



President calls for resolving all outstanding issues with India

Staff correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday laid emphasis on quick resolving the outstanding issues between Bangladesh and India through discussions to further strengthen and sustain the existing relations between the two countries. "Mutual trust and confidence between the peoples of the two countries would increase further if matters of mutual interest were resolved through fair and mutually acceptable solutions,"

he said. He made the remarks when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on the President at Bangabhaban here this morning. President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam said during a briefing after the meeting. The President urged India to take effective measures to ensure a fair share of the waters of common rivers, including the Ganges and the Teesta. Indian High Commissioner to

Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi informed the President that his government was taking positive measures in this regard. The President said Bangladesh attaches special importance to its relations with India as its closest neighbour and an important trade and development partner. President Alamgir said Bangladesh is interested in building a respectful, forward-looking, mutually respectful and mutually beneficial partnership with India while

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President Mirza Fakhrul Alamgir lays foundation stone of Thakurgaon University



Mohinul Islam Sujan

After a long wait, President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has finally laid the foundation stone of Thakurgaon University. On Monday (September 7) afternoon, he laid the foundation stone of the proposed university at the designated location of Maheshali (Bhatari Mari Farm) on the Thakurgaon-

Pirganj road in Amtoli Rail Ghunti, Jamalpur area of Thakurgaon. This is Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's first official visit to his own district Thakurgaon after taking office as President. He laid the foundation stone of Thakurgaon University on the second day of his two-day official visit. Expressing his gratitude and thanks to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the President said that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman approved Thakurgaon University in a very short time and started the subsequent activities. In that context, the foundation stone of the university was laid yesterday. I hope that the design and infrastructure of this university will be prepared in a very short time and the construction work will start. He said, 'Yesterday is a happy day

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Arrests Made Over Clash and Display of Weapons in Sitakunda Locally Made Weapons and Firearm Recovered; Police Operations Continue

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

Police have arrested three people in connection with a clash and the public display of weapons during separate programmes marking the 48th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Sitakunda, Chattogram. A large number of locally made weapons and a locally manufactured single-barrel firearm were also recovered during the operation. According to police sources, tensions arose between two local groups in Sitakunda on September 1 over separate public gatherings organised to mark the BNP's 48th founding anniversary. The situation eventually escalated into chasing, counter-chasing and clashes. At one point, images and videos showing several individuals displaying firearms and locally made weapons circulated on social media and were published by various media outlets. Following the incident, Chattogram District Police launched an operation to identify and arrest those involved. As part of the operation, three individuals—Sadek, 29, Kamrul, 39, and Hanif, 34—were arrested.

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64 sadar thanas to lead 'Zero Complaint' policing

Staff Correspondent

In a major administrative drive to transform frontline policing and strengthen public confidence, authorities have launched an initiative to turn all 64 Sadar Thanas across the country into "Zero Complaint" police service centres. The initiative seeks to ensure that citizens receive swift, courteous and professional services while eliminating grievances against police personnel, officials said. "This initiative marks a significant step toward modernising the police force and ensuring that the most vital police stations in each district serve as models of accountability and public trust," Additional Inspector General of Police Khondoker Rafiqul Islam told BSS yesterday. "The aim is to ensure zero complaints against police personnel," he added. The initiative is being implemented as part of the government's 180-day action plan, which reflects commitments made in the BNP's electoral pledges. Additional Inspector General of Industrial Police Gazi Jashim Uddin said the initiative was designed to ensure that citizens receive the

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Allowing Hasina to talk to media in India is unexpected: info adviser

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman yesterday said allowing Sheikh Hasina, who is absconding in India, to speak to and give interview with media outlets is "highly unexpected and irritating". "To maintain a positive atmosphere in relations between Bangladesh and India, the Indian government should stop her from making such statements staying there. The Bangladesh government has already strongly protested in this regard," he said. The adviser made the remarks responding to a question at the weekly press briefing on contemporary affairs held at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID) at the Secretariat here. Reiterating the government's firm stance on bringing Sheikh Hasina back home, Dr Zahed said the ICT chief prosecutor has confirmed that Sheikh Hasina has no further opportunity to appeal, and the government's goal now is to repatriate her and execute the sentence as per the court verdict. He urged journalists to raise questions with the Indian

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Unbreakable bond of communal harmony will endure for ages in Bangladesh: Rizvi

Staff correspondent

BNP Acting Secretary General and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the country's unbreakable bond of communal harmony would endure for ages. "This unbreakable bond of harmony will endure for ages. We will continue to practise and nurture this bond together. That is why our national philosophy of 'Bangladeshi nationalism' embraces this spirit," he said. Rizvi made the remarks after placing floral wreaths and paying tribute at the graves of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Zia Uddyan in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. Members of the Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Welfare Trusts accompanied him during the visit. Rizvi said the country's tradition of harmony and brotherhood was deeply rooted in its soil and had helped shape Bangladesh's national identity. "Deep within our soil lie our harmony, communal harmony and brotherhood. Through our

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PM to launch 3-month special campaign on Saturday to prevent dengue

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will inaugurate a three-month special nationwide campaign against dengue on Saturday, focusing on cleanliness and public awareness to prevent the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. The decision to launch the campaign was taken following the Prime Minister's directive at a meeting on dengue prevention at Secretariat, said his Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. Tarique said the next three months should be treated as a high-risk period for dengue and stressed the need to focus on cleanliness and public awareness alongside mosquito-control measures. The Prime Minister said dengue cannot be effectively contained through mosquito-control

measures alone and stressed the importance of raising public awareness and keeping homes and their surroundings clean. He directed the authorities to conduct coordinated field-level activities involving local administrations, voluntary organisations and students. Under the campaign, city corporations will coordinate activities in metropolitan areas, deputy commissioners (DCs) will oversee the drives at the district level while upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) will coordinate activities at the upazila level. Volunteers from the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, scouts, Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC), Girl Guides, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and school and college students will

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No Bridge Built Even After 55 Years of Independence, Risky Crossing on Bamboo Bridge

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (Sarail Upazila) B. Bara.

Since independence, residents of South Panishwar in Panishwar Union, Sarail Upazila, have been suffering due to the absence of a permanent bridge on the route to Brahmanbaria district and other parts of the country. Even after 55 years, no bridge has been built there, forcing people to cross a risky bamboo bridge. Speaking with locals, it was learned that this route is very important for the people of the Panishwar area. Every day, students, farmers, businessmen and people from various professions use this road. With no bridge in this area, the bamboo bridge is their only option. Although locals build the bridge themselves using bamboo and other materials, it breaks down within a year and has to be rebuilt. Agricultural produce and sick patients cannot

be transported across this bridge. When the water level is low, people have to carry others on their shoulders to cross. Many people fall sick but are deprived of medical care due to the hardship of travel. On-site observation shows that many people lose their balance and fall while crossing the bridge. The risk of accidents increases further during the rainy season when the water rises and the bridge becomes slippery. Locals claim that many people have already been injured while crossing the bridge. Some have sustained injuries to their hands and legs, while others have even had their hands broken. Crossing the bridge is even more dangerous for children, the elderly and the sick. Locals said they have been demanding a permanent bridge here for a long time. Although the matter has been raised with various relevant offices and public

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Govt eyes developing humane, environment-friendly urban system: Mahdi

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister's Adviser for Education Mahdi Amin yesterday said the government's key objective is to build a humane, people-centred and environment-friendly urban system rather than building a big city to address the crisis of unplanned urbanisation and environmental challenges. Mahdi Amin, also spokesperson of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), came up with the government plan at the concluding session titled 'From Policy to Action' of the two-day National Urban Forum-2026 at a hotel in the capital, said a press release. The event was jointly organised by the Local Government Division, UNDP and the UK government. "Sustainable urban development can't be measured by the construction of large buildings or wide roads. Rather, the real measure of success should be how many people's quality of life has genuinely improved through urbanisation and how meaningful and sustainable that change is," he said. The adviser said the present government wants to adopt "360-degree holistic approach" to resolving citizens' urban

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Mohona TV Journalist Sent to Jail in Assault Case, Allegations of Illegal Sand Trade Syndicate Behind the Scenes

Special Chattogram

Correspondent

A court has sent Kamrul Islam, who identifies himself as a journalist of Mohona TV, to jail in connection with an assault case stemming from a dispute over sand trading in Mirsharai, Chattogram. However, locally he faces allegations of controlling illegal sand extraction, hill cutting and other activities, and extortion under the guise of journalism. According to the case and related sources, on September 2, a man named Abbas Uddin (32) was beaten over a conflict related to sand trading in Korherhat area of Mirsharai Upazila. He was seriously injured. He was first treated at the Upazila Health Complex. As his condition deteriorated, he was sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment. Family members, quoting doctors, said his nasal bone was broken in the attack. On September 4, the injured Abbas Uddin's wife, Sajeda Akter Sharmin (25), filed a case with Joraganj Police Station as the plaintiff. Kamrul Islam was named as the prime



accused in the case. Case No. 5(9)26. On Tuesday (September 8), Kamrul Islam surrendered to the court and applied for bail. After a hearing in the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-1, Magistrate Sayma Sultana Himu, his bail application was rejected. Later, as per the court's order, he was sent to jail. Abbas Uddin, who is currently undergoing treatment, alleged that Kamrul Islam, who poses as a Mohona TV journalist, has formed a criminal ring under the cover of journalism. He alleged that Kamrul Islam and his associates are involved in illegal sand extraction in various areas including Laxmichhara in Korherhat Union. Abbas Uddin further alleged that the said journalist collects money from those involved in hill cutting at various places in the union and collects extortion from different sand quarries. According to the allegation, up to 500 Taka was taken from large sand-carrying trucks and up to 300 Taka from small trucks. He also alleged

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Acting Editor



Md. Neyamul Hossain
Acting Editor

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Puvls and soueet

Make remittance transfers cheaper

We are concerned that Bangladesh remains among the least developed countries (LDCs) with the highest costs for sending remittances. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s latest global trade update, the average cost of sending remittances to Bangladesh stands at 7-8 percent. This puts an unacceptably high burden on our migrant workers, who work hard for modest wages to support their families back home. The UNCTAD report also points out that although digital services are expanding rapidly worldwide, LDCs are failing to keep pace. Global exports of digitally deliverable services (DDS) grew by an average 7.1 percent annually over the past decade and now account for 56 percent of global services exports. In contrast, services exports from LDCs grew by only 3 percent annually, with their share.

just 0.6 percent in 2025. DDS accounts for only 16 percent of services exports in LDCs, compared with 61 percent in developed economies—a gap that must be addressed. As per the UNCTAD report, services such as logistics, finance, design and data management, which are considered crucial to the production of goods, are now key parts of global trade. Unfortunately, services account for only 13 percent of the inputs used in industrial goods exports in LDCs, including Bangladesh, compared with the global average of 33 percent. Improving these services is therefore essential for Bangladesh to remain competitive and take part in global value chains. Bangladesh is one of the top 10 remittance-receiving countries in the world. Much of our external payment needs are met by the remittances sent by migrants, mainly from the Middle East. Reducing the cost of remittance transfers should therefore be a priority for the government. It should work with banks, money transfer operators and destination countries to increase competition, expand digital transfer options and simplify cross-border transactions. Besides, greater use of mobile financial services and other formal channels must be encouraged, while ensuring that exchange rates and fees remain transparent. Investing more in digital infrastructure and skills development is also of paramount importance. Lower remittance costs would allow migrant workers' families to receive more of their hard-earned money. At the same time, stronger digital services could create jobs and bring in more foreign exchange and help diversify our economy.

