country finishing fourth, and has netted 22 in the competition during his career, making him the World Cup's all-time top scorer. Mbappe, 27, has not yet won the prestigious trophy given to the world's best player. "I think that when you play for Real Madrid, which is the best club in the world, naturally people associate you with that kind of award, they associate you with collective awards, individual awards," Mbappe told reporters. "A lot of people, when they see me in the street, talk to me about the Ballon d'Or, a lot of people talk about me as a possible Ballon d'Or winner..." "Of course I made a lot of history this summer in the most important competition in sport, but we'll see. "I have the feeling that it's a good year for that, but there's still a long time to go and people are free to vote for whoever they think is the best player in the world." Since joining Real Madrid in 2024 Mbappe has scored huge quantities of goals but the club has failed to win a major trophy. On Tuesday the record 15-time European champions host Inter Milan in the Champions League in the first match of the league phase. During Mbappe's first two years at Madrid the team has appeared unbalanced, with too many star names, including the Frenchman and Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior, widely considered not to be contributing enough to the team effort -- in contrast to Ousmane Dembele at Paris Saint-Germain and Raphinha at Barcelona. "We have to improve," admitted Mbappe. "But I could play dumb and tell you that I score more goals than (Dembele and Raphinha), and that they need to score more goals to be like me."

China's teenage 223cm basketball player 'just a little girl'

Sports Desk
Los Angeles Dodgers two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani is unlikely to pitch again this season, team manager Dave Roberts said Sunday. The Japanese has suffered multiple injuries, missing four consecutive games this week for the first time since he joined the Dodgers in 2023. Ohtani has not pitched in a game since July 3. He has battled inflammation and soreness, and experienced injury setbacks after bullpen throwing sessions. Roberts on Sunday expressed hope that Ohtani could return to the Dodgers' batting lineup as soon as Monday. But with just three weeks remaining of the regular season, Roberts downplayed the prospect of Ohtani returning to the mound as a full-fledged starter this year. "Obviously if you're looking at the calendar, how much he's thrown in the last week, I think we can all do the math," said Roberts. Asked if Ohtani might instead throw just an inning at a time as an opener, Roberts responded: "I think

Tiafoe tops Medvedev in straight sets at US Open



Sports Desk
American Frances Tiafoe swept past former champion Daniil Medvedev in straight sets Sunday to advance to the quarter-finals of the US Open. A two-time semi-finalist at New York's Flushing Meadows, the 11th-seeded Tiafoe defeated seventh-seeded Medvedev of Russia 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) to reach the quarter-finals for the fourth time in five years. Medvedev held leads in two of the three sets, but was outplayed by the American at key junctures. "I played well when it counted," Tiafoe said. "Yeah, I came up with some crazy stuff, but it had to be that good against such a quality player in Daniil." Tiafoe enjoyed loud support from the crowd in Louis Armstrong Stadium, where he has never lost. After the match, Tiafoe stood before the crowd and pointed to his ear, asking for noise. He also took a virtual basketball shot, acknowledging hoop stars Lisa Leslie, AJ Dybantsa and Victor Oladipo who were in his cheering section. "The energy has been amazing," Tiafoe told a court-side interviewer. "It's like the people's court. I'm loving the energy for sure." Medvedev had won six of seven prior match-

