



PM orders stricter action against unchecked use of polythene, plastic

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday ordered the law enforcement agencies to take stricter action to stop the unchecked use of polythene and plastic in a bid to control environmental pollution. He also asked the ministries, departments and agencies concerned to properly discharge their responsibilities in enforcing measures against the use of

polythene and plastic. Tarique gave the directives at a review meeting on controlling environmental pollution at Secretariat in the morning, said a release issued by the PM's Press Wing. The meeting discussed progress in implementing various government initiatives to control environmental pollution and future measures, including increasing the use of environment-friendly block bricks, controlling air,

water, soil and noise pollution, and improving waste management. Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping Minister Shaikh Robiul Alam, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam, State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, State Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sheikh Faridul Islam, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani,

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Fertilizer worth Tk 780.76 crore to be imported from three countries



Staff Reporter

The government has approved the import of 110,000 metric tons of fertilizer from Belarus, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. This consignment includes 30,000 metric tons of MOP, 40,000 metric tons of DAP, and 40,000 metric tons of bulk granular urea fertilizer. The total cost for importing these fertilizers will be Tk 7,80,76,27,539. The proposal was approved on Wednesday

(September 9) at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase, held at the Secretariat and presided over by Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury. Approval for LNG purchase proposal; discussion on fuel oil prices. According to meeting sources, acting on a proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture, the government approved the import of 30,000 metric tons of MOP fertilizer from Belarus through the private entity M/S Suphala Trading Corporation. The total cost to procure this fertilizer from M/S Suphala Trading Corporation will be 11,969,100 US dollars, or Tk 147,18,50,999 in local currency. The price per metric ton of fertilizer will be 398.97 US dollars. Based on another proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture, the government approved the import of an optional second lot of 40,000 metric tons

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A 32-foot dead whale in the Taltali river

Crowd of curious onlookers

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

A dead whale, approximately 32 feet long, has washed ashore on the banks of the Andamanik River in Taltali, Barguna. Locals spotted the carcass near Charpara village in Borobogi Union around 7:00 AM on Wednesday (September 9). As news spread, curious crowds gathered at the riverbank to see the massive whale. Locals believe the carcass drifted from the Bay of Bengal with the current and reached the estuary of the Andamanik River. Later, around 11:00 AM, the carcass began drifting back toward the deep sea. Upon receiving the news, Forest Department personnel arrived at the scene and initiated efforts to recover the whale's body. Meanwhile, the massive dead whale has sparked significant curiosity among the locals; people of all ages men and women alike have been gathering at the riverbank since morning to view it. The appearance of such a large marine animal's carcass in a coastal river has led to widespread discussion and concern among the local population. Arifur Rahman, an environmental activist and member of the Kuakata Dolphin Protection Committee, stated that the frequent washing up of dead marine animals including whales and dolphins on the coast is extremely alarming. He emphasized the need for relevant authorities to take the matter seriously and implement swift, effective measures. He suggested that the whale's bones could be preserved for research and educational purposes, while noting that if the remains are not buried quickly, decomposition could pollute the surrounding environment. Ziaur Rahman, the Range Officer of the Taltali Forest Department, said the dead whale was drifting along the Andamanik River, which

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PM to open nationwide dengue prevention campaign on Sept 12: Shahe Alam

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will formally inaugurate the "Nationwide Dengue Prevention and Cleanliness Campaign 2026" on September 12 to further strengthen cleanliness activities aimed at preventing dengue. State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Mir Shahe Alam said this at a press conference held at the Secretariat yesterday, adding that the Prime Minister will inaugurate the campaign from the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad on September 12 at 9:00 am. He said the three-month campaign, from September 12 to December 12, will be conducted as dengue prevalence typically peaks in September, October and November, when the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes increases. Stakeholders from all 64 districts and 503 upazilas of the country will join the event through video-conferencing, he said. Therefore, alongside medical treatment, the utmost importance is being placed on disease prevention and the destruction of Aedes mosquito breeding grounds to contain dengue outbreaks, he said. Shahe Alam said the Prime Minister recently

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Feasibility study, design completed for Chattogram-Dhaka electric train: PM

Staff correspondent

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday said the government has completed the feasibility study and detailed design for introducing electric trains on Chattogram-Dhaka corridor to reduce travel time and improve connectivity between the two most important cities. "The feasibility study and detailed design for installing electric traction to operate electric trains on the Chattogram-Dhaka corridor have already been completed," he said while replying to a starred question from Chattogram-12 MP Mohammad Enamul Haque during the question-answer session in Parliament. The Prime Minister said the detailed implementation plan and timeline for the project would be determined after securing the necessary financing. "The project will be taken up for implementation subject to securing funding. Once implemented, electric trains can be operated on the Chattogram-Dhaka corridor,

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BNP working to ensure women empowerment: Rizvi

Staff correspondent

BNP's acting Secretary General and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed yesterday said BNP is working to ensure women empowerment as civilization cannot be complete without empowering women. "Keeping in mind women's ability to participate in every sphere of politics, society and the state, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had formed the Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal," he said. Rizvi told journalists after laying wreaths and paying tribute at the graves of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Zia Uddin in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi

Mohila Dal. He said Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal is one of the largest and strongest women's organizations in Bangladesh. The organization has protested against various forms of oppression, including violence against women and children, he said. Along with standing beside families affected by violence, the Mohila Dal has also supported the families of women who were arrested for writing on social media platforms like Facebook to express their views freely, he said. Rizvi said during the fascist Awami League's regime, countless women, including Khadija and Nusrat, became victims of violence. In every such incident, the Mohila Dal protested on the streets and raised its voice against the atrocities,

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Bangladesh, Hong Kong sign investment protection deal

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and Hong Kong yesterday signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) aimed at increasing and safeguarding bilateral investment between the two sides. The agreement was signed at the inaugural session of the 11th Belt and Road Summit 2026 held in Hong Kong, said a press release here. Industries, Commerce and Textiles and Jute Minister of Bangladesh Khandakar Abdul Muktedir and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Algeron Yau signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. The agreement is expected to strengthen protection for investors and capital from both Bangladesh and Hong Kong while creating a more institutionalized investment

environment and opening up new avenues for economic cooperation. Hong Kong is currently Bangladesh's seventh-largest source of foreign investment. The new agreement is expected to help attract increased investment from Hong Kong, particularly in promising sectors including readymade garments and textiles. Over the past five years, Bangladesh has attracted around US\$750 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) from Hong Kong. Of the amount, US\$122 million came in 2025. Officials and stakeholders said the signing of the IPPA would give a more institutional shape to investment relations between Bangladesh and Hong Kong. They expressed hope that the agreement would not only boost investment but also contribute to strengthening bilateral economic relations and help reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Amend the Hiba (gift) law in consultation with authentic Islamic scholars, avoiding anything contrary to the Quran and Sunnah



Syed Bashir Ahmed, Staff Reporter

Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Shah Abu Nasr Nesaruddin Ahmad Hussain (may his shadow be prolonged), the Pir Saheb of Sarsina Darbar Sharif, has stated that the government must refrain from enacting any law that conflicts with the religious beliefs of the people and the directives of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He specifically urged the authorities to consult with authentic Islamic scholars (Haqqani Ulama) before making legislative and policy decisions. In a statement issued on Wednesday, September 9, he called for a review and necessary amendment of the current Hiba law, taking into account the opinions of the Islamic scholarly community. He remarked that decisions

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Ariful stresses coordinated efforts to make President's Sylhet visit successful