Rethinking debt management for developing countries

Md. Neyamul Hossain

al debt system for the world’s poorest nations. In this regard, some organisations have also emphasised accountability for both lenders and borrowers. Borrowing governments need to enhance transparency, project selection, and governance. However, responsibility levels may vary. Responsible borrowing must go hand in hand with responsible lending, affordable development financing, reform of the international financial system, and timely debt cancellations when needed. Developing countries require greater transparency in their debt, including disclosures of public debt, guarantees, and contingent liabilities. The national parliaments should oversee these disclosures.

rates and shorter terms for domestic debt. High levels of government borrowing can draw bank resources away from businesses, strengthening sovereign-bank ties and restricting private sector investment. Least developed countries (LDCs) may experience debt distress without actually defaulting. Governments frequently keep up with debt payments by reducing expenditures on health, education, infrastructure, food security, and climate adaptation. This “silent debt crisis” hampers progress on economic and social indicators, especially for those with low revenue and limited export earnings. That is why debt sustainability cannot be judged by the debt-to-GDP ratio alone. A country’s fiscal vulnerability is better reflected in its debt service relative to revenue, exports, and foreign exchange

reserves. LDCs experience a vicious cycle of low growth and high debt. These governments have lower public investment and high borrowing. Sovereign credit ratings of many of these countries are weak. This increases borrowing costs. As a result, they typically face a cycle of high interest payments, low investment, slow growth, and high debt vulnerability. These countries are also vulnerable to climate change, which negatively affects revenues. They must spend more on climate-related disaster management and rely on high borrowing, even though they contribute little to global greenhouse gas emissions. Debt for fiscal management may reduce employment generation efforts, squeeze options for subsidies for the poorest segments of society, and affect lower-income households. Tackling the increasing debt crisis requires more than debt management. It requires a reform of the international financial architecture. Given the high borrowing costs, volatile capital flows, and external shocks faced by poor countries, this change is crucial. Developing countries should not be forced to choose between debt-servicing and addressing the needs of their people. And developed countries must increase grants and concessional, long-term funding significantly for LDCs and climate-vulnerable countries. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) must also increase

access to affordable funds for these countries and meet their own commitments for larger climate funds. For poor countries, debt relief should remain a priority. The review of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative by the IMF indicates that significant debt reductions eased debt-service burdens and enabled increased social spending. In the current context, a new HIPC-like mechanism is needed, which should focus on current creditor complexities such as substantial debt reductions or cancellations where needed.Hence, the debt sustainability issue should be assessed not only by whether governments can repay creditors but whether enough resources are available for development, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Some initiatives have called for debt sustainability assessments based on development goals and equitable debt crisis solutions. Other initiatives, such as the G20 Common Framework (CF), should facilitate quicker restructuring processes, enable temporary standstills on debt service, and encourage greater participation from private creditors. Launched in November 2020, the CF aims to improve the international debt system for the world’s poorest nations. In this regard, some organisations have also emphasised accountability for both lenders and borrowers. Borrowing governments need to enhance transparency, project selection, and governance. However, responsibility levels may vary. Responsible borrowing must go hand in hand with responsible lending, affordable development financing, reform of the international financial system, and timely debt cancellations when needed. Developing countries require greater transparency in their debt, including disclosures of public debt, guarantees, and contingent liabilities. The national parliaments should oversee these disclosures. Debt management should align with development plans, prioritising productive projects and securing concessional, fixed-rate, long-term financing. Domestic revenue collection can be enhanced by broadening the tax base, reducing unjustified exemptions, strengthening tax policies on property and high incomes, and improving administration. Diversifying exports and investing in productivity, energy, skills, technology, and climate resilience are crucial to improving repayment capacity. When debt risks becoming unsustainable, early restructuring is vital. Fiscal adjustments should safeguard essential social programmes and investment to support sustainable growth and development. For Bangladesh, the ongoing global discussions on affordable development finance and debt system reforms are highly pertinent. The country also faces an increasingly significant global debt challenge. While public debt remains manageable in the baseline scenario, the IMF’s 2026 Debt Sustainability Analysis puts Bangladesh at moderate risk of both external and overall debt distress. This marks a shift from the low risk it had just a few years ago. Weak revenue mobilisation, rising domestic borrowing and interest expenses, banking sector vulnerabilities, and exposure to exchange-rate and climate shocks could further strain debt repayment. To address this, the country must seek long-term external finance, strengthen revenue collection and debt management, and ensure that borrowing supports productive investments.

President calls for resolving upholding sovereign equality, national interests and dignity, and the welfare of the people.During the meeting, the Indian High Commissioner congratulated Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on assuming office as President. Mentioning that India attaches great importance to its relations with Bangladesh, High Commissioner Trivedi reiterated his country’s commitment to further expanding cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including bilateral relations.He said his country is keen to further consolidate, improve and strengthen relations between the two countries based on mutual respect, trust and cooperation.The President thanked the High Commissioner for his congratulations and requested him to convey his sincere gratitude and greetings to the President of India.

"There is immense scope for further expanding cooperation in various fields, including trade, water resources management, technology, connectivity, culture and people-to-people relations between the two countries," the president said.India and Bangladesh can work more closely to achieve common peace, development and prosperity by utilizing the capabilities and potential of the peoples of both countries, he added.The Indian High Commissioner expressed hope that the two countries would continue to work together and sought the President’s cooperation in discharging his responsibilities. The President wished him a successful tenure and expressed hope that relations between the two countries would become more fruitful, positive and people-oriented in his tenure. Senior officials from the President’s Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian High Commission were present during the meeting.

Unbreakable bond of communal interaction with one another, each of us has become part of a national entity," he said.He said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman gave this national identity a philosophical form through the concept of Bangladeshi nationalism. "Within this framework, every religious community and every ethnic group has a place. There is space for everyone, and everyone can proudly say that we are Bangladeshis," he added. The BNP Acting Secretary General said three separate trusts had been formed for the Hindu, Christian and Buddhist communities."These trusts will oversee the proper management and maintenance of the temples and places of worship of the respective communities, ensuring that priests, devotees and worshippers can perform their religious activities peacefully," he said. Noting that the chairmen, vice-chairmen and members of the trusts were highly qualified and capable individuals from their respective communities, Rizvi said they would oversee, review and manage matters related to their respective trusts.He further said members of the Hindu, Christian and Buddhist communities hold important leadership positions within the BNP. "They are not representatives of their respective religious communities alone; rather, they provide leadership to the entire nation within the BNP," he added.

PM to launch 3-month special participate in the cleanliness and awareness drives. Every Saturday, volunteers and students will visit homes and other establishments to take part in cleaning activities. They will also identify potential breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes and raise awareness among residents about keeping their homes and surroundings clean.Tarique also directed the authorities to conduct extensive dengue awareness campaigns through the mass media and social media, with particular emphasis on television advertisements and regular dissemination of dengue prevention messages online. Disaster

Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu, Information and Broadcasting Minister Andalib Rahman Partha, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr MA Muhit, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yasser Khan Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Health Affairs Special Assistant Dr SM Ziauddin Haider, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister's Special Assistant Dr Shakirul Islam Khan, Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Abdus Salam and Information Secretary Mahbuba Farzana, among senior officials, attended the meeting.

Allowing Hasina to talk

High Commissioner in Dhaka so the Indian government gives a positive signal to improve relations by not allowing Hasina to speak to the media. Strongly condemning the attack on actress Azmeri Haque Badhon abroad, the information adviser said Awami League is not a normal political party but a mafia gang, while there is no minimum regret among them. He said the process of taking legal action against those involved in the incident has started and the government will not spare anyone in this regard. Replying to another query about the decision to increase marks in viva-voce for recruitment to government jobs from grades 11 to 20, he said, "This is not for any special purpose or to create discrimination, but the government has brought this change to ensure skilled and qualified administrative manpower."Regarding the purchase of new Boeing aircraft, the adviser said the government does not have to pay the money for the purchase of Boeing at once. The payment will be made in phases over a long period, he said.He said the government is considering purchasing aircraft from the European Union's 'Airbus' in the future too as needed.About LNG terminal, Dr Zahed said despite having one and a half years during the interim government tenure, no far-reaching decision has been taken on the Floating LNG Terminal (FSRU) or alternative energy management. As a result, he said, the incumbent government has to take urgent steps, including an agreement with China, to reduce the temporary energy crisis as soon as possible.Referring to the fear of a possible long-term 'El Nino' ??weather condition worldwide, the adviser said food production may be disrupted due to the adverse impacts of climate change. However, he said, currently Bangladesh has the highest food stock than that of any time in history. Coordination is being done with all the ministries concerned to deal with the possible food crisis, he added. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting KM Abdul Wadud and Deputy Principal Information Officer Fakhru Islam were present at the press briefing.

No Bridge Built Even After

representatives, no effective steps have been taken so far. Regarding this, the Chairman of Panishwar Union Parishad acknowledged the suffering of the locals and said, “We have shown the need for a bridge to both former and current MPs, in addition to the local level. But no one has taken any steps so far.” The residents’ demand is that if a permanent bridge is built quickly instead of the bamboo bridge, the communication system for several villages will become easier. At the same time, the risk of accidents and the long-standing public suffering will be reduced.

Govt eyes developing

problems.Highlighting the role of urban areas in Bangladesh's economy and the current challenges, he said nearly two-thirds

of the country’s GDP comes from urban areas, where one-third of the population lives."However, rapid and unplanned urbanisation is putting extreme pressure on housing, public transport, water supply, sanitation, waste management and the environment. Climate change, inequality and climate-induced migration have compounded these challenges," Mahdi Amin said.The government wants to build an inclusive urban framework, Mahdi said, adding it would not serve any particular class but ensure safe water, sanitation, quality healthcare, affordable education, uninterrupted electricity, modern public transport and dignified employment for every citizen."These services are not luxuries; they are constitutional and fundamental rights of every citizen," the PMO spokesperson said.Emphasising effective coordination among the central and local governments, city corporations, municipalities, development authorities, the private sector, researchers and civil society for successful implementation of urban policies, he said urban problems do not remain confined within administrative boundaries. Therefore, instead of imposing decisions from the top, we have to combine grassroots realities and experiences with global practices," Mahdi Amin said.As part of climate resilience, he called for protecting rivers, canals, wetlands and green spaces and adopting "nature-based solutions" to address waterlogging and heatwaves.The adviser also stressed that technology and artificial intelligence (AI) should be used as tools while the ultimate goal should be to make cities truly 'humane'.Noting that the deadlock situation of 16 years of authoritarian rule cannot be removed overnight, he said the government's political commitment under the leadership of the Prime Minister is very strong."The government is committed to working with all stakeholders to resolve the crises through practical and sustainable solutions. The well-planned cities we build yesterday will determine what kind of Bangladesh we want to see tomorrow," Mahdi Amin said.LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and UNDP Bangladesh Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne also spoke at the programme. International development partners, researchers, urban planners and senior government officials were present at the event.

64 sadar thanas to lead 'Zero

highest quality of police services with maximum efficiency and zero grievances.Under the administrative plan, the authorities have adopted a series of measures to turn the Sadar Thanas into model service centres. A key priority is ensuring professional conduct, courtesy and respectful behaviour by police personnel when dealing with service seekers. The best-performing district-level officers are being posted to Sadar Thanas to improve service standards. The stations are also being placed under closer supervision and continuous monitoring by senior police officials, who are conducting regular inspections and reviews to ensure that services are delivered properly.All activities inside the police stations, including the duty officer's room and waiting areas, are being monitored through CCTV cameras. Quick Response Teams are being kept ready round the clock to respond swiftly to emergencies, while female police officers have been assigned to receive and address complaints from women. Authorities are also encouraging citizens to use the online General Diary (e-GD) service to make police services faster and more accessible while reducing the need for physical visits. Information on different police services and procedures has been prominently displayed inside the stations to help service seekers easily understand and access available facilities.

Officials and personnel posted at the stations are receiving regular guidance and instructions on professional conduct and service delivery. Senior officers are also maintaining direct oversight through regular visits and inspections to ensure that the "Zero Complaint" initiative remains effective and that the Sadar Thanas emerge as benchmarks for citizen-friendly policing and public trust.

President Mirza Fakhru Islamgir

for the people of this area. Because, from now on, the people of this area will get the opportunity of higher education and higher education will expand in this region. An opportunity has been created to contribute to the development of Bangladesh by utilizing the youth and future generations. I believe that the people of this area will take that opportunity and will truly develop this university as a center of excellence - this is my expectation. Present at the laying of the foundation stone of Thakurgaon University were State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, VC of Thakurgaon University Dr. Md. Israfil Shahin, various officials of the Bangladesh University Grants Commission Board, District BNP President Mirza Faisal Amin, various officials and members of the district and police administration and administration. Earlier, the President arrived in Thakurgaon on a two-day official visit on Sunday afternoon. The helicopter carrying him landed at Thakurgaon Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium. Later, he was welcomed as per state protocol. From there, he went to the Circuit House and was given a guard of honour there. After the formalities at the Circuit House, the President visited the graves of his parents. At that time, he prayed for the forgiveness of their souls. Later in the afternoon, he attended the civic reception organized at the big ground of Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School.

Locally Made Weapons and

Police said the arrested individuals had previous cases filed against them. Based on information provided by the arrestees and findings from the investigation, police conducted an operation in the Sitakunda Police Station area and recovered 11 sharp knives, three kiriches (locally made curved weapons), one machete and 15 sticks. Later, police also recovered a locally manufactured single-barrel firearm, according to the authorities. Chattogram District Police said no one would be given any concession for involvement in criminal activities, the use of illegal firearms or the public display of weapons. Legal action will be taken against anyone involved in criminal activities regardless of their political identity or affiliation with any particular group. Police said operations against illegal weapons and criminal activities are continuing to maintain law and order and ensure the safety and security of the public. Efforts are also underway to identify and arrest other individuals involved in the incident and recover additional illegal weapons.

Mohona TV Journalist Sent to Jail

that huge amounts of money were collected through “tokens” for illegal hill cutting.However, no statement from Kamrul Islam regarding the allegations of illegal sand extraction, hill cutting and extortion was available. No immediate comment was also available from the relevant administration regarding the veracity of the allegations. Locals claim that several syndicates have long been active in different areas of Mirsharai centering on illegal sand extraction and hill cutting. They demanded a neutral investigation against those involved in these activities and necessary legal action.

Govt cuts aromatic rice export quota by 50pc



Staff correspondent

The government has reduced the approved export quota for aromatic rice by 50 percent to maintain normal domestic supply, ensure food security and contain possible price pressures in the local market.