es against the American, including a straight-set drubbing in the same round of the 2020 US Open. But Medvedev, who won the US Open in 2021 for his only Grand Slam, has had an up-and-down 2026. He has won two ATP titles and notched a win over Carlos Alcaraz at the prestigious Indian Wells tournament. But Medvedev, who has reached six career Grand Slam finals, failed this year to advance beyond the round of 16 at any Grand Slam. Medvedev served for the first set, but was broken at 6-5 and then lost the tiebreaker decisively. Too often, Medvedev was unable to consolidate lead. He hit a brilliant backhand overhead to take a 4-3 lead in the third-set tiebreaker, but followed it up with a feeble backhand error. Still, the Russian held a set point in the third-set tiebreaker. But Tiafoe got the better of a net exchange between the men, then proceeded to take the next two points to seal the win. "I should have played better in some moments of the match," Medvedev said. "I should have made better shots, better decisions, actually. That's what made the difference." Tiafoe, who reached the final of the pre-US Open warmup tournament in Cincinnati, will next play fellow American Alex Michelsen, a 22-year old who will play his first Grand Slam quarter-final. Michelsen beat 27th-seeded Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-4. In the 2022 semi-finals, Tiafoe lost in five sets to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who would go on later that weekend to win his first Grand Slam title. The two men are in the same half of the draw, and are now just one round away from a potential rematch if both win their next matches.

Mbappe embraces Ballon d'Or talk after historic World Cup exploits

Sports Desk
Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe said Monday it was natural for people to consider him as a potential Ballon d'Or winner this year after his World Cup exploits. The France captain scored 10 goals at the tournament this summer to win the Golden Boot, with his country finishing fourth, and has netted 22 in the competition during his career, making him the World Cup's all-time top scorer. Mbappe, 27, has not yet won the prestigious trophy given to the world's best player. "I think that when you play for Real Madrid, which is the best club in the world, naturally people associate you with that kind of award, they associate you with collective awards, individual awards," Mbappe told reporters. "A lot of people, when they see me in the street, talk to me about the Ballon d'Or, a lot of people talk about me as a possible Ballon d'Or winner..." "Of course I made a lot of history this summer in the most important competition in sport, but we'll see. "I have the feeling that it's a good year for that, but there's still a long time to go and people are free to vote for whoever they think is the best player in the world." Since joining Real Madrid in 2024 Mbappe has scored huge quantities of goals but the club has failed to win a major trophy. On Tuesday the record 15-time European champions host Inter Milan in the Champions League in the first match of the league phase. During Mbappe's first two years at Madrid the team has appeared unbalanced, with too many star names, including the Frenchman and Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior, widely considered not to be contributing enough to the team effort -- in contrast to Ousmane Dembele at Paris Saint-Germain and Raphinha at Barcelona. "We have to improve," admitted Mbappe. "But I could play dumb and tell you that I score more goals than (Dembele and Raphinha), and that they need to score more goals to be like me."

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"Everyone is different, but I want to do things intelligently and say that of course I have to improve and all that, but I don't like comparisons because I think I do a lot of things that others don't do." Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho recently said he would prefer if Mbappe scored fewer goals but also worked hard to help the team win titles. Mbappe said he would accept lower numbers if it led to trophies, but noted they were not mutually exclusive. "I'd take 30 goals with titles, yes, but... for me it's an absurd debate," said Mbappe. "I always want to score goals and win titles... you don't have to choose, you can do both things." - Mourinho faces old friends - Veteran Portuguese coach Mourinho led Inter to Champions League glory in 2010 at the Santiago Bernabeu before he departed to take over at Real Madrid. Despite his history with the Italian side, whom he steered to the treble that year, the coach said that only mattered before and after, but not during the match. "There aren't many (people) left from my time, but it'll always be a pleasure to see people, even if I don't know them, but people who defend Inter, before and after," said Mourinho. "During the game I want to win, they want to win, and there won't be time to think about things from a wonderful past." Mourinho wants his Madrid players to bounce back from their first defeat of the season, 1-0 at Real Betis on Friday in La Liga. "I want to win. I could tell you I want to play well, but I don't want to play well like we did against Betis and lose," said Mourinho. "Obviously we're in a phase where we play eight games and the objective in these eight games is to qualify, and I think we're going to do that. But I want to think about this match in isolation from that context. "I want to think about this match as a one-off game, I don't want to think that we still have seven more matches to play, and I want to win."