Staff correspondent

Labour and Employment and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury has called upon all concerned to work in coordination to ensure the successful and orderly completion of all activities related to President Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's upcoming visit to Sylhet. He made the call while addressing a special preparatory meeting held at Sylhet Circuit House yesterday, organised by the district administration ahead of the President's scheduled visit to Sylhet on September 15. Speaking as the chief guest, the minister said the President's visit to Sylhet is a significant occasion. During the visit, the President will pay homage at the shrines of

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Govt steps up efforts to modernise nursing, midwifery education

Staff correspondent

The government has undertaken a series of measures to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery education, including expanding teacher training, modernising laboratories and ensuring adequate clinical practice facilities, according to a Health Ministry document. The initiatives have been taken as part

of the government's broader plan to develop human resources, protect public health, expand and modernise medical and nursing education and ensure healthcare services at all levels, the document said. The urgency is underscored by the country's relatively low nursing workforce density. Bangladesh had only 0.7 nurses and midwives per 1,000 people in

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Acting Editor



Md. Neyamul Hossain
Acting Editor

THE Daily Bangla © Sky Newspaper
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Puvls and soueet

Literacy targets must reflect reality

As the government unveils its plan to raise the literacy rate among children aged 7 and above to 90 percent by 2030, it is time to reassess the actual state of learning because several surveys suggest that the functionally useful literacy rate is about half the officially reported estimate. The unusually wide gap between official adult literacy statistics, which are largely based on self-reporting, and tested literacy levels is deeply concerning. Even more worrying is the fact that half

As the government unveils its plan to raise the literacy rate among children aged 7 and above to 90 percent by 2030, it is time to reassess the actual state of learning because several surveys suggest that the functionally useful literacy rate is about half the officially reported estimate. The unusually wide gap between official adult literacy statistics, which are largely based.

shortage of qualified and well-trained teachers, inadequate monitoring and accountability mechanisms to track student progress, and flawed teaching methods have all contributed to the poor state of foundational learning. There are also significant disparities between children from the poorest and richest households and between those living in urban and rural areas. These deep inequalities in access to quality education and learning outcomes must be addressed if the government is to make meaningful progress. Adult literacy is another area where progress remains inadequate. According to experts, much of the improvement in literacy over the years has resulted from the expansion of primary and secondary education. Yet many adults and young people, who dropped out of school or have been excluded from formal education, still lack access to opportunities for lifelong learning. Therefore, the national literacy strategy must address their needs as well. The new government's pledge to raise the literacy rate to 90 percent during its term in office needs a reality check, beginning with an assessment of the reliability and consistency of the different datasets used to measure literacy. Literacy must be functional and aligned with global standards. When the world has broadened the definition of literacy, as set by UNESCO, encompassing the ability to identify, interpret, create and communicate in an increasingly digital, text-driven, information-rich and fast-changing world, we need to think beyond the conventional concept of reading, writing and counting.

PM orders stricter action against

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Md Abdus Salam and Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr Saimum Parvez, among senior officials, attended the meeting.

Feasibility study, design

increasing the average speed of trains and reducing travel time," he said.Tarique also said a feasibility study and detailed design are underway for constructing a chord line from Dhaka to Cumilla to shorten the distance between Dhaka and Chattogram."Once implemented, the distance between Dhaka and Chattogram will be reduced and the average speed will increase, allowing people to travel between the two cities in less time," he said.The government has also taken steps to convert the Dhaka-Chattogram railway into a dual-gauge double line, the Prime Minister said.

As part of the initiative, feasibility studies and detailed designs for constructing dual-gauge double lines on the Tongi-Akhaura and Laksam-Chattogram sections have already been completed.

Laksam-Chattogram Dual Gauge Double Line Development Project is currently being processed for approval, while preparation of the Development Project Proforma (DPP) for the Tongi-Akhaura project is at its final stage, the Prime Minister said."I hope that once these two projects are implemented, Bangladesh Railway's passenger transport capacity and train speeds on the Chattogram-Dhaka corridor will increase," he said.The parliamentary session began at 3:30pm with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed in the chair. The first half-hour of the session was allocated for the Prime Minister's question-answer session.

BNP working to ensure

he added.Regarding the country's current energy situation, he said the gas and energy shortages are international and global crises.

Until the war between the United States and Iran comes to an end, it is not possible for any single country to resolve this crisis on its own, he added. At present, difficulties have arisen in the transportation of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, he said.Rizvi said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is making continuous efforts to address the country's energy crisis. Arrangements are being made to import gas from Kuwait, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia. Gas-carrying cargoes have already begun arriving, he added.

Rizvi said the normal flow of gas had been disrupted due to a technical fault at the deep-sea gas terminal in Maheshkhali. The problem has been fixed, and gas supplies are gradually returning to normal, he said.He said if necessary, additional subsidies would be provided to import gas to tackle the crisis. For this purpose, an additional Tk 40,000 crore is being allocated to facilitate the import of gas and fuel, he said.Regarding commodity prices, Rizvi said the government is intervening in the market to keep prices stable so that people can afford to spend according to their current incomes and purchase essential food items. Prices of food products such as vegetables, rice, lentils and salt generally rise at the end of the monsoon and the beginning of autumn, he said.

However, due to the government's strict intervention, prices of essential food items have not increased significantly, he said adding that as a result, inflation fell considerably in August. Rizvi said former Prime Minister and BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia had made education for female students free up to the intermediate level. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has declared education free up to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and

What good will abolishing Rab do if its machinery is not dismantled?

Md. Neyamul Hossain

To address complaints, the bill proposes a grievance redress committee. The committee would handle complaints from members of the public as well as internal grievances involving SRB personnel.

We may recall that in addition to its recommendation to disband Rab, the UN report had recommended that members of the armed forces be assigned to internal security tasks only in the most exceptional circumstances and for a limited period, subject to parliamentary approval, under the command of civilian law enforcement authorities, and with full transparency to the public regarding their tasks and rules of engagement. It had also recommended confining the functions of BGB and DGFI strictly to border security and military intelligence, respectively. The rationale is clear—the involvement of members of armed forces in internal security, law and order, and

Likewise, the just-passed enforced disappearance law takes away the authority of the NHRC to investigate cases of enforced disappearance—an authority vested in it by the predecessor ordinance, which was later repealed. Instead, it provides for allegations of enforced disappearance by one state agency to be investigated by another state agency or by an inter-agency investigation team, excluding the accused agency. This creates three major problems. First, an investigation by one state agency into another is unlikely to be independent. Second, in many cases it may not be possible to determine which agency was involved in an enforced disappearance in the first place. It would, therefore, also not be possible to identify an agency other than the one involved for conducting the investigation. Third, because the law provides for one agency to investigate another, each agency, fearing embarrassment, could claim that it is not the appropriate one to conduct the investigation, thus causing uncertainty and a loss of valuable time. Clearly, the ecosystem in which SRB will operate is not one capable of preventing the kind of rights abuses that led to the call for dissolving Rab.

combating crime by posting them to forces such as Rab, or the newly proposed SRB, significantly increases the risk of serious human rights abuses.

The SRB bill is inconsistent with these recommendations. As stated before, like Rab, SRB can include members of the armed forces, and with all the legal, institutional, and jurisdictional structures intact—including the same human resources drawn from both the police and other disciplined forces—it is indeed the same force as Rab, except with a new name and possibly a new uniform. That it will operate within the same proven legal ecosystem of unaccountability and impunity as Rab is indeed alarming. A law does not operate in a vacuum; it operates within a system comprising the entire legal architecture. Sadly, that system may again remain ineffective in preventing the very abuses that led to the calls for Rab's abolition in the first place.