According to a notification issued by the Export-2 branch of the Ministry of Commerce, the quantities previously allocated to 278 approved exporters have been revised downward by half. The revised allocations have taken immediate effect and will remain valid until December 31, 2026. Under the revised arrangement, exporters, including large food-processing companies as well as medium and small businesses, will not be allowed to export more than

their newly revised quantities of aromatic rice. The government has also imposed 10 mandatory conditions to strengthen monitoring, accountability and repatriation of export proceeds.

The conditions require exporters to comply with the provisions of the Export Policy 2024-27, while the relevant approvals will remain valid until December 31, 2026.

Customs authorities will verify the quality and authenticity of the product before each shipment. Exporters must also submit relevant documents to the Export-2 branch of the Ministry of Commerce after shipment.

In case of future applications for fresh export approval, exporters will have to provide complete information and supporting documents on their actual

exports against previously approved quotas.

No exporter will be allowed to export beyond the revised approved quantity. The government has also fixed a minimum FOB export price of US\$1.60 per kilogram to protect the value of the product in the international market.

The export approvals are completely non-transferable, and exporters will not be allowed to conduct exports through subcontracting or other companies.

The government may cancel an approval at any time in the public interest without assigning any reason. Exporters will also be required to submit a Proceeds Realization Certificate (PRC) as proof of repatriation of export earnings.

Earlier, the Ministry of Commerce had allowed 278 companies to export a total of 45,270 metric tonnes of aromatic rice in two phases. As of August 30, 2026, a total of 129 companies had exported 2,419 metric tonnes of aromatic rice against the approved allocations.

The government's policy position is that earning foreign exchange through exports is important, but in the case of essential food items, ensuring adequate domestic supply and price stability should receive priority. Against this backdrop, the government has reduced the approved aromatic rice export quota by 50 percent and imposed stricter conditions concerning export prices, quantities, documentation and repatriation of export proceeds.

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Non-formal education to be made more effective to increase literacy: Bobby Hajjaj

Staff correspondent

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj yesterday said a large number of people in the country still lack institutional education, stressing need for further strengthening non-formal education system to bring them under literacy. "Our main goal is that all children will remain in schools, every child will receive education based on ethics and values, and acquire skills through which they will be able to build their careers in the future," said the state minister.

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Govt plans to make 45 lakh people skill-based literate by 2031

Staff correspondent

The incumbent government, led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has planned to develop about 45 lakh illiterate population, who were deprived of formal education, with life-oriented and technical skills by 2031. The Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has taken the plan aiming to achieve the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ensure

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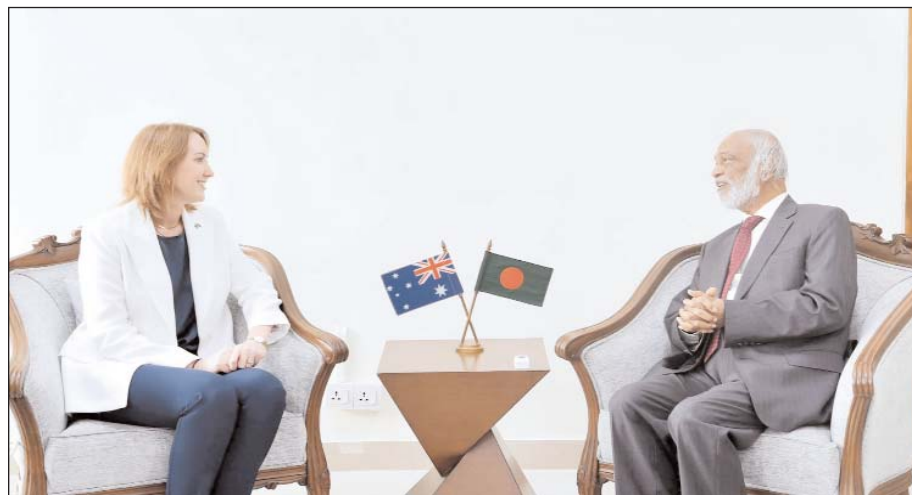
All must unite to realise Shaheed Zia's dreams: Anee

Staff correspondent

Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee yesterday said everyone must come forward to realise the dream of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. The minister made the call while addressing the sixth day of the Zia Smriti Book Fair-2026, organised by Zia Smriti Pathagar marking BNP's 48th founding anniversary on the Bangla Academy premises. "Everyone must remain focused on their respective responsibilities and work in unity under the leadership of Tarique Rahman to build a new

Bangladesh by completing the unfinished works of former Prime Minister late Begum Khaleda Zia," he said. Anee said Ziaur Rahman envisioned a modern Bangladesh. During his tenure, Bangladesh's identity and image increased in the international arena. He also dreamed of establishing SAARC to develop cordial relations among the countries of South Asia, he added. Referring to Ziaur Rahman's direct participation in the Liberation War as its declarer, Anee said he had worked to build the country in the spirit of the Liberation War. Dhaka South City BNP Joint

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Moyeen Khan for strengthening local govt system to reinforce democratic practices

Staff correspondent

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday laid emphasis on further strengthening the local government system to improve people's quality of life and

reinforce democratic practices in the country. He put the emphasis when Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle paid a courtesy call on him at his office in the Bangladesh Secretariat here, said an official handout.

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7 Associates of Chittagong Terrorists 'David Imon' and 'Kala Mobarak' Arrested



Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Police have arrested seven associates of an organized extortion ring operating under the names of notorious Chittagong top terrorists David Imon and Kala Mobarak. A special team from Chittagong District Police conducted overnight drives across various parts of the city on Monday (September 7) to apprehend the suspects.

During the raids, police recovered four mobile handsets—including active foreign SIM cards and connection devices used for extortion—along with several domestic weapons, including machetes and swords.

Under the direction of Chittagong District Superintendent of Police Md. Masud Alam, a specialized police unit led by Additional Superintendent of Police (Hathazari Circle) Kazi Md. Tarek Aziz executed the operation. The ring was dismantled following coordinated raids in Hathazari's Bhuliapara and Khondokia, the Baizid Bostami Mazar area, and the Dampara bus stand in Khulshi.

The arrestees have been identified as Kamrul Hasan alias Sagar (25), Md. Riku (25), Md. Tariqul Islam Faruk alias Rohit (20), Ahmadullah alias Masush Member-dat (40), Ahmad Reza Shakil (25), Md. Manik (40), and Nurul Alam (40). According to police sources, David Imon—a top criminal named in 13 cases—was arrested in Jashore on July 29, while Kala Mobarak was apprehended in Fatikchhari on August 25. Despite their ringleaders being behind bars, these associates continued demanding large sums of extortion money from local business owners and residents using their names.

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64 BGB Seizes Yaba Worth Tk 4.5 Cr in Teknaf, 1 Arrested

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a massive consignment of 150,000 Yaba pills and arrested a drug trader during a raid at the Unchirang border area in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. The estimated market value of the seized drugs is approximately Tk 4.5 crore.

The arrestee has been identified as Helal Mia (25), son of Md. Soleman, hailing from Kanjarpara village under Teknaf Police Station.

Lt. Col. Md. Zahirul Islam, Commanding Officer of Ukhiya Battalion (64 BGB), confirmed the matter. Acting on a tip-off, a special BGB patrol team took strategic positions at Jasimer Gher in Unchirang on Monday night. As the smugglers crossed the border and noticed the BGB presence, they attempted to flee. BGB

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BNP becomes increasingly popular over time braving conspiracies: Dulu

Staff correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Whip M Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu yesterday said BNP has become increasingly popular, defying numerous adversities and thwarting repeated attempts to suppress the party over time.

"BNP's all leaders and workers remain always committed to protecting the party from any kind of conspiracy so that no evil force can harm it," he told a discussion at Jatiya Press Club (JPC) here.

Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Sangskritik Dal organized the event marking the BNP's 48th founding anniversary under the theme "The Contribution of Shaheed Zia to Building a Self-Reliant Bangladesh." Noting that BNP had won every time a free and fair election held in the country, Dulu hoped the party would be able to meet the people's expectations and implement its electoral commitment. Condemning the incidents of enforced disap

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Stolen Endangered Lemurs from Gazipur Safari Park Found at Ambani's Vantara



Staff Correspondent

Two of the three endangered ring-tailed lemurs stolen from Gazipur Safari Park in Bangladesh have reportedly been traced to Gujarat, India. According to an investigation by Bangladesh's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the two animals are cur-

rently at Vantara, a wildlife rescue and conservation project managed by Anant Ambani, son of Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani.

Investigators said the two lemurs passed through several hands after being smuggled out of Bangladesh before eventually reaching Jamnagar in Gujarat. They were later allegedly sold to an institution associated with Vantara for approximately 4.8 million Indian rupees.

Stolen in the Dead of Night The three ring-tailed lemurs were stolen from Gazipur Safari Park in the early hours of March 23, 2025.

According to the investigation, a wildlife trafficker named Jewel allegedly carried out the theft with the assistance of a safari park security guard, Nipen Mahmud. Two of the three lemurs were later smuggled into India through the Darshana border in Chuadanga, investigators said.

Photos and Videos Sent to Potential Buyers According to the CID investigation and statements made by the accused under Section 164, the lemurs were initially kept at a house in Bangladesh after being stolen. Photos and videos of the animals were later sent to potential buyers

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Record \$2.05b foreign debt repayment in 5 months

Staff correspondent

The government has repaid a record US\$2.0476 billion in principal and interest on foreign loans in just five months after the BNP government took office. Despite the additional repayment pressure from the huge volume of loans taken during the ousted Awami League regime, the present government has been regularly servicing the liabilities. The amount repaid during the five months from March to July this year is equivalent to around Tk 25,163 crore in Bangladesh currency. According to updated statistics of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), this is the highest-ever repayment of foreign loans in any five-month period so far. During the same period last year, foreign debt repayment stood at US\$1.8971 billion, or around Tk 23,310 crore. This means that the government's debt repayment during the period increased by US\$150.4 million, or around

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জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ডা. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপখালমোলোজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপখালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপখালমোলোজী)
সিনিয়র কন্সালট্যান্ট 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 cuts aromatic rice

The new arrangement will require exporters to operate strictly within their approved limits and provide comprehensive records of their previous export activities when seeking future approvals.

The move is expected to enhance control over aromatic rice exports while improving transparency and accountability in export management. The government said the initiative is not aimed at completely stopping aromatic rice exports, but at ensuring that exports are conducted in a controlled and sustainable manner while maintaining food security and stability in the domestic market.

Non-formal education to

Speaking as chief guest, the state minister came up with the plan at a discussion and non-formal education award-giving ceremony organised on the occasion of the International Literacy Day at the auditorium of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education in Tejgaon here, said a ministry press release.He said around 22 percent of the country's people are still outside literacy and institutional education, which is nearly four crore in number.

A large portion of them are adults, he said, adding that many children of primary school-going age are also still outside institutional education.

"So, bringing this population back into the mainstream of education and skills must be given the highest priority," he said.Bobby Hajjaj said they have the opportunity to work with the largest population among all ministries and directorates related to education."Therefore, in terms of numbers, the Bureau of Non-Formal Education needs to be turned into one of the strongest and empowered institutions in the country," he said.

He stressed making the ongoing activities of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education more results-oriented as well as on the rescoping, redesigning and refocusing of projects.

The state minister further said the Prime Minister's vision is very clear: no child will remain outside school and every child will receive proper education.

He said two important aspects of such proper education are education based on ethics and values and skills-based education."We want a child not only to be educated but also to acquire the necessary skills so that they can build their career in the future," he said.He said a large portion of the budget in the education sector has to be spent on improving the quality of education, bringing children back to school, increasing literacy and developing skills.

"Budget in the education sector should not be only for constructing buildings; every taka of this budget must be used to ensure proper education for people," he said.

Highlighting the significance of International Literacy Day, the state minister said merely increasing the literacy rate is not enough."People have to be provided with such education that will improve their standard of living, develop values and create the capacity to play an effective role in working life," he said.Director General of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education Monowara Ishrat presided over the programme.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Jasmin Nahar and Additional Secretary Md Mokhlesur Rahman were present at the programme as special guests. Senior officials of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Directorate of Primary Education and Bureau of Non-Formal Education, as well as representatives of various development partner organisations, were also present.

All must unite to realise

Convener A N M Saiful Islam presided over the programme. Lawmaker Selimuzzaman Selim, Swadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak-winning Professor Dr Sukomal Barua and BNP National Executive Committee Member Fazlur Rahman Khokon, among others, addressed the event.

Govt plans to make 45 lakh peo

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and transform the backward population into skilled human resources by utilising the 'demographic dividend'.

According to the Economic Survey 2025, the literacy rate in Bangladesh is 77.9 percent. The main priority of the incumbent government is to bring the remaining illiterate population under the umbrella of practical literacy, technical skills and pre-vocational education.State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj told BSS that the main goal of the government is to link education with employment and practical life skills.

"As instructed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, we do not want to be limited to teaching only the alphabet. We want to make this 45 lakh working population, aged 25 to 45, self-reliant through practical or skill-based education.