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Ohtani 'unlikely' to pitch again this season, says Dodgers manager

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Los Angeles Dodgers two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani is unlikely to pitch again this season, team manager Dave Roberts said Sunday. The Japanese has suffered multiple injuries, missing four consecutive games this week for the first time since he joined the Dodgers in 2023. Ohtani has not pitched in a game since July 3. He has battled inflammation and soreness, and experienced injury setbacks after bullpen throwing sessions. Roberts on Sunday expressed hope that Ohtani could return to the Dodgers' batting lineup as soon as Monday. But with just three weeks remaining of the regular season, Roberts downplayed the prospect of Ohtani returning to the mound as a full-fledged starter this year. "Obviously if you're looking at the calendar, how much he's thrown in the last week, I think we can all do the math," said Roberts. Asked if Ohtani might instead throw just an inning at a time as an opener, Roberts responded: "I think



that's unlikely." Ohtani has played a crucial role as the Dodgers have won back-to-back World Series the past two seasons, but his pitching role has been limited. After undergoing two right elbow operations in 2023, Ohtani did not take the mound at all for the Dodgers until last June. After a rehab-free off-season, this was meant to be the year Ohtani returned as a full-time two-way player, with the Japanese star targeting the Cy Young Award for outstanding pitching. But that has been derailed by injuries to his left knee, right biceps and neck. Ohtani's batting form has slumped in recent weeks as he has attempted to return as a pitcher.

Australian Rules limits contact training to reduce concussion

Sports Desk
Australian Rules football's governing body on Monday announced limits on contact training in a bid to reduce concussion cases that have long blighted the sport. Head trauma has become one of the most pressing issues facing the hugely-popular game, which is characterised by forceful collisions, tackles and high jumping catches. Multiple players have been forced into retirement due to repeated concussions and there is a class action case pending against the AFL, the governing body. The new rules stem from recommendations by a coroner after the death of former player Shane Tuck, who died in 2020 aged 38 and was subsequently diagnosed with the degenerative brain condition chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).



Low-voltage solution in Roumari could revolutionize paddy production



Rangpur Correspondent

Installation of a new 132/33 kV power supply grid substation in Roumari upazila or nearby area can solve the prevailing low voltage trouble to run low-lift pumps (LLPs) for smooth irrigation to produce 6,300 tonnes of additional paddy worth Taka 22-crore annually.

In the Roumari and Rajibpur upazilas of Kurigram, most of the irrigation machines (shallow tube wells) have been diesel-powered for a long time.

So the irrigation cost of farmers is relatively very high and for paddy cultivation it is up to Taka 6,000 per bigha.

To reduce the crop production cost of farmers, modernize the irrigation system, make agriculture sustainable and revolutionize rice production, Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has installed 36 LLPs there in the last three years.

In addition, 29-km of 11 kV power supply lines, 1.5 kilometers of uPVC underground pipelines and prepaid meters have been installed to increase the efficiency of irrigation management, provide moderate, planned irrigation and prevent water wastage.

As a result, the 36 LLP schemes have created an opportunity to reduce the cost of irrigation for farmers and make agricultural activities more profitable and sustainable and expand modern electricity-powered irrigation systems.

However, the LLP schemes are not operating at the expected capacity due to continuous voltage drop for the long 90-km distance from the Jamalpur grid substation that supplies power

to Roumari upazila.

As a result, the benefits of the huge government investment of around Taka five crore in setting up these facilities by BMDA are not properly reaching the farmers' level.

Talking to , Deputy General Manager at Roumari Zonal Office of Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity of Rural Electrification Board Engineer Delwar Hossain said the power supply system in Roumari and Rajibpur upazilas is mainly dependent on Jamalpur grid.

"Since the distance from Roumari to Jamalpur grid substation is 90 km and Rajibpur to Dewanganj grid substation is 70 km, significant voltage drop is being created in the long distance distribution lines," he said.

The long distant distribution lines from remote Jamalpur and Dewanganj grid substations are causing voltage drops, negatively impacting the BMDA's 36 LLP irrigation schemes.