Notable in this regard are the National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2026 and the Enforced Disappearance

Shamim, Jalalabad Gas Director Badruzzaman Selim, Sylhet Metropolitan BNP President Nasim Hossain and General Secretary Emdad Hossain Chowdhury, along with officials from various government departments and representatives of different press clubs and social organisations, attended the meeting.

A 32-foot dead whale in the

borders Kalapara and Taltali. Efforts are underway to bring it toward Nishanbaria, where arrangements will be made to bury it. However, before burial, necessary data regarding the whale will be collected, and various samples will be preserved. Mir Mohammad Ali, an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, stated that based on the characteristics visible in the photographs, it appears to be a baleen whale—most likely a Bryde's whale. This species of whale is relatively more frequently sighted in the Bay of Bengal. He stated that it is impossible to confirm the exact cause of the whale's death without a thorough examination. The whale could have died due to various factors, such as becoming entangled in nets, colliding with a large vessel, marine pollution and plastic ingestion, or drifting into shallow waters while sick.

PM to open nationwide

presided over a meeting on dengue prevention and necessary measures.

Ministers, secretaries and additional secretaries from various ministries, as well as directors-general of relevant departments, attended the meeting, he said.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister directed that greater emphasis must be placed on prevention rather than just treatment of dengue patients, he said.

Specific instructions were given to focus on preventing the breeding of Aedes mosquito larvae and maintaining clean surroundings, he said.He said 137 people have died from dengue across the country as of September 7 this year. During this period, around 2,700 to 2,800 patients were hospitalised, received treatment or are currently undergoing treatment, he said.

Through this programme, he said, cleanliness drives will be conducted at the city, upazila, union and municipality levels, alongside the destruction of Aedes mosquito breeding grounds.

The state minister said Scouts, BNCC, disaster management volunteers, students and volunteers from educational institutions, the Red Crescent, Rovers, BD Clean and sanitation workers from the two city corporations will participate in the programme.He said the initiative will be carried out simultaneously across the country through the administrations of 64 districts and, at the upazila level, through Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) and Upazila Parishads.Shahe Alam said arrangements will be made to broadcast the Prime Minister's inaugural address live at both district and upazila levels.Following this, volunteers and government officials in the respective areas will take part in the cleanliness activities, he said.He said coordinated efforts will be made to ensure the success of the programme across the country, including in Dhaka.Relevant institutions, including Dhaka's two city corporations, the Local Government Division, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, BNCC, the Red Crescent and the Scouts, have been involved in the initiative, he said.The state minister said the national-level committee is led by the Administrator of Dhaka South City Corporation,

Prevention and Redress Bill, 2026, both of which have now been passed in parliament, amid walkouts by the opposition as well as protests by rights defenders and victims of past abuses. The passage of these bills clears the way for an entirely toothless National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) while putting in place an utterly inadequate legal framework for the prevention of enforced disappearance.

Why changing Rab's name or repackaging it is not enough The problems with the new NHRC law have been discussed at length elsewhere. Just to give a brief summary here, the new NHRC will not be an independent body. The government will control the appointment of its members and, instead of allowing impartial and competent human rights defenders to be appointed, will be able to appoint partisan individuals. Once appointed, the government will be able to control its operations in many ways, including by appointing personnel and controlling its budget. Most importantly for our present context, the NHRC will not be able to carry out direct and independent investigations into human rights violations by security and disciplined forces, such as the SRB.

Likewise, the just-passed enforced disappearance law takes away the authority of the NHRC to investigate cases of enforced disappearance—an authority vested in it by the predecessor ordinance, which was later repealed. Instead, it provides for allegations of enforced disappearance by one state agency to be investigated by another state agency or by an inter-agency investigation team, excluding the accused agency. This creates three major problems. First, an investigation by one state agency into another is unlikely to be independent. Second, in many cases it may not be possible to determine which agency was involved in an enforced disappearance in the first place. It would, therefore, also not be possible to identify an agency other than the one

involved for conducting the investigation. Third, because the law provides for one agency to investigate another, each agency, fearing embarrassment, could claim that it is not the appropriate one to conduct the investigation, thus causing uncertainty and a loss of valuable time.

Clearly, the ecosystem in which SRB will operate is not one capable of preventing the kind of rights abuses that led to the call for dissolving Rab. The government tells us that it has good intentions and that, therefore, people should not be concerned about the law. But if good intentions alone were enough, no nation would have designed its law enforcement institutions with human rights protections at their core, or created institutions of accountability to keep state power in check. In light of the grave human cost of enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, and other abuses, it is only natural to hope that the lessons of these violations will be heeded and that all three laws discussed in this article will be appropriately revised.

Freedom Fighter Abdus Salam, as Convener, and the Administrator of Dhaka North City Corporation, Shafiqul Islam Milton, as Joint Convener.The committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, as well as the Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, the Director General of BNCC, the Secretary General of the Red Crescent, the Executive Director of the Scouts, and the chief engineers, chief health officers, waste management officers and chief executive officers of both city corporations.Prime Minister's Principal Secretary A B M Abdus Sattar has been appointed as the committee's adviser.

Shahe Alam said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Press Information Department would play a crucial role in raising public awareness about dengue prevention.

An extensive publicity campaign will be conducted at the national, district and field levels, while videos produced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the prevention of dengue and Aedes mosquitoes are already being shown two to three times an hour on electronic billboards installed in different city corporations, he said.He added that for the weekly Saturday cleanliness drives, local administrations and educational institutions would coordinate to select specific locations.These locations may include drains, areas with stagnant water, ponds choked with water hyacinths, canals, playgrounds, residential areas and busy traffic zones, he said.Shahe Alam said priority would be given to cleaning sites that are potential breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

He said the Ministry of Education plays a vital role in the programme. Every Saturday, students and teachers from colleges, high schools and madrasas across the country will participate in cleanliness drives in their respective areas, he said. The state minister said the national committee would hold a meeting the following day to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme.

Detailed plans for implementing the nationwide campaign, distributing responsibilities and ensuring coordination will be formulated during the meeting, he said.He said that alongside ensuring medical care for dengue patients, the government is working in a coordinated manner to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, conduct cleanliness drives and raise public awareness.

To achieve this, public representatives, students, teachers, volunteers, various social organisations and the general public must work together with the government, he said.

Govt steps up efforts to

2023, according to World Bank data based on the World Health Organization's Global Health Workforce Statistics.A 2025 report citing the Health Sector Reform Commission said Bangladesh required around 310,500 nurses but had only 56,734, representing an estimated 82 percent shortfall under that assessment.Against this backdrop, the government is putting greater emphasis on the quality of nursing education, particularly the capacity of teachers who train future nurses and midwives. As part of efforts to expand education and training opportunities for nursing and midwifery teachers, a Nurse Teachers Training Centre was established in Mohakhali, Dhaka, in 2025. So far, one batch comprising 30 trainees has successfully completed a one-year Teachers Training Certificate Course at the centre, while training of another two batches involving a total of 60 trainees is currently under way, according to the ministry. The government has also been providing shorter professional development programmes to strengthen the knowledge, skills and work performance of nursing and midwifery teachers.

President calls for building democratic, discrimination-free state in spirit of July Mass Uprising



Staff Correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today called for building a democratic, justice-based, discrimination-free and humane state system being imbued with the spirit of the July Mass Uprising. "It is our responsibility to build a democratic, justice-based, discrimination-free and humane state system by upholding the spirit of the July Mass Uprising. The role of such preservation and museums is extremely important in presenting the history of the July Mass Uprising properly to the upcoming generations," he said.