"If this is ensured, it will be possible to increase the literacy rate in the country to 90 percent by 2031," he said.Outline under the 'Alpha' programmeBNFE officials said a programme titled 'Adult and Functional Literacy for Ability Enhancement Programme (ALPHA)' has been taken to bring the country's elderly and working people under the pre-vocational education. Based on the global 'Each One Teach One' model, the concept note of this programme has already been included in the 'green leaf' of the Planning Commission.According to the work plan, in the first phase, a one-year pilot project will be started with 35,000 illiterate people in 40 selected upazilas of 40 districts. After reviewing the outcomes of the pilot programme and the field-level results, 45 lakh illiterate population aged 25 to 45 will be directly brought under the skill-based literacy programme through the main project.

Project officials said if this project is implemented, the country will be on the path to achieve 100 percent literacy by 2031. So, the literacy rate is expected to increase from 86 to 90 percent by this period.

BNFE Director General Monoara Eshrat said the government's plan is not just to teach reading and writing, it is to create life-long learning opportunities by turning those deprived of education into skilled human resources.

"Realising the demand of the current labour market, we want to make them skilled in technical and digital technology so that they can join their livelihood after training," she said. She also said the projects taken under the government's 180-day plan are progressing at various stages of approval, including inclusion in the green leaf of the Planning Commission. If these projects and outlines are fully implemented, it will be possible to achieve the target of increasing the literacy rate to 90 percent by 2031, Eshrat said.

Education for dropout children, adolescents:The BNFE officials said the 'Alternative Learning Opportunities for Out of School Children (Alo)' project has been taken not only to improve adult literacy, but also to bring out-of-school and dropout children back to mainstream education. Under this project, which is being implemented from 2026 to 2028 involving Taka 158.73 crore, activities will start in 64 selected upazilas of 64 districts of the country.

They said the process of finalising the implementation guidelines of the project and starting the student survey activities is underway. In the first phase of the project, 19,200 out-of-school children aged 10 to 14 years will be provided quality non-formal primary education. In the second phase, another 19,200 adolescents aged 15 to 24 (who dropped out before passing class-VIII will be provided pre-vocational training. The BNFE officials said 4,312 dropout students in 58 districts have been successfully trained in 11 technical and vocational trades under a 180-day priority-based programme, while 4,198 students have passed the assessment conducted on the international standards of the Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF). Of them, 3,882 or 92.47 percent of the

students have been able to ensure 'future linkage' to direct jobs, apprenticeships or self-employment. Following this successful model, the proposed Alpha programme prepared for 45 lakh people will include technical and vocational training. Skill-based model 'Skillfo':Under the 'Non-Formal Education Act, 2014', there is an opportunity for age- and need-based education, life skills and pre-vocational training for out-of-school children and illiterate people.

Under the 'Skillfo' pilot project in Cox's Bazar, an employment model has been created by providing basic literacy and technical training to 6,825 adolescents. In continuation of this success, an initiative has been taken to start the second phase of the Skillfo project to bring one lakh youth under training in 64 upazilas of 16 more districts.Hiraman Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director (Implementation) of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education, said integrated programmes like Alo, Skillfo and Alpha are at various stages of approval by the Planning Commission. If these projects are fully launched at the field level, the path to achieving the set literacy rate target by 2031 will be smooth, he said.

The International Literacy Day is being observed yesterday across the globe in befitting manner. Education stakeholders believed that the far-reaching initiatives, taken by the government based on the theme of this year's Literacy Day-'Literacy for People, Planet and Prosperity', will make it possible to build an illiterate-free Bangladesh by 2031.

7 Associates of Chittagong

Arms and Shotgun Recovered in Sitakunda

In a separate drive, police arrested three individuals—Sadek (29), Kamrul (39), and Hanif (34)—in connection with a public brandishing of firearms in Sitakunda on September 1. Based on information extracted from the detainees, police later recovered a locally made single-barrel pipe gun, 11 sharp knives, three machetes, one cleaver, and 15 wooden sticks. Police confirmed that all three suspects have prior criminal records.

64 BGB Seizes Yaba Worth Tk

personnel chased and arrested Helal Mia. Upon searching two bundles in his possession, officers recovered 150,000 Yaba tablets.

The BGB official added that intelligence surveillance and shadow investigations are ongoing to identify the primary suppliers and international smuggling networks involved. Legal action is underway to file a case under the Narcotics Control Act and hand the suspect over to Teknaf Police Station.

Moyeen Khan for

LGRD and Cooperatives State Minister Mir Shahe Alam was present.Moyeen Khan at the meeting highlighted several steps taken by local government institutions to improve people's living standards.

Referring to different aspects of the local government election system, he said the government is committed to holding free, fair and impartial local government elections.

The minister said the new government passed five local government-related ordinances issued by the interim government as laws in the Jatiya Sanhsad (JS).The five laws concerning city corporations, municipalities, upazila parishads, zila parishads and union parishads have abolished the provisions for party nominations and elections using national party symbols, he added.The meeting discussed strengthening the capacity of local government institutions, decentralisation and balance of power, women's empowerment, climate change, rural infrastructure development, safe water supply and drainage systems.The meeting also addressed prospects for cooperation in training for higher education and skills development as well as mutual cooperation in the renewable energy sector.The Australian high commissioner discussed avenues for further strengthening the existing bilateral relations between the countries.

Susan Ryle expressed Australia's interest in expanding cooperation in various areas, including good governance and women empowerment.At the outset of the meeting, the Moyeen Khan welcomed the high commissioner while the envoy congratulated him on assuming the important responsibility of his new portfolio.Mir Shahe Alam said waste management poses a major challenge in the country amid rapid urbanisation. He stressed turning waste into resources through modern technology and effective management as well as utilising opportunities for generating energy from waste.The state minister further said increasing the use of renewable energy is essential to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development.Australia's experience, technology and investment could play an important role in this regard, he added.

Shahe Alam urged for increasing technical cooperation and investment between the two countries in waste management, waste-to-energy generation and renewable energy. Local Government Division Secretary Md. Shahidul Hassan and other senior officials of the ministry were present at the meeting.

Titumir stresses production

is from investment to production. We have to move to investment and it has to be production-oriented."Highlighting the importance of energy security and an efficient communication system, he said no business investment would be viable without a secure energy infrastructure.Referring to growing foreign investors' interest in Bangladesh, the adviser said China has already come to Bangladesh, while the United States and South Korea are interested in making further investments. Japanese investors want to establish manufacturing industries here, he said, adding that political stability is a major factor in this regard.At the event, the Department of Development Studies accorded a reception to Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, a professor and former chairman of the department. DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr ABM Obaidul Islam was present at the function as the guest of honor with department's Chairman Prof Dr Nayeem Sultana in the chair. At the programme, Prof Dr Mohammed Abu Eusuf of the department highlighted various aspects of Professor Titumir's life, education, research and professional career while former Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan spoke on the development, importance and role of development studies in Bangladesh's development process. National Professor Dr Mahbub Ullah, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Fellow Prof Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Dean of DU Social Sciences Faculty Prof Kazi Mohammad Mahboob Rahman and former Dean Prof Dr Taiabur Rahman were present at the event, among others.

BNP becomes increasingly

pearances, killings, imprisonment, persecution and repression of dissidents during the fascist rule of Sheikh Hasina, the JS whip said Sheikh Hasina must be brought to justice for her criminal offences.BNP executive committee members Babul Ahmed and Kazi Rafique also spoke at the programme, with Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal President Humayun Kabir Bepari in the chair.

Stolen Endangered Lemurs from

in India. Investigators said two individuals identified as Bablu from Kolkata and Shiplu from Mumbai travelled to Bangladesh, where Delwar and Tapan allegedly coordinated the transaction.

A deal was reportedly arranged for one adult lemur and one infant for Tk 1.7 million, while another infant lemur was to be sold for Tk 300,000.

Animals Passed Through Several Hands

After crossing the border, the two lemurs allegedly passed through several intermediaries before reaching Jamnagar,

Gujarat, where they were reportedly sold for approximately 4.8 million Indian rupees.

Bangladeshi investigators later identified similarities between the stolen lemurs and photographs of two ring-tailed lemurs that appeared on social media.

Challenges in Bringing the Animals Back

However, significant challenges have emerged in efforts to bring the two animals back to Bangladesh.

The stolen lemurs had no microchips, unique identification numbers or preserved DNA profiles, making it difficult to conclusively establish their identities.

Authorities are now conducting DNA testing on an infant lemur that remains in Bangladesh to determine whether it is genetically related to the two animals found in India.

Bangladesh has also sought assistance from Interpol in the investigation and identification process.

An Endangered Species

The ring-tailed lemur is native to Madagascar and is listed as Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

The species is also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), meaning its international commercial trade is generally prohibited except under exceptional and strictly regulated circumstances.

The CID said eight people have been named as accused in connection with the case. Of them, six have reportedly given confessional statements before the court.

Record \$2.05b foreign debt

Tk 1,849 crore, in a year.

According to ERD data, the government repaid US\$1.3524 billion in principal and US\$695.2 million in interest from March to July this year. During this period, the government had to repay an average of around US\$410 million in foreign loans every month.The BNP government, led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, took office on February 17 after winning the 13th parliamentary election on February 12.

One of the major challenges facing the government from the outset was the repayment of growing installments of foreign loans taken in previous periods. However, despite economic pressure and various challenges, the government has maintained continuity in regular foreign debt repayment.According to policymakers, huge foreign loans taken during the previous Awami League government in the name of large infrastructure and mega projects have now become repayable.

As the grace periods of a significant portion of these loans have expired, the pressure to repay both principal and interest has increased substantially during the tenure of the present government.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir told BSS that the Awami League government borrowed extensively from 2009 to 2024 in the name of infrastructure and mega projects.

However, while taking these loans, due consideration was not given to the projects' "value for money" or the expected benefits against the amount of money spent, nor were the interest rates on the loans properly considered, he added.

He said a huge financial liability and subsidy burden had also been created in the power sector for various reasons, including capacity charges. Now, the present government has to manage these liabilities left behind by the previous government, he added."We inherited a fragile economy. Despite that, the government is prioritising the regular repayment of these liabilities," he said.Titumir said the previous government had taken loans indiscriminately and left the burden of debt on future generations.He said the present government has adopted a highly cautious position regarding taking any kind of loan, whether domestic or foreign."We are giving importance to using loans to increase dynamism in investment, particularly in the manufacturing sector. If we take a loan, we are making decisions after considering what return will come against it and how much employment will be created," he said.

Under the present government's debt policy, he said, emphasis is being placed not only on raising funds through borrowing but also on where the borrowed money will be spent and how much economic benefit can be generated from the investment.According to ERD data, the pressure of foreign debt repayment has increased steadily in recent years. Foreign debt repayment stood at US\$2.67 billion in FY2022-23. It increased to US\$3.37 billion in FY2023-24 and reached US\$4.09 billion in FY2024-25.In FY2025-26, the amount increased further to US\$4.49 billion, which was around 10 percent higher than the previous fiscal year.The statistics show that the current pressure of foreign debt repayment is not mainly due to loans newly taken in recent times. Rather, the government's liabilities have increased as installments of large project loans taken in previous years have now become repayable.The grace periods of many large infrastructure and mega projects undertaken during the previous one-and-a-half decades have expired. As a result, the pressure of repaying both principal and interest at the same time has increased.

In this situation, the present government is regularly repaying the debt liabilities left behind by the previous government while, at the same time, considering the actual necessity of projects, their economic viability, expected investment benefits and future debt repayment capacity when taking new loans. Policymakers believe that regular debt repayment will help maintain Bangladesh's repayment capacity and financial credibility with international development partners and lenders.

RAB seeks information as nationwide operation launched to recover missing govt firearms

Staff correspondent

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has urged the public to provide information on missing government firearms as authorities launch a nationwide special joint operation to recover the weapons, with RAB designated as the lead coordinating agency.RAB, in a statement yesterday, said informants can provide information confidentially and securely and receive rewards. Information can be shared through RAB hotlines 01777711441, 01777711442, 01777711443, 01777711444 and 0255669999, which are also available via imo, WhatsApp, Telegram and Viber.Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed earlier on August 29 announced financial rewards for information leading to the recovery of looted and illegal firearms.Those providing information that helps recover heavy weapons will receive up to Tk 200,000, while information leading to the recovery of pistols, revolvers or shotguns will fetch up to Tk 50,000. The minister said the government has intensified drives to recover looted and illegal weapons by forming a special unit with coordination among various intelligence agencies.He said informants could receive Tk 10,000, Tk 15,000 or Tk 20,000, depending on the type of recovered items, including sound grenades, looted tear-gas shells and other stolen weapons. "The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential," the minister assured.