"The higher authorities are considering setting up another 132/33kV grid substation in Bakshiganj upazila of Jamalpur, 40 kilometers away from Roumari and Rajibpur upazilas to resolve the low voltage problem," said Engineer Hossain.

Rangpur Circle Superintending Engineer of BMDA Engineer Md Habibur Rahman Khan told that most of the local people's livelihoods depend on agriculture in Roumari and Rajibpur upazilas separated from the mainland of Kurigram district by the Brahmaputra.

Agricultural production is mainly dependent on irrigation in these two upazilas where most of the irrigation machines are diesel-powered, and the cost of irrigation is very high.

"We have established 36 LLPs, 29-km of 11 kV power supply lines, 1.5 kilometers of uPVC buried pipelines and prepaid meters to increase the efficiency of irrigation management and planned irrigation and prevent water wastage," he said.

However, currently, the activities of these LLP irrigation schemes are being hampered due to low voltage and frequent load-shedding. He said that before the introduction of the electricity-run LLP irrigation facilities through buried pipe system, farmers had to spend Taka 6,000 to irrigate one bigha of land through diesel-powered irrigation machines.

DNCRP fines 5 business establishments TK 50,000 in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) in a market surveillance campaign has fined five business establishments TK 50,000 in Badarganj upazila of the district.

The Rangpur divisional and district offices jointly conducted the campaign and inspected various chilling centres, feed and meat shops in the Railgate Bazar number 13 and Badarganj Bazar areas of Badarganj upazila on Monday.

In the campaign, Rangpur dairy products was fined TK 25,000, Pran Dairy TK 10,000, Ma Traders TK 7,000, Abwa Baniya Bhandar TK 6,000 and Habibar Gosth Ghar TK 2,000 for violating the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009.

The total fine amounting to TK 50,000 imposed at that time was collected immediately.

Deputy Director of the DNCRP Rangpur Divisional Office Md Jahangir Alam, Assistant Director of the DNCRP Rangpur District Office Md Mostafizur Rahman, Badarganj Upazila Livestock Officer and Ansar-VDP members attended the campaign.

After the campaign, the DNCRP Deputy Director told reporters that such market surveillance and campaigns will continue for the public interest.



Women's gathering on "Implementation of Election Manifesto" held in Lalpur

Rajshahi Correspondent

A women's gathering was held in Lalpur of Natore with the aim of informing the public about the implementation of the present government's election manifesto and priority programmes.

The gathering was held yesterday on the premises of Nobinagar Government Primary School of Lalpur upazila, organised by the Natore District Information Office.

Natore District Primary Education Officer Abdul Hannan addressed the gathering as chief guest while Chairman of Iswardi Union Parishad (UP) Abdul Aziz Ranju was present as special guest.

With Md. Golam Mostafa, president of Nobinagar Government Primary School, in the chair, the welcome speech was delivered by Natore District Information Officer Abdul Awal.

The programme was conducted by Jalal Uddin Babu, head teacher of Nobinagar Government Primary School.

At the gathering, speakers discussed various priority programmes in the present government's election manifesto and their implementation.

In particular, the women present were informed about the goals, objectives and potential benefits of various public welfare initiatives including the Family Card, Farmer Card, and canal excavation programmes.

The speakers said there is no alternative to education for the overall development of the country and for future generations.

Families and society need to be more aware about sending children to school regularly, creating interest in education, and preventing dropouts.

Along with ensuring education for women and children, everyone was called upon to play a responsible role in building an educated and aware society.

In addition, the gathering discussed prevention of child marriage, curbing the spread of drugs, increasing social awareness, and ensuring a safe future for children.

Speakers emphasized the need for parents to be aware of the harmful effects of child marriage and drugs and to work collectively to prevent these social problems.

Local women, guardians, teachers, public representatives and people from various walks of life participated in the gathering.