The President made the remarks while visiting the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum in the capital this morning, President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam told BSS during a briefing. Earlier, Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Cultural

Affairs State Minister Ali Nawaz Mahmud Khayyam, Prime Minister's Adviser on Policy and Strategy Dr. Zahed Ur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Director General of the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum, and senior officials from the President's Office and the concerned ministry welcomed the President to the July Memorial Museum. The President entered the July Museum after collecting a visitor ticket and observed historical photographs depicting various stages of the Great Liberation War and Bangladesh's democratic journey through the 'Long Walk to Democracy' walkway.

He also visited the memorial built in memory of those who were killed during the 16-year fascist rule and the replica Aynagar. The President also watched a short documentary made on the July Mass Uprising there.

At the time, he said, "We have been freed from the fascists and regained democracy, but we have paid a very high price. The state can never repay the debt owed to the martyrs and injured July fighters."

"May such tragic and brutal massacres never take place in this country again," he hoped.

The President also visited the sections of the museum on the BDR massacre, Shapla massacre, torture materials and enforced disappearances and became emotional upon seeing letters, memorabilia and mementos of the martyrs.

He also visited various important events of the July Uprising and sections depicting the struggle of students-people during the July Movement. Paying deep tribute to the martyrs and injured of the July Mass Uprising, the President described their sacrifices as an 'Important Chapter' in Bangladesh's struggle for democracy and justice. "Nation will remember with deep respect the sacrifices of the students and people who participated in and laid down their lives during the July Mass Uprising," he said.

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir wished speedy recovery and wellbeing of all those injured and affected in the July Mass Uprising and planted a tree on the museum premises in tribute to their memory.

During the visit, museum's research team members Zubayer Ibn Kamal and Farhan Masud briefed the President about various installations and documents of the museum. At the end of the visit, the

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Digital registration to curb child marriage polygamy: Asaduzzaman

Staff correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman yesterday there will be no scope for child marriage, unauthorized polygamy or marriage-related fraud through fake birth certificates once online marriage and divorce registration is introduced under digital technology. "As the system will be directly interconnected with the national identity card and birth registration databases, all information

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CEC vows credible local government election

Staff correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) A.M.M. Nasir Uddin yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) is fully committed to holding the upcoming local government elections in a free, fair and credible manner, with a professional and peaceful electoral environment ensured through coordinated efforts by the police and administration. "We want to conduct

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Crore Taka Broom Stick Industry in Nazirpur Pirojpur

G.M. Adol Pirojpur District Correspondent

What was once considered nothing more than fallen leaves has now become a source of livelihood for many people, generating a business worth crores of taka. In different areas of Nazirpur Upazila in Pirojpur, a quiet cottage industry has developed around the collection, drying, sorting, bundling and marketing of broom sticks made from coconut leaves. These sticks, produced in homes across the rural areas, are sold not only in local markets but also transported to different parts of the country. Although they may appear simple, the production of broom sticks involves a

long chain of activities.

The work begins early in the morning with collecting and sorting coconut leaf sticks. Some workers separate the sticks from dried coconut leaves, while others clean and straighten them. The sticks are then arranged according to size and bundled together. Finally, wholesalers collect the bundles and transport them to various markets.

Both men and women are involved in this industry in the rural communities of Nazirpur. In particular, many women engage in producing and processing broom sticks alongside their household responsibilities, earning

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Bodies of Two Individuals Recovered in Separate Incidents in Domar

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

Police have recovered the bodies of two individuals in separate incidents in Domar, Nilphamari. On Wednesday (September 9) around 10:30 AM, the hanging body of a young man named Sumon Roy (21) was recovered from the cowshed of his home in Mistri Para, West Boragari Bottoli, under Boragari Union. He was the son of Bablu Roy from the same village and worked as a mason.

Police stated that Sumon Roy used to work as a mason in Dhaka. He had returned home from Dhaka on September 7. He was alone at home when other family members went to visit relatives. Neighbors discovered his hanging body in the cowshed around 10:30 AM on Wednesday and informed the police. Md. Habibullah, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Domar Police Station, stated that

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Devastating Fire Ravages Kadam Rasul Market in Sitakunda

40 Business Establishments Burned to Ashes, Losses Estimated at Tk 1 Crore



Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

A devastating fire broke out at Kadam Rasul Raw Market in Bhatari Union of Sitakunda Upazila, Chattogram, early Wednesday morning, leaving at least 40 small and large business establishments completely gutted. Affected traders have claimed that the fire caused losses worth approximately Tk 1 crore.

The fire broke out at around 5:30 am on Wednesday (September 9) at Kadam Rasul Raw Market. Upon receiving the information, two units of Kumira Fire Service rushed to the scene and brought the blaze under control.

According to local residents and Fire Service sources, the fire is initially suspected to have originated from an electrical short circuit at a quilt and bedding shop in the market. The flames quickly spread to nearby shops. Local residents also assisted the Fire Service personnel in controlling the fire.

Although firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control after reaching the scene, several shops had already been completely destroyed. According to information provided by the affected traders, a total of 40 small and large shops were damaged in the incident.

The affected businesses included furniture shops, grocery stores, hardware shops, salons, two pharmacies, tea stalls and other establishments.

The affected traders said that their shop inventories, goods and business capital were completely destroyed in the fire, leaving many of them financially devastated. They claimed that the total losses from the incident could

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Two Soldiers Killed, Officer Critical in Tank Firing Incident at Hathazari

Jahangir Alam, Staff Correspondent

Two Bangladesh Army soldiers were killed and an officer was critically injured in a tragic accident during a military firing exercise at the Hathazari Field Firing Range in Chattogram yesterday (Wednesday).

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate confirmed the matter in a press release issued on Wednesday. According to the ISPR, the accident occurred unexpectedly during a round of shell firing from a tank as part of the army's regular field firing practice. Two soldiers died on the spot, while an army officer sustained critical injuries.

Immediately after the incident, the injured officer was rescued and provided emergency medical treatment. As his physical condition deteriorated, he was airlifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka via a military helicopter for advanced care, where he is currently undergoing treatment.

A high-level investigation has been launched by the relevant authorities to ascertain the exact cause of the accident and identify any technical flaws, the release added.

Gold prices cut again in Bangladesh, 22-carat now Tk 234,038 a bhoori

Staff correspondent

Gold prices have fallen again in Bangladesh's local market, with the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajas) cutting the price of the best-quality 22-carat gold ornaments by Tk 1,108 per bhoori, bringing it down to Tk 234,038. The new rate came into effect from Wednesday morning. Bajas said the price adjustment was made in response to a drop in the price of gold bullion in the local market.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Bajas's Standing Committee on Pricing and Price Monitoring. The price of 21-carat gold ornaments was reduced by Tk 1,049 per bhoori to Tk 223,541, while 18-carat gold ornaments now cost Tk 191,931 per bhoori, down Tk 933. The price of traditional-method (Sanatan) gold ornaments was also cut by Tk 700 per bhoori, bringing the new price to Tk 156,822.