British Council delegation pays courtesy call on RU VC

Staff Correspondent

A delegation led by Maria Rehman, Deputy Director of the British Council in Dhaka, yesterday met Rajshahi University (RU) Vice Chancellor Prof Faridul Islam.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (admin) Prof Abdul Alim and Pro-Vice Chancellor (academic) Prof Mamunur Rashid were present at the meeting, held at the conference room of administrative building-1 on the campus.During the exchange of views, Maria Rehman informed them about the upcoming visit of the Chief Executive of the British Council to RU at the end of this month and invited them to the program. They also exchanged views on the progress of the development work of RU's Varendra Research Museum being implemented through the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund.

The British Council delegation also included Head of Education Toufiq Hasan, Senior Program Manager (Non-Formal Education) Tamim Mostafa, English and Examinations Account Manager Anika Bushra and Security and Administration Manager Saidul Bashar. Later, the delegation discussed the British Council Chief Executive's upcoming visit schedule with RU Proctor Prof Md. Mahbubur Rahman.

HSIA 3rd terminal talks with Japan consortium begins yesterday: Millat

Staff correspondent

Formal negotiations with the Japanese consortium over signing an operating contract for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's (HSIA) third terminal will begin yesterday, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat said."The negotiations between officials of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) and the consortium will begin yesterday," he told reporters after inspecting the terminal.The minister said the government had set a deadline for beginning at least partial operations at the terminal on December 16.

Whether the target can be met would become clearer after the negotiations, he said, adding that the government remained committed to opening the terminal partially on the stipulated date.

Millat said the terminal could initially handle around 20 flights, while the number will gradually increase eventually more as its operational capacity expanded.

"We are still hopeful that we will be able to begin partial operations on December 16," he said.The minister said the Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) process was 57 percent complete, while the consortium and other agencies concerned would complete the remaining 43 percent.Following the partial opening, it could take another three to five months to make the terminal fully operational, he said, expressing hope that full-scale operations would begin by March or April next year.

Customs would install the required scanners, while the immigration facilities under the Ministry of Home Affairs would be brought into operation in phases, he added.

Millat said the terminal building had previously undergone a "soft opening" by the previous disposed government, but the integration of its equipment, ORAT activities and other essential operational preparations had not been completed.The current government resumed the stalled work after taking office and initiated discussions with the Japanese consortium, he said.

The minister said Bangladesh's proposed share of revenue from the terminal's operation had been raised from 15 percent to 27 percent following several rounds of discussions involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities."This is good news, as the increased revenue share will help us repay the loan taken for constructing the terminal," he said.

CAAB has already paid around Taka 1,100 crore in loan installments from its other earnings and will have to pay to another Taka 900 crore in December, the minister said.

He said the existing terminals and other aviation operations were currently generating the revenue used to repay the loan, underscoring the need to make the third terminal operational without further delay.On ground handling, Millat said the negotiations would determine how responsibilities would be shared between Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the foreign operator.

He, however, stressed the need to train Biman personnel and involve them in the terminal's operations.The operating consortium would also be required to deliver passengers' baggage within 15 to 40 minutes, he said, adding that CAAB could impose fines for failure to meet the stipulated timeframe.Millat said the equipment installed at the terminal was undergoing daily testing and trial operations and had been found in good condition during the inspection.Once fully operational, the third terminal would increase the airport's capacity nearly fourfold and could eventually enable it to handle between 200 and 250 flights, he said.Describing an international airport as "the mirror of a country," the minister said the terminal would help present a modern and investment-friendly image of Bangladesh to foreign visitors.State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir, Invest Bangladesh Authority Chairman Ashik Chowdhury and senior officials of CAAB and Biman Bangladesh Airlines, among others, joined the inspection.

Bandarban appears as model for ensuring safe drinking water in CHT

Staff correspondent,Bandarban

For centuries' together largely muddy waters from hill streams, springs, and falls served as primary sources of water for inhabitants of the rugged south-western Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

Women and children were required to exhaust a large part of a day to collect waters from these sources and carry home the extremely essential utility in their traditional utensils navigating long steep, rocky, and slippery trails.

Fifty villages of Bandarban, one of the three hills districts now appeared to be the model how the people could have easy access to safe waters.This was made possible under an initiative "close to home" under the oversight of State Minister for CHT Affairs Barrister Mir Mohammad Helal Uddin.

Department of Public Health Engineering (PHED) has been entrusted with the task of spearheading the innovative technology-based campaign, expecting to be spread throughout the CHT, one-tenth of the country's landmass.

"The primary objective of this government is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of this country, from the mountains to the plains. We are tirelessly working to achieve this goal under honorable Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's leadership," Helal Uddin told .He said as part of the goal his ministry focused on the issue of clean and safe water for the inhabitants of the rugged hills and residents of 50 villages in Bandarban appeared as first recipients of the initiative.

"Works are underway to make clean water within the reach of people at all villages in the three hill districts in future, InshaAllah, the state minister said. Helal Uddin said he personally visit various locations in the Chattogram Hill Tracts weekly to engage with the community to ascertain their genuine developmental needs."Future development efforts in the Chattogram Hill Tracts will be guided by the requirements of the local populace. The cooperation of everyone is crucial for this endeavour," he said.

The junior minister added his ministry was committed to execute projects which were directly relevant to the lives of the people and are essential for their well-being.PHED executive engineer Anupam Dey said they actually realigned the existing gravity flow system of natural water sources.

Federal investigators examine deadly Amazon cargo plane crash in Miami

International Desk

Federal investigators have begun examining the circumstances surrounding the fiery runway accident at Miami International Airport that killed five people. National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday that all five victims were inside a van carrying seven employees of an



airport cleaning company, while an SUV outside airport property was also struck. Homendy described the crash site from Sunday as a scene of extreme destruction. She did not say how many people were inside the SUV or specify where the five fatalities occurred. During a tour of the crash area, Homendy followed the path taken by the Boeing 767. She pointed out tire tracks leading from the runway into the grass, the wreckage of the cleaning crew's van, damaged fencing, airport navigation equipment and the SUV that was hit beyond airport grounds. The debris scattered across the area included vehicle airbags and parts of the vehicles, aircraft and airport equipment. Homendy said damaged fencing could be seen throughout the site. She described the investigation area as extensive and said the destruction must have been particularly difficult for emergency crews who responded to the accident. The aircraft traveled approximately 1,300 feet (396 meters) beyond the paved runway before coming to a stop. Debris was spread across a large area. The van, which contained seven people, was severely destroyed. It belonged to Professional Ocean Service Corp., a company contracted to provide cleaning services for airlines. Homendy said the NTSB expected to release additional details Tuesday, potentially including verified information about the aircraft's speed obtained from its flight data recorder. Investigators focus on why the plane overran the runway. Investigators spent Monday trying to establish whether the cargo aircraft landed too far down the runway to stop safely. Video recorded during Sunday's landing appears to show the Boeing 767 staying in the air over a significant portion of the runway before touching down. Aviation specialists said investigators will determine the precise touchdown point, whether the aircraft landed outside the designated touchdown area and why the pilots continued the landing rather than performing a go-around. The investigation will also consider the aircraft's speed, braking performance, weather and wind conditions, mechanical condition and other circumstances that may have contributed to the accident. The plane had flown from Cincinnati to Miami and continued to San Juan, Puerto Rico, before returning to Miami. At about 2 p.m. Sunday, it went beyond the runway and crossed a road serving warehouses and businesses around the airport. Five people died, while three others suffered critical injuries and two were hospitalized with less serious injuries, authorities said. The crash produced a large column of black smoke. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Ray Jadallah said the pilot and copilot became trapped inside the cockpit, while other people were trapped in vehicles. Firefighters also had to rescue someone who was pinned beneath a vehicle.



Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia injure 73, officials report

International Desk

A series of Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia on Tuesday left 73 people injured, according to Saudi authorities, marking a significant escalation in the renewed hostilities involving the U.S.-allied kingdom and the Iran-supported Houthi movement in Yemen. The latest attacks followed several weeks of intensified fighting between Houthi forces and troops supporting Yemen's Saudi-backed government. The violence brought an end to a four-year period of relative calm in the country's long-running civil war. Battles have intensified across several areas of Yemen, including the western coastline. Government forces have claimed recent advances in Hodeida, Taiz and Baydah provinces. Meanwhile, the Houthis have continued targeting Saudi oil infrastructure and vessels operating in the Red Sea. Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition involved in the Yemen conflict, said the early Tuesday attacks struck civilian and economic sites in the Saudi cities of Abha, Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait. According to al-Malki, 73 people were injured, among them women and children. He did not release further information about the victims or explain how many were wounded at each location. Al-Malki said the strikes as a major escalation and accused the Houthis of violating Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and endangering the security of people living in the kingdom. He also warned that the coalition would respond.

Aviation experts said aircraft normally touch down within the first 3,000 feet (914 meters) of a runway. If this aircraft had passed that point, safety expert Steve Arroyo said the pilots should have discontinued the landing and attempted another approach. Mary Schiavo, a pilot and former Transportation Department inspector general, said online footage appears to show the aircraft remaining above the runway for an unusually long time without raising its nose to bring the main landing gear down. Although there was no rain during the incident, storm clouds were visible and strong winds had been reported. Schiavo said a tailwind could have pushed the plane farther along the runway before touchdown, leaving less distance available for braking. Miami airport lacked a runway arresting system. Miami International Airport does not have an engineered arresting system designed to stop aircraft that run beyond

the end of a runway. The Federal Aviation Administration says similar systems have been installed at more than 120 airports across the United States. These systems use lightweight, crushable materials placed at the end of runways to slow and stop aircraft. According to the FAA, they have helped save at least 497 lives in runway-over-run incidents. Mike O'Donnell, a former FAA director responsible for airport safety and accident investigations, said Miami airport appears to meet federal requirements and was not obligated to install such a system because its runways have a 1,000-foot safety area beyond their ends. The safety requirements were strengthened after American Airlines Flight 1420 overran a runway at Little Rock National Airport in Arkansas in 1999, killing nine people. Images from Sunday showed the Prime Air aircraft stopped near a roadway and two tractor-trailers. The plane appeared to have come to rest on its underside and remained largely intact despite the fire. The flight was operated by 21 Air, a North Carolina-based cargo airline. The Boeing 767 was about 32 years old. It was initially manufactured as a passenger aircraft and operated by several airlines for more than 20 years before being converted into a freighter in 2015, according to FlightRadar24. Schiavo said investigators are also expected to closely review the aircraft's maintenance records, particularly because the plane previously had foreign owners, including a Russian company. Crash disrupts flights at Miami airport The accident caused widespread disruption at Miami International Airport, with flights suspended for much of Sunday afternoon and delays continuing into Monday. Airport officials said two of the facility's four runways remained closed Monday. Operations were expected to remain disrupted because aircraft and flight crews that had been scheduled to arrive were displaced by cancellations following the crash. The airport reported 160 canceled flights and more than 300 delays Sunday. By mid-afternoon Monday, another 69 flights had been canceled, while flight-tracking services showed significant delays across the airport. Amazon said it would cooperate fully with the investigation and expressed sympathy for those affected by the tragedy. The company said it was deeply saddened by the deaths and offered condolences to the victims' families, friends and everyone affected by the accident. The Miami crash follows another deadly U.S. cargo-plane accident last year. A UPS aircraft crashed at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport after losing an engine while accelerating for takeoff. All three pilots and 12 people on the ground were killed, while another 23 people were injured.

Journalists missing in Indonesia after volcano mission

International Desk

Indonesian teams were searching on Tuesday for seven people including five journalists who had gone missing while travelling to cover the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau, the national rescue agency said. The group set out on a speedboat from an area near the capital Jakarta on Monday afternoon, but "until now they have not returned, and the boat owner has not received any information from the crew", the agency said. The five Indonesian journalists on board were sent to capture photos and video of the volcano's eruption, which since Saturday had paralysed several airports and blanketed Jakarta and neighbouring cities in volcanic ash. The journalists were working for local and international media, including state news agency Antara, Turkish state-run news agency Anadolu, and local website iNews. One of the journalists contacted a colleague and shared his location at 3:00 pm on Monday, but has not been heard from since, according to the rescue agency. Rescuers, police and the company that owns the speedboat were all involved in the search, it added. Marine accidents are a regular occurrence in the Southeast Asian archipelago, due in part to lax safety standards and inclement weather. In January, three Spanish tourists died when their boat sank off eastern Indonesia, and a 10-year-old boy was listed as officially missing, presumed dead, after authorities ended the search.



Israeli court rejects petition to halt key West Bank settlement project

International Desk

An Israeli court on Tuesday rejected a bid from rights groups to halt development of a settlement in the occupied West Bank that would severely undermine the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian state. The Jerusalem District Court said in a ruling it had dismissed the motion, which aimed to stall the publication of tenders for the settlement east of Jerusalem. Israel's construction and housing ministry opened a tender for construction of more than 1,200 housing units in July, leading NGOs to file motions against it. The E1 plan, approved by Israel last year after decades of being frozen, notably due to pressure from successive US administrations, would further isolate Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. Six European countries including the UK and France called on Israel to halt the project in August. The Israeli judge ruled Tuesday that "no irreversible physical changes are imminent, and adequate legal safeguards are in place", for the development project. It argued that courts could bring a permanent ruling on the project as a whole, well before physical construction begins on the ground. The petitioners, including Israeli NGO Peace Now, had argued that the project would lead to the eviction of hundreds of Palestinians. "The court's decision plays into the government's hands, allowing it to use the final months of its term to establish facts on the ground that will create a destructive reality which will be extremely difficult to reverse," the NGOs said in a statement reacting to the ruling.