PIB training for journalists begins in Rangamati

Rangamati Correspondent

A three-day training workshop on artificial intelligence (AI), fact-checking and journalists' safety began here yesterday for journalists working in Rangamati.

The workshop was inaugurated at 11.00 am at the conference hall of Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), with support from UNESCO, organized the training.

Chairman of the Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board Major General (retd) Anup Kumar Chakma attended the inaugural session as the chief guest while UNESCO Bangladesh Country Representative and Head of Office Dr Susan Vize presided over the event.

Project Lead of UNESCO's Media and Elections Project Shakil M Faisal, PIB trainer Jilhaz Uddin Nipun, Dhaka Post Head of News Media Ariful Islam Arman, Rangamati Press Club President Anwar Al Haque, General Secretary Muhammad Elias,



Reporters Unity President Sushil Prasad Chakma, Journalists Union President Md Kamal Uddin and Journalists Forum President Nandan Debnath, among others, were present.

The three-day training covers various aspects of using AI in journalism, techniques and concepts related to AI, the importance of objectivity in AI-assisted journalism and fact-checking, as well as journalists' professional ethics, responsibilities and duties.

A total of 35 journalists from different print and electronic media outlets working in Rangamati are participating in the training, which will conclude on September 9.

Farmer killed, two injured in Kushtia lightning strike

Kushtia Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 7, 2026 () - A farmer was killed and two others were seriously injured in a lightning strike in Tegharia area under Kanchanpur union of Sadar upazila here this afternoon.

The deceased was Toafazzel Hossain, 55, son of Mannan Pradhan of Swastipur village under Alampur union of Sadar upazila.

According to police and local sources, Toafazzel was returning home from his crop field. When he reached the Tegharia field, lightning suddenly struck him around 2 pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Two other people were also seriously injured in the lightning strike. Locals rescued them and admitted them to Kushtia Medical College Hospital.

Alampur Police Camp in-charge ASI Faridul Islam confirmed the matter.

Rest house inaugurated at Jhalokathi's floating guava garden to attract tourists

Jhalokathi Correspondent

A rest house was inaugurated yesterday at the Bhimruli floating guava garden area in Sadar Upazila of the district for the convenience of tourists.

At the same time, dustbins were distributed among local residents as part of initiatives for floating waste treatment and green boat-certified tourism to promote cleanliness and environmental protection.

Jhalokathi deputy commissioner Md. Momin Uddin inaugurated the rest house built at a cost of Taka 750,000.



Female drug dealer arrested in Amtoli. Amtoli (Barguna) Correspondent. Amtoli Police Station has arrested a female drug dealer named Josna Begum (35) with 100 grams of marijuana in Amtoli. She was arrested from the Mahishkata Bazar area of the upazila around 9 pm on Sunday. Josna Begum is the wife of Saidul Molla of Mahishkata Bazar. Amtoli Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md. Yakub Hossain said that a case has been filed against her under the Narcotics Control Act. She has been sent to jail through the court.

Food factory fined in Bogura for producing food in unhygienic conditions

Bogura Correspondent

The district administration's mobile court yesterday fined the owner of a chanachur factory Taka 3 lakh for producing food products in an unhygienic environment in Chelopara area of the city.

The mobile court conducted the drive at 'Dollar Chanachur and Sema' factory in Chelopara area around 1 pm.

During the drive, the mobile court found that flour dough was being prepared by trampling it with feet and spices were being mixed with chanachur in an extremely unhygienic environment.

The authorities also found that burnt oil and unauthorised chemical colours were being used to fry the chanachur. The finished food products were being kept scattered on dirty floors, while workers were not maintaining even basic hygiene standards.

Talking to after the drive, Executive Magistrate Md Shahjalal said the accused establishment admitted to the offences of preparing food in an unhygienic environment and using chemical colours.

He said the factory owners were fined Taka 3 lakh for violating Section 33 of the Safe Food Act, 2013, and the fine was realised immediately.

"Such drives will continue in the public interest," he added.