This is the second price cut

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Bangladesh, India express resolve to boost defence cooperation, maintain regional stability

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and India yesterday expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and work together to maintain regional stability and address common global challenges. The resolve was expressed when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam at his office at the Armed Forces

Division in Dhaka Cantonment. During the meeting, they discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation while the talks featured prominently joint military training, exchange of professional expertise, disaster management and maritime security, according to an ISPR release. At the outset, the defence adviser and the Indian high commissioner exchanged greetings and discussed measures to enhance professional cooperation between the armed forces of the two neighbouring

◆ see page 7



Staff correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Wednesday expressed Bangladesh's readiness to elevate bilateral trade relations with Indonesia towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The State Minister requested Indonesia to ease visa processing for Bangladeshi nationals to promote tourism, cultural exchanges and greater people-to-people connectivity. The issues were discussed when Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Listyowati paid a courtesy call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs at his office.

During the meeting, they discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including

trade and business, investment in the energy sector, disaster management, education and training, capacity building, tourism, cultural exchange, people-to-people contacts, consular affairs, exchange of high-level visits, and cooperation on regional and global issues. State Minister Kobir urged Indonesia to increase imports of Bangladeshi products and services with

◆ see page 7

Only BRTA-approved sleeper buses can operate on roads: HC

Staff correspondent

The High Court on Wednesday declined to allow sleeper buses to operate on highways without approval from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), saying only vehicles authorised by the regulator can run on the roads. The High Court bench headed by Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order while hearing a petition filed by a bus owners' association seeking permission to operate sleeper buses on highways. Advocate Md Rafiul Islam who stood for BRTA told the court that Section 40 of the Road Transport Act, 2018 sets technical specifications for vehicles, while violating those specifications constitutes an offence under Section 84, punishable by up to three years in jail and a fine of up to Tk 3 lakh. He also referred to Section 28, which prohibits vehicles from operating on roads without route permits. Later,

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জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
এম.পি.এইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথালমোলোজী)

সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল এন্ড ফ্যাকালি সেন্টার

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ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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

President calls for building demo
President signed the museum’s visitors’ book. Members of the July Museum Governing Board Sanjida Islam Tuli, Abrar Elias and Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdha were also present during the visit.

Digital registration
about an individual can be verified with just one click. As a result, child marriages using fake documents or forged birth certificates, as well as secret polygamous marriages without the first wife’s knowledge, can be completely prevented,” he said.The law minister made the remarks at a function to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Law and Justice Division and BRAC. Secretary of the Law and Justice Division Liaquet Ali Molla delivered the welcome address. Under the initiative being implemented by the Law and Justice Division, online marriage and divorce registration is initially being launched on a pilot basis in 102 unions across 10 upazilas of the country. The 10 selected upazilas are Kaliganj in Gazipur, Tungipara in Gopalganj, Jhenaigati in Sherpur, Kurigram Sadar, Sundarganj in Gaibandha, Narail Sadar, Kasba in Brahmanbaria, Sylhet Sadar, Chakaria in Cox’s Bazar and Kishoreganj Sadar.At the function, the minister spoke highly of an initiative taken in Jhenaidah to expedite the disposal of narcotics cases. "Dope testing before Judicial Magistrates has helped expedite the trial process, and we are already seeing the benefits of the initiative. Both the judiciary and police authorities have reported positive outcomes from the initiative, while local residents say drug-related activities have declined significantly in the area," he added.The minister also said through the legal aid programme, the authorities have been able to reduce the rate of new case filings in Bangladesh and also significantly reduce the existing case backlog. "I was very happy to see statistics from Manikganj the other day, where around 50 percent of the existing cases that could be disposed of easily have already been reduced," he further said.

Crore Taka Broom Stick
additional income for their families. As a result, the industry has become more than just a cottage based activity. It has emerged as an alternative source of employment for many households. One of the major advantages of the industry is that it requires neither expensive machinery nor large infrastructure. Workers can produce the sticks at home using locally available raw materials, allowing people to enter the business with relatively little capital. A wholesaler involved in the industry first collects coconut-leaf sticks from different households. The sticks are then dried and sorted, with damaged and unsuitable pieces separated from the good ones. Strong and clean sticks are arranged in specific quantities and tightly bundled for sale. Women’s participation is another important feature of the industry in Nazirpur. Many rural women clean, sort and bundle broom sticks during their free time while continuing their household responsibilities. This allows them to earn an income through their own labour even when other members of their families are engaged in different occupations. A local woman involved in the industry said, “I make broom sticks in between my household chores. If I can produce a good number every day, it helps contribute to our household expenses. I can also earn some extra money for myself and my children. The work is convenient for us because it can be done from home.”

A significant portion of the broom sticks produced in Nazirpur is sold in local markets, while some are transported outside the district through wholesalers. Wholesalers travel from village to village, collecting the sticks from households before supplying them to different markets. From there the products eventually reach consumers through retail traders. In this way, the coconut-leaf broom-stick industry has created a multi-layered commercial chain in Nazirpur, involving raw-material collectors, workers, artisans, local traders, wholesalers and retailers. Each group earns income from the industry in one way or another. At first glance, the broom-stick production scattered across small homes and yards in Nazirpur may seem insignificant. However, considering the number of people involved, daily production, supply to local and outside markets, and wholesale transactions, the industry carries considerable economic importance. According to local residents and traders, the annual volume of business generated by the industry could exceed Tk 1 crore if properly calculated. However, determining the exact size of the industry would require a comprehensive survey covering production, wholesale sales and marketing activities. Despite its potential, people involved in the industry face several challenges. These include shortages in raw-material supply, transportation costs, labour expenses, fluctuations in wholesale prices and the involvement of middlemen, all of which can reduce their expected profits. Traders, workers and artisans involved in the local broom-stick business said that although they put in significant labour to produce the sticks, a substantial portion of the market value is often consumed by transportation costs. Those involved in the profession also expressed frustration over the lack of government support and access to loans. They said, “We have never received government assistance or loans. If we received financial support or easy-term loans, we could expand this business further.” The promising cottage industry of Nazirpur could become a significant small-scale industrial sector if it is developed in a planned manner. Training for artisans, easy access to loans, improved raw-material collection systems, quality packaging, direct connections with wholesale markets across the country and abroad, and opportunities for online marketing could significantly expand the broom-stick industry. Local residents and people involved in the industry believe that branding broom sticks produced in Nazirpur and marketing them across different regions of Bangladesh could increase their value. The products could also be promoted as environmentally friendly, natural alternatives, creating a distinct market for them. With proper planning, financial support and market expansion, the humble coconut-leaf broom stick could become an important source of employment and income for rural communities in Nazirpur while contributing to the local economy of Pirojpur.

CEC vows credible
the local government election at an acceptable standard, just as we did the national election. We have sought the police’s support, and the IGP has assured me that they will work appropriately to ensure a good and acceptable election,” he said.The CEC was speaking to journalists after inaugurating a training course on enhancing police skills and capabilities for professional performance during election duties at the Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh yesterday.He said ensuring free and fair elections is the constitutional and legal responsibility of the EC, while assisting the commission in conducting elections is also the constitutional responsibility of the police and

administration. “We will provide the law enforcement agencies with 100 percent lawful and appropriate instructions from the Election Commission,” Nasir Uddin said. Highlighting the use of technology in the upcoming polls, he said the EC would deploy CCTV cameras, body-worn cameras and other technological measures to monitor the electoral situation in real time.“If any problem occurs anywhere, we will be able to take immediate action through real-time digital monitoring,” he said. Regarding the timeframe for the local government elections, the CEC said elections across the country had previously taken around 10 months to one year to complete. The commission will seek to shorten the timeframe as much as possible, he said, adding that the election schedule would be announced at an appropriate time very soon after completing preparations.The CEC said the 13th parliamentary election had helped restore much of the public confidence that had been lost in the Election Commission, civil administration, police and other law enforcement agencies.“We have been able to restore much of the public trust through the 13th national election. We want to maintain that confidence by holding the local government election in the same spirit,” he said.He also said the upcoming local government elections would not be held on a party basis. After the election schedule is announced, only those eligible under the existing law will be able to submit nomination papers, while anyone facing legal restrictions will not be allowed to contest.At the training programme, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md Ali Hossain Fakir said the constitutional responsibility for conducting elections rests with the Election Commission, while Bangladesh Police will play a supportive role in ensuring a safe and peaceful electoral environment in line with the EC’s directives and the law. He stressed the growing importance of technology in election management and called for vigilance against rumours, misinformation and disinformation on social media that could create confusion among voters.The IGP expressed confidence that coordination among the Election Commission, the Home Ministry and police at all levels would help ensure a peaceful, secure and professional local government election.