What to know about Canada's escalating trade war with the US

International Desk

Canada struck back at U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday with tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of U.S. goods, in response to the latest round of tariffs on Canada. The outcome could resonate far beyond Canada, showing other governments whether a smaller U.S. ally can withstand Trump's economic pressure. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney says U.S. demands could hollow out key Canadian industries and limit the country's independence, while Trump's threats to Canadian sovereignty have rallied the public behind him. "Carney and Canada have become symbolic of resistance to him," Canadian historian Robert Bothwell said. "And what he'll want to do is make an example of Carney and Canada and theoretically terrify everybody else while in fact showing them that they need to remove themselves even further from the United States." The tariffs hit hundreds of American products, including steel, aluminum, cheese, appliances, clothing, cosmetics and farm equipment, at rates of 15%, 25% or 50%. Here's what to know. **Canada retaliates with tariffs on hundreds of US products** Canada says its tariffs match Washington's dollar for dollar and rate for rate. They take effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday under an executive action known as an order in council and cover about \$20 billion in American goods, roughly 6% of the \$333.6 billion the United States exported to Canada last year. RBC Economics, the research arm of the Royal Bank of Canada, said the measures were unlikely to dent U.S. growth overall but could hit some businesses hard. Canada has already gone beyond tariffs in other ways. Eight of its 10 provinces continue to restrict or ban sales of U.S. alcohol. The Distilled Spirits Council says U.S. spirits exports to Canada fell more than 70% year over year after those restrictions took effect.

Iran increases gasoline price for its heaviest consumers as economy struggles

International Desk

Iran early Tuesday introduced a higher price for its heaviest users of gasoline, state media reported, in the latest economic pinch caused by months of war. It's the second such hike since December. Such gas price increases can be sensitive and contribute to inflation. An increase in 2019 sparked nationwide protests and a crackdown that reportedly killed over 300 people. Without specifically mentioning the war with the United States, the government's announcement cited the "current situation," adding that the extra money from the price increase will be given to households. Under the new system, people buying more than their quota of 110 liters (29 gallons) of gasoline a month now must pay 100,000 rials (about 7 cents) per liter, or twice as much as they have been paying since December.



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

International Desk

Nepal observed a national day of mourning Monday for victims of the Aug. 26 floods, with government buildings flying flags at half-staff as families completed traditional mourning ceremonies. Monday marked the 13th day since the devastating floods that killed more than 1,300 people across Nepal and Tibet and left around 5,000 others missing, including foreign nationals, according to Nepal's disaster management authorities. In predominantly Hindu Nepal, families traditionally observe a 13-day mourning period. During this time, immediate relatives generally remain at home while others visit to offer condolences. The final day is marked by religious rituals and prayers for the souls of those who died. Some families whose relatives are still missing also carried out symbolic funeral ceremonies. Cremation is a significant Hindu funeral tradition, and holding the ritual without recovering a loved one's body can offer families a degree of emotional and spiritual closure. The government officially declared Monday a day of mourning and instructed government offices to lower their flags to half-staff. At the same time, search and rescue operations for those still missing continued, although some families criticized authorities for what they described as an inadequate response. In Kathmandu, relatives gathered outside the offices of the prime minister and several key ministries, urging the government to intensify efforts to locate hundreds of workers from

hydropower projects who were swept away by the Bhotekoshi River or buried beneath landslides and debris. Among the protesters was Sumana Shrestha, who held a poster featuring a photograph of her 55-year-old husband. He has been missing since the day of the floods. Shrestha said her husband, a consulting geologist, had told the family he would return home after finishing his shift at the Trishuli hydropower project. However, the two-and-a-half-story project office was completely buried under debris. "We are here because we have not heard of any rescue attempt on this project, but it has been 13 days already," she said. "All we can do is pray and hope for a miracle." Another protester, Mahesh Prasad Shrestha, displayed a photograph of his 52-year-old brother, Niraj Shrestha, an engineer who worked at the same site. He said authorities did not send a small excavator by helicopter until the sixth or seventh day following the disaster. He argued that Nepal should have requested larger helicopters from countries such as China or India to transport heavier rescue equipment. Authorities said rescue operations have concentrated on 12 hydropower projects, where about 900 workers remain missing and an estimated 500 may be trapped inside tunnels. Specialist teams from India, China, South Korea and the United States have joined the search, working through debris, damaged buildings and underground tunnels. Two Nepali workers were rescued from one of the facilities on Friday, while rescuers recovered a Chinese national from the site on Saturday.



Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon kill 9, injure 13

International Desk

Israeli aircraft conducted two strikes on the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Rumman 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.

Australian PM announces opt-out laws for social media algorithms

International Desk

Australians will be able to opt out of content algorithms on social media platforms under proposed laws, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Tuesday. Albanese told reporters at Parliament House that the digital duty of care laws would require social media platforms to give users the choice to opt out of algorithms and only see content from accounts that they follow. Additionally, Albanese and Communications Minister Anika Wells said the proposed laws would require platforms to protect users younger than 18 from harmful content, including content that promotes eating disorders, misogynistic content and content that glorifies crime. Platforms found to breach the new regulations will face fines worth up to 100 million Australian dollars (about 72.1 million U.S. dollars). "It's about giving people control. It's about putting choice back into the hands of Australians online," Albanese said. Wells described the new laws as the next step forward in requiring technology companies to take responsibility for the harms caused by their platforms. "For too long, tech companies have been running real-time unregulated product testing on Australians, and their platforms and tools have infiltrated our daily lives in ways we could have never imagined," she said. "There is a global reckoning coming for big tech." It comes after Albanese's Labor Party government in 2024 legislated a world-first social media ban for children younger than 16, which came into effect in December 2025. Albanese and Wells said in June that the government would double the maximum fine for breaches of the minimum age law to 99 million Australian dollars.



Kushum's 4 mantras for staying happy, beautiful after 40

Entertainment Desk

Actress Kushum Shikder has completed four decades of her life. Yet there is no way to understand it by looking at her! But her lifestyle has brought her to this form today. But does this actress only think about external beauty? No. Mental beauty is important to her; from which comes peace. So how to spend life happily, to remain cheerful; the actress has now shared her philosophy with her fans. Kushum recently posted a picture on social media where she is seen in a gentle form. As if she was giving a thumbs up to the house at the age of 40. There she gave special advice and a message. The actress has emphasised on a positive mindset as a mantra for staying calm and beautiful in her forties. According to her, one should not hate anyone but



just love them. However, she also emphasises on eliminating negative people or negative thoughts from one's life to protect one's mind from being polluted. Mentioning four mantras, Kushum Shikder writes, "The main mantra for staying happy and beautiful in life after forty is – one, 'You cannot hate, you only have to love. However, you have to abandon the company of negative energy, otherwise the mind will be polluted.' Then she writes, 'It is better not to go where there is a possibility of undervaluation or disrespect.' The third mantra is, 'You must have the ability to be fascinated and the desire to learn something new every day.' Finally, the actress writes, 'You must often go to nature.'" As soon as the post was published, Kushum's fans and netizens praised her thoughts in the comments section. Many fans commented that these four messages given by the actress are not only for those over forty, but also a great guide for a happy and mentally healthy life at any age.



Dighi in cheerful mood in Cox's Bazar

Entertainment Desk

Dhallywood actress is Parthana Fardin Dighi. Whenever she gets some free time between her busy works, she runs to nature. And she does not forget to share the joyful moments of that trip with her fans on social media. This time, the actress was captured in a cheerful and cheerful mood while spending her vacation at Cox's Bazar, the longest sea beach in the world. Dighi has posted a bunch of new photos of himself on social media Facebook. In the photos, she is seen posing in a relaxed mood by the swimming pool and on the balcony of an elite resort. She is wearing an eye-catching long gown in the colour of light paste or basanti grass, with exquisite embroidery work on the sleeves and neck. With the vast green hills and the sea in the background, Dighi's gentle presence and sweet smile easily caught the attention of netizens. Although there is no long message in the caption of the pictures, her lively posture shows that she is enjoying the beautiful environment of Cox's Bazar. In some pictures, she is framed with a sweet smile, while in others; she is feeling the touch of the mountains and nature, caressing her hair in the gentle breeze. As soon as the pictures of Dighi's new look were posted, the comment box was flooded with love and praise from fans. Praising Dighi's appearance and personality, one fan wrote, "You are as beautiful as you are as a person, your behaviour is also as beautiful! You are truly amazing." Another netizen wrote in the comment box, "Mashallah, you look very beautiful."



Badhan harassed, assaulted in Venice by AL supporters

Entertainment Desk

Popular Bangladeshi actor Azmeri Haque Badhan was harassed and physically assaulted by a group of people in Venice, Italy, while visiting a local park with her brother and his family. Badhan shared a video of the incident on Facebook late Tuesday night, showing a group of people attacking the actress and throwing eggs, water and Coca-Cola during the confrontation. In the video, the attackers are heard calling Badhan a "July militant" and a "traitor" and asking her to chant "Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu" while recording the incident. Badhan said her mobile phone was thrown away during the incident and she was struck near her ear. She also said her brother's wife was pushed during the confrontation. "My brother's little child was with us. They hit me, threw my phone away and struck me near my ear," Badhan said in the video. She said the attackers identified themselves as supporters of the Awami League and Chhatra League in Venice and targeted her for supporting the July-August 2024 student-led mass uprising. "I participated in the July movement. Yes, I am a July fighter," she said. Badhan also criticised those involved in the incident, saying such behaviour was unacceptable, particularly while she was representing Bangladesh at an international film festival. "I have brought a film to the Venice festival whose director Rubaiyat Hossain's father was a former Awami League minister. I am still working with her even after the July movement. You should have moved away from such irrational behaviour," she addressed the attackers. Badhan said she has already filed a written complaint with the local police in Venice seeking legal action over

the incident. She is currently in Venice with her brother and his family to attend the international film festival, where Rubaiyat Hossain's 'The Difficult Bride' is being screened in the competitive Orizzonti section of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival. The film had its world premiere at Sala Darsena at 2:15 pm local time on Sept 6, marking a historic appearance for Bangladesh at the festival. Badhan, Zainin Karim, Rikita Nandini Shimu and Sunerah Binte Kamal play the four principal female characters in the film, directed by Rubaiyat Hossain. Known internationally for her performance in 'Rehana Maryam Noor', Badhan is currently representing Bangladesh at the international film festival. The incident in Venice has drawn widespread criticism on social media.

Sundarbans' cultural resilience highlighted as EUNIC project ends at Goethe-Institut

Entertainment Desk

The cultural connections, shared heritage and resilience of communities living across the Sundarbans of Bangladesh and Kolkata were highlighted at the closing event of an EUNIC-supported project held at the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh on Monday night. The EUNIC Cluster Bangladesh and EU Delegation to Bangladesh, in collaboration with HERITEINCE DoA-BUET, Riverine People and Team Platform, organised the event to mark the conclusion of the project titled 'Sundarbans Across Borders: The Spirit of Cultural Resilience'. The event brought together project partners, artists, researchers, cultural practitioners and guests to reflect on the project's activities and explore the cultural and ecological connections shared by communities across the Sundarbans. The programme began with a welcome note by Goethe-Institut Bangladesh Director Frank Werner, followed by an introduction to the project by Hasib Zuberi Shihan of Team Platform. Two documentary films produced by EUNIC Clusters Bangladesh and Kolkata were screened during the event, offering perspectives on the people, landscapes, cultural practices and ecological realities of the world's largest mangrove forest. A Q&A session followed the screenings, with Mohammad Tahajjibul Hossain of HERITEINCE and Hasib Zuberi Shihan responding to questions from the audience. The discussion focused on life and livelihoods in the Sundarbans, its rich biodiversity and the complex relationship between local communities and the fragile ecosystem, highlighting both the challenges faced by residents and their resilience. As part of the closing programme, "The Hive and the Hymn", an interdisciplinary exhibition exploring the tangible and intangible cultural practices of the Moul, the honey-collecting communities living along the fringes of the Sundarbans, was also presented. The exhibition features four bodies of Patachitra scroll work, including a traditional Gazir Pat, a contemporary depiction of the honey-collection cycle, a vertical retelling of the Bonobibi myth and a co-created



ed scroll painted by community women and children. Alongside the artworks, architectural and cultural research by BUET's Heritage and Technology Integration Cell and Riverine People documents livelihood practices, settlement patterns, ecological adaptations and spiritual traditions of the region. Through art and research, the exhibition explores the interconnectedness of cultural heritage, livelihood, ecology and resilience, while highlighting the role of women and younger generations in preserving cultural memory and ecological knowledge. The 'Sundarbans Across Borders' project sought to deepen understanding of the intersections between culture, living heritage and climate resilience on both sides of the Bangladesh-India border. Through workshops, field studies, collaborative art production, documentary filmmaking and performances, the project brought together communities and cultural practitioners to explore the shared heritage and contemporary challenges of the Sundarbans. The initiative was co-financed under the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2024, which supports sustainable, collaborative and culturally grounded projects across the region. The closing event marked the culmination of the project while reaffirming the importance of continued cross-border dialogue and collaboration around the Sundarbans, a shared ecosystem shaped by intertwined histories, belief systems, cultural practices, artistic traditions and biodiversity. 'The Hive and the Hymn' exhibition will remain open to visitors daily from 3 pm to 9 pm through Sept 12 at the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh Auditorium, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. Visitors can experience the exhibition and explore the stories, traditions, artistic expressions and ecological knowledge connecting communities of the Sundarbans across borders.