District Safe Food Officer Md Russell and other administrative officials were present during the drive.



Amtali Newly Appointed UNO, Journalists, Political Leaders Hold View Exchange Meeting



Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Amtali Upazila's newly appointed Upazila Executive Officer Hasan Md. Hafizur Rahman held a view exchange meeting with journalists from local print and electronic media. At 10 am on Monday, Upazila Parishad auditorium, Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Ashrafur Islam, Amtoli Press Club President Md. Rezaul Karim, Vice President Md. Jasim Uddin Howlader, Journalists Coordination Council President Md. Zakir Hossain, General Secretary Md. Hayatuzzaman Miraz, Press Club Vice President S.M. Nasir Mahmud, Joint General Secretary Md. Mohsin Matubbar, Abdur Rahman, journalists Nasrin Sipu, Abu Jihad,

Mahatabur Rahman, (etc.) delivered speeches at the meeting. After that, at 11 am, a meeting was held with local political party leaders, heads of educational institutions and civil society leaders. The meeting was addressed by former MP Advocate Professor Abdul Majid Mallick, Principal of Amtoli Government College Dr. Muhammad Jamal Hossain, Amtoli Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Ashrafur Islam, former Upazila BNP President Jalal Secretary Md. Tuhin Mridha, former BNP Joint Convener Maqbul Hossain Khan, Amtoli Upazila Convener of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Bir Muktiyoddha Abdul Aziz, former Municipal BNP Convener Md. Kabir Uddin Fakir, former Member Secretary Jalal Ahmed Khan, President of Islamic Movement Maulana Omar Faruque, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Ilias Hossain, Coordinator of NCP Md. Bayzid, Convener of Gana Adhikar Parishad Md. Saidul Islam, Convener of Teachers and Employees Oikyajot Md. Delwar Hossain, Scout Secretary Md. Moazzem Hossain, General Secretary of Shilpakala Academy Md. Rezaul Karim (etc.)

Khulna Correspondent

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested the alleged Arman Bahini chief Arman alias Armin alias Dipu, 45, and recovered a foreign-made pistol, two one-shooter guns and 12 rounds of live ammunition from different locations in the city.

The elite force [RAB-6] conducted drives at Daulatpur and Phulbari Gate areas on Sunday after arresting Arman from Boalmari upazila of Faridpur district. At a press conference at the RAB-6 office here yesterday, its Deputy Commander Major Nazmul Islam said Arman had been on their wanted list for a long time and had allegedly become a name of terror in Daulatpur, Khalishpur, Aranghata, Dighalia and adjoining areas.

Following information provided by Arman, RAB recovered the foreign-made pistol from a tin-shed room hidden under a pile of bricks beside a house in Jabdipur area under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station. The two one-shooter guns and 12 rounds of ammunition were recovered from inside a tong house at a fish enclosure in Kartikkul area under Daulatpur Police Station. Three mobile phones and a pocket router were also recovered from his possession.

Major Nazmul said Arman confessed to his involvement in an



attack on two Muslim worshippers after entering a mosque in Daulatpur on June 17 this year.

According to RAB, Arman had long been involved with an active criminal group operating in Daulatpur and Aranghata areas.

Intelligence sources said Arman had previously worked as the pickup driver of another alleged criminal, Humayun Kabir Huma. Later, following a dispute, he separated from

Huma and formed his own group.

The sources alleged that rivalry between the two groups resulted in several killings in Daulatpur, Khalishpur, Aranghata and Dighalia areas.

Arman Bahini was allegedly involved in extortion, intimidation and establishing territorial dominance, creating fear among local people.

On November 30, 2025, alleged criminals Fazle Rabbi Rajon and Hasib Howlader were shot and hacked to death in front of the main gate of the Khulna court. Arman was released from jail two days before the incident. A police source said he might be questioned in connection with the double murder case.

RAB and police sources said several cases, including murder cases, have been filed against Arman with Daulatpur Police Station.