Devastating Fire Ravages Kadam
amount to around Tk 1 crore. Following the incident, Upazila BNP Member Secretary Md. Morsalin, Bhatiar Union BNP President and former chairman Anwar, and General Secretary Md. Khorshed Alam Member visited the affected area. They spoke with the affected traders and assured them of their support. Abdullah Al Mamun, Senior Station Officer of Kumira Fire Service, said, “After receiving information about the fire at Kadam Rasul Market, we quickly reached the scene and brought the fire under control. It is initially suspected that the fire originated from an electrical short circuit. However, the exact extent of the damage could not be determined immediately.” The affected traders have demanded government assistance and rehabilitation support to help them recover from the devastating fire.

Bodies of Two Individuals
as the family had no complaints regarding the incident, the body was handed over to them after the completion of necessary legal formalities. Separately, an unidentified man died after being run over by the Chilahati Express train on the railway tracks in the Kazirhat area of Domar Upazila. He was struck and killed by the Chilahati Express—which had departed from Saidpur bound for Chilahati—at 5:45 AM that same day. Locals reported seeing the man wandering around the Kazirhat Bazar area at approximately 10:00 PM on Tuesday. Locals believe he was mentally unstable. Upon receiving the news, police from Saidpur Railway Police Station arrived at the scene and initiated necessary procedures. Police are attempting to identify the deceased. Zulfikar Ali, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Saidpur Railway Police Station, confirmed the incident.

New primary curriculum
Members’ Conference 2026’ held at the Dhaka Primary Teachers Training Institute (PTI) auditorium in the capital yesterday.Bobby said the government is committed to introducing specific, practical and results-oriented policy changes.The state minister stressed that acquiring language skills is essential to ensure students’ access to global scientific and technological knowledge.He said the four fundamental pillars of language learning are listening for understanding, speaking for expression, reading for comprehension and writing for expression. "Among these, developing listening comprehension skills at the primary level is the most important, as listening and practice are the key to mastering any language," he said.Stressing that merely increasing the literacy rate is not enough to build a truly educated society, Bobby said education, in line with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's clear directive, would be treated as a fundamental right for all and brought to people's doorsteps. At the same time, he said, education must be made skills-based, career-oriented and grounded in strong ethical values.

"To achieve this goal, language education must be adopted as one of the key components of the education system," he said. Criticising teaching methods that rely solely on textbooks in classrooms, the state minister urged teachers to come up with new proposals for using modern teaching aids to make lessons more enjoyable through videos, workbooks, digital content and games. The programme was chaired by TMTE Bangladesh Chief Coordinator Riaz Parvez.Director General of the National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) Farid Ahmed, Additional Director General of the Directorate of Primary Education Md Abdur Rahim, and Deputy Director of the British Council Bangladesh Maarya Rehman also spoke at the event as special guests.

Senior officials from the education sector, along with members of TMTE Bangladesh, attended the programme.

Bangladesh ready to elevate trade
a view to further deepening and diversifying bilateral trade.In response, the Indonesian Ambassador reaffirmed her support for diversifying Bangladesh’s exports to Indonesia, including pharmaceuticals.Referring to the vulnerability of both Bangladesh and Indonesia to natural disasters, State Minister Kobir expressed interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in disaster management. Bangladesh ready to elevate trade ties with Indonesia to CEPA: Humaiun KobirSupporting the proposal, Ambassador Listiyowati emphasized the importance of exchanging knowledge, sharing best practices and enhancing capacity-building initiatives to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters.State Minister Kobir also sought Indonesia’s support for Bangladesh’s aspirations to become a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN and to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Ambassador Listiyowati reaffirmed Indonesia’s continued support for these important initiatives of Bangladesh. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to working closely together at the bilateral, regional and international levels on issues of mutual interest

Gold prices cut again in
in a row. Bajus had earlier reduced gold prices on September 6, when the price of 22-carat gold was cut by Tk 2,216 per bhoiri to Tk 235,146. At the time, the price of 21-carat gold was

reduced by Tk 2,100 to Tk 224,590, 18-carat gold by Tk 1,750 to Tk 192,864, and Sanatan gold by Tk 1,458 to Tk 157,522. Taken together, the two rounds of price cuts on September 6 and Wednesday have brought down the price of 22-carat gold ornaments by a total of Tk 3,324 per bhoiri. Despite the fall in gold prices, silver prices remain unchanged. The price of 22-carat silver ornaments, including VAT, stands at Tk 5,132 per bhoiri. The price of 21-carat silver is set at Tk 4,957, 18-carat at Tk 4,257, and Sanatan silver at Tk 3,208 per bhoiri.

Bangladesh, India express
countries.They discussed joint training programmes to enhance the professional capabilities of the armed forces, exchange of experiences and training among military officers, disaster management, regional peace and maritime security.The Indian high commissioner appreciated the government’s initiatives in the socio-economic sector and said India attaches great importance to its deep military and strategic relations with Bangladesh. He reiterated India’s continued commitment to working with Bangladesh in professional cooperation, capacity building and areas of common security interests between the armed forces of the two countries.

Only BRTA-approved
Rafiul Islam told reporters that the court made it clear that only buses authorised by BRTA can operate on roads and that neither BRTA nor the High Court has granted permission for sleeper buses.The lawyer said sleeper buses therefore cannot operate on highways unless they receive the required BRTA approval and route permits and comply with the technical specifications prescribed by law. Advocate Muhammad Hujjatul Islam Khan filed a writ petition on January 23 challenging the legality of operating sleeper buses on highways. The petition sought a stay on the operation of unauthorised sleeper buses in the interest of road safety.

UGC chairman calls for responsible AI use in universities

Staff correspondent
Chairman of Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed yesterday recommended formulating policies to ensure responsible, ethical and transparent use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the country’s universities, saying it is not possible to ban the technology. “Policies should clearly specify in what tasks or research AI can be used for, where it cannot be used, and exactly how much it has been used,” he said.He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the high-level ‘Academic and Research Integrity Conclave 2026’ held at BRAC University. “Although AI can accelerate education and research, it can also spread misinformation and bias. Large language models powered by AI will not take responsibility for any answer. Therefore, we ourselves must take the ultimate responsibility for the use of the technology and ensure transparency,” he added. Proposing the introduction of an ‘AI Disclosure Statement’ to ensure transparency in research, the UGC chairman said researchers should clearly state in their work which AI tools were used, for what purposes, and how the accuracy of the information was verified. He also called for changes to traditional methods of student assessment in universities in the age of AI. Instead of relying solely on AI detection software, he stressed methods such as assessing students’ own thinking, oral examinations, preserving drafts of research work and evaluating their ability to solve real-world problems.