Puja's wedding on Sept 16? Actress opens up

Entertainment Desk

There has been a lot of speculation about the marriage of Dhallywood actress Puja Cherry Roy for a long time. Recently, there was a lot of buzz in the showbiz community that the actress is going to complete the wedding formalities on September 16. Requesting people not to pay attention to these news stories being spread on social media, Puja Cherry said in a message, "Please stop spreading false and fake news. I will inform you about the wedding date and everything else myself in advance." Earlier in March this year, while talking about her personal life, the Dhallywood actress said that she is already 'engaged'. However, her life partner is someone outside the entertainment world. At that time, she confirmed the engagement, but kept the identity of her future groom or the specific date of the wedding hidden. Then, last August, there was a sudden outburst, and Puja secretly completed the wedding ceremony.



Salman's memories are still fresh after 3 decades: Moushumi

Entertainment Desk

Even after 30 years of Salman Shah's death, his memory, acting and screen presence are equally alive to the audience. Popular film actress Moushumi has remembered her dear friend and co-star Salman in emotional words on his death anniversary. For her, Salman's passing is not just the loss of a popular film hero, but also the pain of losing a very close friend. Recalling the day of Salman's death, Moushumi said, "Even after three decades, the memory of that day still weighs on me. 30 years ago yesterday, I heard news that I couldn't believe-Salman is no more." She believes that Salman's memory has not faded even though the time gap has increased. In her words, the pain of losing a dear friend still remains, and it is actually impossible to forget Salman. Moushumi finds it astonishing how popular and influential Salman Shah was in just four years of acting. In this short span of time, from 1993 to 1996, he made a permanent place in the



hearts of Bengali film audiences. Along with his acting, his own personality and distinct presence on screen set him apart from others. Moushumi wants to go back to the memories of the days she spent with Salman. Even though he is not in real life, she still meets and talks to him in her imagination. This is how she keeps her dear friend alive.

'Silo' series returning for its final season

Entertainment Desk

After the successful conclusion of the suspenseful third season, a big announcement has come for fans of 'Silo'. Apple TV has started work on the fourth season of this acclaimed science fiction series. This season will be the end of the journey of 'Silo'. The fourth and final season of 'Silo' will air on Apple TV on July 9, 2027. With this announcement, Apple TV also released a sneak peek of the series' final chapter. The series is based on the dystopian trilogy by American novelist Hugh Howie. It is directed by Graham Yost. It stars Hollywood star Rebecca Ferguson as the main character Juliette Nichols. She also serves as an executive producer. The 'Silo' series centres on an underground community of about 10,000 people living underground with strict rules and a false past to escape the toxic and dangerous outside world.



Pakistan roll the dice in search of consolation win over England



Hesson, a former head coach of his native New Zealand, added: "From my perspective, it is about putting a balanced squad together, not only for this Test, so we actually have some variety in our attack. "Pakistan is known for the pace, unusual actions, mystery spin -- we haven't really been able to present any of that." - 'Backfires' - Azhar Ali, a member of the Pakistan side that topped the Test world rankings a decade ago, said much of the blame for the current debacle rests with Aaqib Javed, the PCB's high performance director since 2024.

"Every decision he makes backfires and he then says: 'It's not me'", former Pakistan captain Ali told the Guardian, with Jason Gillespie, an ex-Pakistan coach, saying Javed needed to "look at himself in the mirror".

The PCB subsequently announced Monday an investigation into the squad's conduct in England. Of more immediate concern, however, to the incoming Pakistan players is with no tour games between the second and third Tests they will have little chance to acclimatise to conditions. England captain Joe Root, second in Test cricket's list of all-time run-scorers, said after Lord's that a combination of seam-friendly pitches, overcast skies and responsive cricket balls had created a "perfect storm" for batsmen on both sides. But it is Pakistan, yet to reach 200 in any of their four innings this series, who have really struggled against England's revamped pace quartet of Ollie Robinson, Jofra Archer, Josh Tongue and Gus Atkinson. The challenge for England, is to maintain the professionalism -- a sharp contrast to the extravagances at the end of the Bazball era -- that has carried them to a first Test series win in over a year by rounding off returning skipper Root's first series back in charge with a whitewash. The fear among Pakistan supporters is even a win in Birmingham could do more long-term harm than good by papering over the cracks in a dysfunctional set-up. One of cricket's enduring cliches is Pakistan are a "mercurial" team. But a side who have lost 15 of their last 20 Tests are now all too predictable, with Ali lamenting: "We've become totally consistent -- in the most negative way."



National football team's new official jersey unveiled

Sports Desk

The new official jersey of the Bangladesh national football team has been formally unveiled today (Tuesday) at the National Sports Council auditorium in the capital. The new jersey will be available at 130 Uniformity stores across the country. It will also be sold at a dedicated DOUR showroom in Banani, Dhaka, as well as in the European market. Through its partnership with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), DOUR has taken initiatives to promote the national team's jersey internationally. The Bangladesh jersey has been displayed at the FIFA Museum, currently selling at retail market in Singapore and is available in the European market through Classic Football Shirts. According to the agreement, DOUR was required to supply 400 sets of jerseys per team annually, totaling 2,400 sets for six teams. However, in 2025, DOUR supplied the BFF with more than 16,350 jerseys, tracksuits, polo shirts and other sports equipment. State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Tabith Awal and DOUR managing director and CEO Abid Alam Chowdhury attended the unveiling ceremony. BFF vice presidents, executive committee members and NSC officials were also present there. Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque said the international recognition of Bangladesh's national team jersey is a matter of great joy and pride. "When we played football, we never thought much about jersey launches or branding. Officials made jerseys locally, and we simply wore them and went onto the field. Today, that Bangladesh jersey has gained recognition around the world. This is a matter of great joy and pride for us," he said. He welcomed the initiative to take Bangladesh's national team jersey to the international market and said the government was giving the highest priority to sports. BFF President Tabith Awal described the new jersey as another achievement for Bangladesh football. He also highlighted Bangladesh's large population and growing international interest in the country, saying more countries are now interested in playing against Bangladesh while ticket sales and hospitality are also increasing.



Van de Zandschulp saves match point in five-set US Open triumph

Sports Desk

Botic van de Zandschulp rallied from two sets down to beat Arthur Gea 3-6, 6-7 (0/7), 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 and return to the US Open quarter-finals on Monday. The Dutch veteran denied 21-year-old Gea a slice of Grand Slam history. The French player had been vying to become the first men's lucky loser to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final. A dozen lucky losers -- players who lost in qualifying but made it into the draw when someone withdrew -- had made it to the round of 16 at this level, but none had gone further. Gea, ranked 87th in the world, lost in the final round of qualifying but reached the main draw when 18th-seeded Casper Ruud withdrew with a back injury. He nearly broke through, but the Netherlands' van de Zandschulp saved a match point in the third set and almost two hours later sealed a win that put him into the quarter-finals for the first time since 2021. The five-hour, 13-minute marathon was just shy of the record-longest US Open match, Dan Evans's five-hour, 35-minute first-round victory over Karen Khachanov in 2024. An exhausted van de Zandschulp told the crowd he didn't know how he did it. "No clue actually.

Comeback queen Zheng reaches US Open quarter-finals, Rybakina and Gauff advance

Sports Desk

Zheng Qinwen pulled off another US Open stunner Monday, rallying to beat Iga Swiatek and reach the quarter-finals as Elena Rybakina and Coco Gauff advanced. It was one more gritty win for Zheng, the Paris Olympics gold medallist and a former world number four now ranked 121st after struggling in the wake of elbow surgery last year. Zheng had won the last seven games saving a match point as she shocked Madison Keys in her previous match. After falling behind 5-0 in the first set against six-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek she



again reeled off seven straight. She then broke Swiatek twice in the second set to clinch the win. Swiatek, who fell to Zheng in the gold medal match in Paris two years ago, left the Arthur Ashe Stadium in tears. "I guess to come back from 0-5 (Saturday) is not lucky, that's all I can say," Zheng said after becoming the first qualifier or lucky loser to beat Swiatek at a Grand Slam. Zheng said it took her some time to settle in on the cavernous Ashe court, noting it's been "a long, long time" since she'd been scheduled on a main show court. "I just focus on point by point," Zheng said, adding that she was so focused on the rallies that she lost track of the score. Zheng is the first qualifier to reach the US Open women's quarter-finals since Emma Raducanu -- who went on to win the title -- in 2021. She'll next face world number two Rybakina, the reigning Australian Open champion who cruised past a hurting Naomi Osaka 6-1, 6-4 in just 66 minutes.

Rybakina is not only chasing a third Grand Slam title. If she beats Zheng to reach the semi-finals she will seize the number one ranking from Aryna Sabalenka -- even if the Belarusian wins a third straight crown. "Of course I want it," Rybakina said. "I don't know anyone who wouldn't wish this." But, she added: "I try to approach the same, fight to the end my next match -- let's see what will happen."

Fourth-seeded Coco Gauff reached the quarter-finals for the first time since she won the title in 2023, beating 18-year-old US compatriot Iva Jovic 6-1, 6-4. Gauff next faces fifth-seeded French Open champion Mirra Andreeva, a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 winner over Anastasia Potapova. An injury to Potapova in the final game marred an entertaining contest. When Potapova crashed to the ground lunging for a ball Andreeva rushed to her side. The Russian-born Austrian received treatment on her knee before limping to the finish line. Alexander Blockx's dream debut continued with a gritty 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 victory over Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo, which made the 21-year-old the first Belgian man to reach the US open last eight.

Blockx, who started the year ranked outside the top 100, said he was "close to retiring" because of sharp pain in an injured rib in the first set. "Even before the match I was already under medication, and during the match I had medication. So if you feel that much pain while having a lot of medication, that's not a good sign," he said. Men's top seed Alexander Zverev was once again slated to close the action on Ashe, taking on 21st-seeded Italian Luciano Darderi. The French Open champion has become a late-night fixture, playing into the small hours not only in two five-set marathons but also in his three-set third round win over Alejandro Tabilo. The German is vying to make the US Open quarter-finals for a fifth time while Darderi will make the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time if he can pull off the biggest win of his career.

US Open day 9: Who said what

Sports Desk

Key quotes from the ninth day of the US Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, New York on Monday: "Number one is, of course, one of the goals. But I think the main focus for me, for the team, is to win the titles, and then the ranking will follow up. We go match by match, but obviously we want to win the titles, the tournaments." -- World number two Elena Rybakina, who reached the quarter-finals with a win over Naomi Osaka and is assured of seizing the top spot if she reaches the semi-finals. "Physically it was a real battle today on court. I was struggling a lot with my rib, especially while serving. It kept getting worse throughout the match. Eventually the doctor gave me some medication, which really helped me towards the end of the third set, where in the fourth set I could finally serve normal again how I usually serve. I think I got a bit lucky." -- Alexander Blockx, who beat Francisco Cerundolo in four sets to become the first Belgian man to reach the US Open quarter-finals. "I just kind of feel like maybe I'm more at peace in a way that I'm not as demanding of myself anymore. After winning French Open, I feel like every match that I play I have to win I won the biggest tournament of my life. Now I have to go out there and win every match that I play. Now ... I'm just trying to, like, forget that it was a Grand Slam, trying not to think about it, not overthink ... chill, enjoy and that's how I approach things right now."



-- Russian Mirra Andreeva on how she's managing her own expectations after winning her first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros. "In tennis, you're more used to losing than winning. I don't feel like I need to, like, bounce back from anything. Just need to focus on the work before next tournaments, and there are going to be other chances to play good tennis, and I will focus on growing and developing my game. That's it." -- Six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek after falling to Chinese qualifier Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round of the US Open. "I think I am happy that I'm taking losses differently. I'm trying to learn from them a lot more. I'm sad that I couldn't do what I've set out to do, but if I think about my life, my daughter is healthy, everyone in my family is great. I had an opportunity to play this Slam. I got as far as I could." -- Naomi Osaka who battled an Achilles tendon injury in her fourth-round loss to Elena Rybakina. "No clue actually ... still standing, so that's a good thing." -- Botic van de Zandschulp after rallying from two sets down to beat Arthur Gea in five in a five-hour, 13 minute marathon. "I would say right now, the most important challenge for me is to keep this humble and be there, fight like I have nothing. The reality is you are just 125, so you are not the top 10 you were before. Don't treat yourself so high. You are here as everyone else. You start from the ground, so stay there and keep fighting." -- Former world No. 4 Zheng Qinwen on adjusting after her ranking dropped in the wake of elbow surgery, forcing her to come through qualifying just to get into the US Open draw.