Professor Ahmed also urged universities to give greater importance to the quality of research rather than the number of publications when considering teachers’ promotions. “Five low-quality publications are less valuable than one high-quality research paper,” he said. He stressed the need for effective monitoring and accountability at universities to prevent the growing practice of publishing in predatory journals and generating fake data using AI amid intense competition to increase the number of research papers. The UGC chief further recommended introducing a compulsory course on ‘Research Ethics and Proper Citation’ for students of all disciplines or departments before they obtain their undergraduate degrees.

He also stressed the need for a national framework to set standards on plagiarism, authorship, data management and the limits of AI use. BRAC University Board of Trustees member Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury, Dhaka University Emeritus Professor Dr AFM Yusuf Haider, Turnitin’s South Asia Regional Director Chaitali Moitra and BRAC University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Arshad Mahmud Chowdhury spoke at the event as special guests and discussants.

Vice-chancellors, researchers and academics from various public and private universities were also present at the conclave.

Tarique Rahman initiated grassroots politics in Bangladesh: Moyeen Khan

Staff correspondent
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, MP yesterday said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has initiated grassroots-level politics in Bangladesh. From 2001 to 2006, he (Tarique Rahman) organised the youth by going to haats and fields across the country, he said, adding that yesterday’s BNP has been transformed as a result of that efforts.

The minister said these while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion session of "Zia Smriti Boimela-2026", organised by Zia Smriti Pathagar and Jatiyatabadi Prokashana Sangstha on the Bangla Academy premises marking BNP's 48th founding anniversary.Speaking about Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Moyeen Khan said he was the bearer of three qualities - discipline, honesty and service to the people. "If Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had not dared to declare independence, I have doubts whether Bangladesh would have become independent," he said.

“As bearers of Ziaur Rahman's nationalism, we will continue to serve the people,” he continued. Speaking on the history of books, the minister said one has to go back to 3000 BC to trace the history of books, when writing was first created on stone and clay, marking the beginning of the history of books.From there, books entered their second phase around 500 BC, after which books underwent transformation in Egypt, China and Rome. At that time, the form of the book was called a scroll, he said.The third phase of books, which is seen yesterday, is called the codex, and yesterday's concept of the book originated from Rome, he said. The most important transformation of the book took place in Germany, when the printing press was invented there in 1440, he said, adding that this marked the ancient history of books, after which came the concept of the e-book.Moyeen Khan further said those who would lead must guide the new generation properly. Due to new technology, many bookshops are closing down, he said, noting that libraries are treasure troves of knowledge. That is why, when the Mongols conquered any region, they used to burn down

libraries there to destroy the civilisation, he said, pointing that the importance of books in human society can be understood from this history. The practice of reading must not be lost, he said, adding that no nation can attain glory without education, and this truth must be understood by every individual.Syeda Fatema Salam, Vice-President of the central committee of Zia Smriti Pathagar, presided over the event, which was moderated by Amanullah Aman, Organising Secretary of Chhatra Dal. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, MP and Member of Parliament Nilufar Chowdhury, among others, also spoke at the event.

Cooperation of all needed to build humane, inclusive, livable Dhaka: Anee

Staff correspondent
Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, MP, yesterday said Dhaka is not just a city but the repository of the nation's history, heritage, culture and struggle. “Cooperation of all is needed to build a humane, inclusive and livable city upholding Dhaka's 416-year-old heritage,” he said. The minister made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the prize distribution and felicitation ceremony of a drawing competition for children with special needs, organised by Dhaka South City Corporation at the Chitrashala Auditorium of Shilpakala Academy in the capital, said a ministry press release. He further said creative activities, including drawing, boost children's self-confidence and create opportunities for the development of their latent talents. Properly recognising the talents of children with special needs is a social and moral responsibility, he said. He thanked Dhaka South City Corporation for presenting Dhaka anew before the people through month-long events under the banner "416 Years of Dhaka".Mentioning that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's contribution to the cultural arena is undeniable, Anee Chowdhury said that he established the Shishu Academy and organised various national and international fine arts and cultural competitions for the proper practice of culture. Following Zia's tradition, Begum Khaleda Zia undertook multifaceted activities in cultural practice, including increasing grants for destitute artists, the minister said, adding that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, as a worthy successor of the Zia family, would do everything necessary for the development of the cultural arena. On the occasion, at the closing ceremony of the month-long events marking Dhaka's 416 years, the guests handed over honours and certificates to the winners and participants of the drawing competition. Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka South City Corporation Md. Khaibar Rahman presided over the function. Eminent fine arts artist Professor Dr. Abdus Sattar and Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Md. Azharul Islam Sheikh, among others, were present as special guests.

DBA proposes share buyback, M&A provisions in Companies Act

Staff correspondent
The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has recommended incorporating provisions for share buyback and merger and acquisition (M&A) by listed companies in the proposed third amendment to the Companies Act, 1994, aiming to make the country’s capital market more dynamic, efficient and investment-friendly.DBA President Saiful Islam sent a written recommendation to Commerce Secretary Md Ataur Rahman Khan, NDC, yesterday, said a press release.A copy of the recommendation was also sent to Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Chairman Masud Khan.The DBA recommended creating a legal framework allowing listed companies to buy back their own shares. It also proposed empowering the BSEC to formulate, implement, supervise and monitor rules and regulations governing share buybacks and ensure good governance in the process.The association also recommended giving the BSEC authority to formulate and implement necessary rules and regulations for mergers and acquisitions involving listed companies to reduce existing complexities and lengthy legal procedures.According to the DBA, as the BSEC is the statutory regulatory authority for the capital market and listed companies, it should have the necessary authority to establish a clear and effective regulatory framework for important matters such as share buybacks and M&A.Such a framework would facilitate faster decision-making, effective regulation, transparency and good governance, it said.The DBA said modern and effective rules on these issues would make corporate restructuring and capital management of listed companies easier and more efficient. This, in turn, would increase dynamism in the capital market and better protect the interests of investors and other stakeholders. The association expressed hope that its recommendations would be given due consideration and incorporated into the proposed third amendment to the Companies Act, 1994, in line with the government’s objectives and plans for capital market development and modernisation and protection of investors’ interests.

ICAB, ICMAB sign strategic framework to strengthen accounting profession

Staff correspondent
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) yesterday signed a Joint Collaboration Framework (JCF) to strengthen cooperation between the country’s two leading professional accounting bodies.The framework was signed at the ICAB Council Hall in the city, said a press release. Under the agreement, the two institutes will collaborate on continuing professional development, joint research and publications, professional events, policy advocacy and international engagement.A joint coordination committee, comprising equal representation from both institutes, will oversee implementation of the framework and meet at least four times a year.The institutes said the partnership would help raise professional standards, strengthen governance and contribute to Bangladesh’s economic development.ICAB President Sabir Ahmed FCA said the two institutes need to raise a unified voice to influence national policy and strengthen the accounting profession.ICMAB President Kausar Alam FCMA said the organisations would work together at the policy level and act as the voice of the nation for the accounting profession.The deal, a key component of ICAB’s Professional Accountancy Organizations (PAOs) reform strategy for 2025-30, was signed by ICAB CEO Md. Quamruzzaman and ICMAB Executive Director Md. Mahbub-Ul-Alam FCMA. ICAB Vice Presidents Asifur Rahman FCA and Mohammad Redwanur Rahman FCA, Council Member Md. Moniruzzaman FCA, and senior officials of both institutes attended the signing ceremony.