Former champ Gauff holds off Jovic to reach US Open quarter-finals

Sports Desk

Coco Gauff bested rising US star Iva Jovic on Monday to reach the quarter-finals of the US Open for the first time since winning the title three years ago. Gauff, seeded fourth this year, beat the 14th-seeded Jovic 6-1, 6-4 in 80 minutes. The match marked a rare instance in which two-time Grand Slam champion Gauff, faced a younger American in the 18-year-old Jovic, who pushed Gauff in the second set after being routed in the first. "She plays beyond her years," Gauff said. "I'm looking to many more battles out here." Gauff said she served "really well" and called the win, along with a second-round victory over Spain's Paula Badosa, her best matches so far this year. Gauff has yet to lose a set so far in New York



and has pointed to an improved serve as a source of confidence. "I'm able to rely on a lot of different things to win points in many different ways, and I think that gives me a confidence," Gauff said after Monday's match. Broken to open the contest, Gauff reeled off six straight games to take the first set. Gauff said some of the marathon rallies left her breathless, but she came out on top of them more often than not.

CCC to build 20 futsal courts in 41 wards with TK 49cr

Sports Desk

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) is opening new doors of recreational activities in the urban landscape of Chattogram. The organisation plans to construct 20 futsal courts across its 41 administrative wards, with an investment of Taka 49 crore. In response to this pressing issue, the CCC is creating new opportunities for play in the concrete environment of the city. Last week, the project development proposal was submitted to the sports ministry for approval. CCC has initiated this project to revive the childhood experiences that have been restricted to brick and wood confines, allowing them to flourish in the realm of sports. This initiative is part of a broader project titled "Expansion of Modern Urban Sports Facilities and Construction of Futsal Courts in Chattogram City".



Cutting the upper part of kachuripana for blocked river Chaora in Amtali



Amtali (Barguna)Correspondent.

There have been complaints about the cleaning of 15 kilometers of kachuripana of the Chaora river and its tributaries in Amtali upazila. Locals complain that the contractor Bashir Uddin is cleaning the kachuripana from the river, instead of removing it, he will create new kachuripana. The victims demand a quick investigation and action. It has been reported that 30 kilometers of the Chaora river and its tributaries in Amtali upazila. For the last 25 years, the river has been full of kachuripana. Due to kachuripana, the water in the canal has rotted and spread a foul smell, polluting the environment. Millions of people in Haldia, Chawra, Kukua, Amtali Sadar Union and Amtali Municipality of Amtali Upazila are living in extreme hardship in a polluted environment for years. Conscious citizens and environmental activists have been agitating for the past decade to clean the Kachuripana of this river. In 2023, the Barguna Water Development Board took up the project called Subandi Project. A contractor named Patuakhali Bashir got the job of cleaning the Kachuripana of 15 kilometers of the river at a cost of 3 crore taka. The contractor started the work of extracting the Kachuripana of this river last Wednesday. But the people on the banks of the river complained that they had failed to extract the Kachuripana in the beginning. The tender mentions that the Kachuripana of the river should be lifted from the root and cleaned by workers so that the Kachuripana cannot spread further. But the contractor Bashir Uddin is cutting the upper part of the Kachuripana with a

machine. There are allegations that the locals have forbidden the cutting of the Kachuripana in this way, but they are not obeying it. Meanwhile, after receiving complaints of irregularities in the cleaning of the Kachuripana of the river, Deputy Assistant Engineer Md. Azizur Rahman of the Barguna Water Development Board has given a notice to the contractor Bashir Uddin. In the notice, it was mentioned that if the Kachuripana of the river is not cleaned according to the tender, the responsibility will fall on the contractor. The Water Development Board will not take responsibility for this. At the same time, the work bill will not be discounted. On Tuesday, it was seen on the spot that a machine is being used to cut the top of the Kachuripana. The base of the Kachuripana is left. And the cut Kachuripana is remaining in the river.

Md. Shibli Sharif and Nazrul Islam, who live on the banks of the river, said that the contractor is not removing the Kachuripana by cutting it with a machine, but is making arrangements to propagate new Kachuripana. They also said that the contractor's people are cutting the top of the Kachuri leaves with machines, but the roots of the Kachuri leaves are still there. They also said that the water is already polluted due to the Kachuri leaves, and the way the Kachuri leaves are being cut will further pollute the environment by rotting. Sufia Begum said, when I saw the Kachuri leaves flying, I thought to myself, "May Allah protect me, but the mercy that is flying is so great that I will be in more danger." Contractor Bashir Uddin's manager Md. Zahid Hossain said that the water is spoiled, the workers do not want to lower it into the river. Therefore, the Kachuri leaves are being cut with machines and brought to the bank. Barguna Water Development Board Deputy Assistant Engineer Md. Azizur Rahman said that the workers will have to remove the Kachuri leaves from the ground from the river. So that the Kachuri leaves cannot reproduce again. He also said that the contractor has already been given a notice regarding irregularities in cleaning the Kachuripana. If the Kachuripana is not cleaned from the river as per the tender, the contractor will have to take responsibility for it. Hannan Pradhan, Executive Engineer of the Barguna Water Development Board, said that the contractor has been given instructions to clean the Kachuripana. He will have to clean the Kachuripana as per the instructions.

A young man dies from snakebite in Srirampur, Nabingar

Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria



A young man named Ujjol Mia died from a snakebite in Srirampur village, Srirampur Union, Nabingar Upazila, Brahmanbaria. He was the son of Eshan Mia of Srirampur village. According to local and family sources, Ujjol Mia was bitten by a snake on Tuesday evening. Family members then quickly took him to Nabingar Upazila Health Complex. After receiving initial treatment there, his condition deteriorated and he was referred to Brahmanbaria for advanced treatment. Later, he was advised to be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Brahmanbaria for further treatment. According to family members, he died in the Bhairab area while relatives were en route to Dhaka. Currently, Ujjol Mia's body is at his home in Srirampur village. His death has cast a pall of grief over his family, relatives and local residents.



International Day of Clean Air for blue skies observed in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies 2026 was observed in Rangpur yesterday with a call for integrated climate and clean air actions to ensure a healthy environment and sustainable economic growth. Development of Poor Society (DOPS), an NGO, organised a youth dialogue at its Beacon Theater Center office in the city marking the day with the slogan, "Ensure energy transformation, build a future of clean air." DOPS CEO Ujjal Chakraborty chaired the programme. Principal Fakhru Anan Benju,

environmental activists, youth representatives and volunteers attended the dialogue. The speakers said air pollution is a major threat to human health and the environment, while also aggravating climate change and causing economic losses. They stressed stronger investment, partnerships and collective action to reduce pollution. Ujjal Chakraborty said Rangpur has huge potential for renewable energy, which can be tapped through proper planning. He suggested community-based solar and biogas projects in char areas and improved cooking stoves to reduce household fuel wastage and air pollution.

International Literacy Day observed in Manikganj

Manikganj Correspondent

International Literacy Day-2026 was observed in yesterday in a befitting manner along with colorful programmes here in the district. The Manikganj District Administration and the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) jointly organized various programmes marking the day with the theme 'Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.' A colourful rally was brought out from the district town in the morning. The rally paraded the main roads of the town and ended at the Manikganj Collectorate premises. Government officials, students of schools and colleges, teachers and people from different walks of life participated in the rally. Later, a discussion was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Kurigram potters busy making idols ahead of Durga Puja

Kurigram Correspondent

With only 38 days left for the celebration of Sharadiya Durga Puja, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindu community, potters in Phulbari upazila of the district are busy making idols of Goddess Durga. As the festival draws closer, preparations to welcome the goddess at temples are gaining momentum alongside the traditional craft of idol-making. With skilled touches of straw, bamboo and clay, the idols of Goddess Durga are gradually taking shape. During a recent visit to Palpara village in Chandrakhana area of the upazila, potters were seen working intensively to prepare the idols well ahead of the festival. Sitting in the courtyard of his home, potter Dinesh Chandra Pal was seen carefully shaping an idol of Goddess Durga. He has hardly any time to rest from morning till evening. Dinesh, who has been preserving the traditional craft inherited from his ancestors, has been making Durga idols for the past 13 years. Talking to , Dinesh Chandra Pal said he started preparations for making idols nearly three months ahead of the festival, as he does every year. The preliminary work on five idols is already nearing completion. However, he expressed concern over the rising prices of raw materials required for making the idols. "It costs around Taka 8,000 to



Police arrested 3 drug dealers with 200 pieces of Yaba in separate raids in Kalapara

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

In three separate anti-drug operations in Kalapara of Patuakhali, the police recovered 200 pieces of Yaba tablets and 4 thousand 885 rupees from the sale of drugs. Three people have been arrested in this incident. According to local and police sources who went to the ground on Tuesday, the Kalapara police station conducted an operation on the Tiakhali-Chonauta dirt road of Ward No. 5 of Tiakhali Union around 4:30 pm on September 7. In the operation conducted under the leadership of SI Sujan Chakraborty, the son of Ar Rob Payda of Islampur (Pujakhola) area of ??Amtali upazila of Barguna was killed. Mahabub Pada (48) was arrested. At this time, 50 pieces of Yaba were recovered from his possession. On the same day at around 8:30 PM, raid was conducted on Sugandha Road in Nachnapara area of ??Ward No. 1 of Kalapara

Municipality. Another person named Mizanur Rahman (35) was arrested by the police. 4 thousand 885 taka for sale of 45 pieces of yaba and drugs were recovered from his residence. Then on September 8 around 3:30 pm, the police raided Chungapasha area of ??Ward No. 6 of Chakamiya Union. Meanwhile, Md. Bashar Khan (48) was arrested. 105 pieces of yaba were recovered from the front porch of his residence. According to the police, separate cases have been filed in Kalapara police station under section 10(a)/41 of the table of section 36(1) of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018 against the three persons arrested in these separate incidents. Officer-in-charge of Kalapara police station, OC Mo Nazrul Islam said, such operations will continue to eliminate drugs. The arrested have been handed over to the court.

Payra Port Naval Police recovered the body of Badal Sardar, a fisherman killed by lightning after two days in Kalapara

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

Two days after he was killed by lightning in Kalapara of Patuakhali, the body of a fisherman named Badal Sardar (25) was recovered by Payra Bandar Naval Police. On Tuesday afternoon, his body was found floating in the Ravnabod river adjacent to Lal Buoy on the eastern side of Jetty No. 1 of Payra Port. The deceased fisherman of Kalaiya area of ??Badal Baufal upazila. Son of Ahid Sardar. On Tuesday, Paira Port Naval Police sources said that on the afternoon of September 6, fisherman Badal Sardar cast a net to catch fish in the Ravnabod river in the afternoon of drizzling rain. When there was a sudden lightning, he fell from the boat into the river and disappeared. On receiving information, a team of Payra Port Naval Police and Fire Service started a rescue operation in the river. Despite a long search, no trace of him was found. Police Inspector (ret'd) Nayan Karkun, in charge of Payra Bandar Naval Police Outpost, said that the fisherman's body was recovered from the river on Tuesday afternoon after receiving information from the locals. Necessary legal process is ongoing in this incident.



166 students awarded after battles of victory and defeat in Rajshahi

Rajshahi Correspondent

At the end of the competition, 166 students who achieved excellence in various events were awarded prizes in a festive atmosphere. Around 500 students from various secondary schools, madrasas, and technical educational institutions in the Paba upazila of the district participated in the summer sports competition. Yesterday, on the premises of Maskatadighi Multipurpose High School, the chief guest, Paba Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Ibnul Abedin, handed over the prizes to the winners. The programme was presided over by Akhtar Hasan Mridha, principal of Maskatadighi Multipurpose (Technical) High School and College. The special guest was Upazila Secondary Education Officer Laila Akhtar Jahan. In the closing ceremony, the entire school premises became festive with the presence of teachers, students, and parents. The three-day sports event ended with the excitement of students holding prizes and applause. Some won by battling in the blue waters of swimming, some in the battle of wits on the chessboard, and others by sweating it out on the kabaddi and handball fields.



At the end of the three-day competition, the joy of victory merged into one on the prize distribution stage. Some held trophies in their hands, while others had the regret of not winning in their eyes-- yet there was still the joy of dreaming anew and the determination to do better in the coming days. However, many eyes held

the dream of doing better next time - because beyond the calculation of win and loss, sports seemed to have taught them the story of fighting and moving forward. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ibnul Abedin said, "Sports not only keep students physically healthy, but also build discipline, leadership, empathy, and a competitive spirit among them." "Alongside studies, regular sports play an important role in the mental development and boosting self-confidence of students." He further said, "A player on the field yesterday can become the pride of the country and the nation tomorrow." "Therefore, families and educational institutions need to be more sincere in increasing opportunities for sports alongside developing students' talents."