Iran building new network of proxies to pressure US Gulf allies, officials say

International Desk

Saudi Arabia and the United States carried out airstrikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq in July after accusing them of launching drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities. The attacks had been claimed by Yemen’s Houthi rebels, who are also



backed by Iran. Regional officials have now told The Associated Press that the Houthis assisted the Iraqi militias in planning and carrying out the two-day drone assault, indicating a growing level of coordination between the two groups. For decades, Iran built a network of armed allies along Israel’s borders. Many of those groups suffered heavy losses during conflicts that followed Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack from Gaza. Israel launched major attacks against Hamas as well as Lebanon’s Hezbollah, previously Iran’s most powerful regional ally. Regional officials and analysts say Tehran is increasingly relying on Iraqi militias and the Houthis to put pressure on Saudi Arabia and other US partners in the Gulf. The aim, they say, is to increase the economic and military costs of the war launched by the US and Israel in February. The strategy carries significant risks. A fresh wave of Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities Tuesday raised fears of a return to full-scale conflict between the Houthis and the kingdom. Meanwhile, Iraq has ordered militias to disarm by the end of this month, although several powerful Iran-backed groups have rejected the order. A renewed US campaign to isolate Iran economically could further intensify the confrontation. Iran-backed groups in Yemen and Iraq apply pressure from both sides Two Saudi officials, citing intelligence information, and a senior Iraqi security official confirmed that the Houthis participated in the Iraqi drone operation. According to them, Houthi representatives worked from an operations center operated by Iraqi militias. Saudi Arabia and the United States responded with joint airstrikes that killed at least 20 Iraqi fighters, six Iranian advisers and at least one Houthi official. The death of the Houthi official, which had not previously been reported, was confirmed by a Houthi official and a member of an Iraqi militia. A US military official said Houthi fighters had also been killed in earlier US strikes in Iraq. The official said Washington was concerned about the presence of Houthi members in Iraq and their potential ability to conduct attacks against other countries, including Saudi Arabia. Two officials from Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella organization of militias that is formally part of the country’s security structure, denied that the group had taken part in the attack on Saudi Arabia. They also denied that Houthis were operating under the PMF’s authority. The PMF includes several powerful Iran-backed militias, some of which operate independently at times. The officials and the militia member spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The Houthis did not respond to requests for comment. Cooperation expanded during the Gaza war Relations between Iraqi militias and the more organized Houthi movement strengthened during the Gaza war, when the groups coordinated attacks against Israel, according to Houthi and regional officials. At the height of the conflict, Houthi leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi publicly referred to the existence of a joint operations room. Following US and Israeli attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, Iran and allied groups began launching attacks against Gulf countries in an effort to widen the conflict and impose costs on major oil-producing states that host US military forces. "Iran has a hybrid strategy in the current war. We are not fighting on one front and we are not using one tool," Mahdi Mohammadi, an adviser to Iran’s parliament speaker, wrote on social media in June. Ahmed Nagi, a senior Yemen analyst at the Crisis Group, said the Houthis’ increased role during the Gaza conflict created

new opportunities for cooperation in Iraq. "Many groups there became eager to support the Houthis, and in return, the Houthis started sharing their military expertise with Iraqi militias," Nagi said. He described the emerging cooperation as a way of "squeezing Saudi like with pliers." Houthi blockade increases pressure on Saudi Arabia A week before the Iraqi drone attack, the Houthis announced a blockade targeting Saudi shipping in the Red Sea. That move threatened another major trade route at a time when disruption in the Strait of Hormuz had already shaken the global economy. According to the conflict-monitoring organization ACLED, the Houthis have launched more than a dozen attacks against Saudi oil facilities and tankers in the Red Sea since late July. On Tuesday, the group carried out a series of attacks targeting oil and other facilities in southern Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities said more than 70 people, including women and children, were injured. ACLED said the Houthi blockade has pushed Saudi Arabia to adopt a "dark" shipping policy, including switching off tracking systems on oil tankers traveling through the Red Sea. Saudi oil shipments increasingly targeted Saudi Arabia had redirected a large portion of its oil exports toward the Red Sea after Iran effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz. However, following the start of Houthi attacks, Saudi Arabia began moving more oil northward toward the Suez Canal and Egypt’s SUMED pipeline. Global shipping monitor Kpler reported that flows through the pipeline increased from about 650,000 barrels per day in June to more than 1.9 million barrels per day in August. The Houthis demonstrated last month that they could also threaten this alternative route when they attacked a Saudi tanker in the northern Red Sea with a missile. The tanker was reportedly traveling from the Saudi port of Yanbu toward the Suez Canal, around 1,000 kilometers (700 miles) from territory controlled by the Houthis. Adam Baron, a Yemen expert at the New America think tank in Washington, said the Houthis appeared prepared to accept short-term costs in pursuit of what they view as longer-term advantages, including expanding their influence along the Red Sea coast. "The train to a return to full scale war has left the station, and it’s unclear if anyone is going to jump in to stop it," Baron said, pointing to Washington’s focus on Iran and Saudi Arabia’s reluctance to become directly involved in Yemen again. Houthis have their own reasons to target Saudi Arabia The Houthis captured Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, in 2014. A year later, Saudi Arabia joined Yemen’s internationally recognized government in a military campaign against the rebels. Saudi authorities were likely concerned about the possibility of having a Hezbollah-style armed group operating along their border. The Yemen civil war has killed at least 150,000 people, according to UN estimates, and at various points brought the country close to famine. A ceasefire that had largely remained in place since 2022 has now effectively collapsed. For years, a Saudi-led blockade has increased pressure on the Houthis while also causing severe hardship for civilians living in areas controlled by the rebels. The Houthis have frequently responded to pressure by escalating their attacks. Elisabeth Kendall, a Yemen expert at Cambridge University’s Girton College, said renewed fighting could give the Houthis an opportunity to seize energy-rich parts of eastern Yemen. Houthis possess a wide range of advanced weapons The Houthis control large parts of northern and central Yemen and have spent years acquiring advanced weapons through smuggling networks despite the blockade and a UN arms embargo. Iran denies supplying weapons to the rebels, but Iranian-made arms have been recovered from battlefields and intercepted shipments. The Houthis possess a broad arsenal that includes cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, drones and unmanned submarines. Saudi-backed forces in Yemen are now fighting the Houthis on several fronts, including around the strategically important port of Hodeida and Taiz province on Yemen’s western coast. The Houthis, meanwhile, have attacked Mokha, the main Red Sea port that remains under government control. Saudi Arabia appears hesitant to launch another direct campaign against the Houthis. But Kendall said that if the rebels continue escalating their attacks, the kingdom "will have to act decisively once and for all. billion worth of goods the United States exported to Canada last year. Eight of Canada’s 10 provinces have also maintained restrictions or bans on US alcohol. The Distilled Spirits Council said US spirits exports to Canada have fallen more than 70% year over year following those measures. Trump directed the US General Services Administration to bar Canadian products from large federal contracts until Canada provides what he called “full and fair reciprocity” for American goods. The latest escalation follows the collapse of Canada-US trade talks on Aug 21. Since then, Trump and his administration have stepped up tariffs and threats against Ottawa. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has warned that US demands could weaken key Canadian industries and undermine the country’s economic independence. Trump’s repeated comments about making Canada the 51st US state have instead fueled nationalist sentiment and strengthened support for Carney.



International Desk

The United States has widened its trade confrontation with Canada, banning imports of some Canadian dairy products, motorcycles and most alcoholic beverages after Ottawa imposed retaliatory tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of US goods. US President Donald Trump also moved to exclude Canadian products from major, long-term US government contracts, taking the dispute beyond tariffs as relations between the two longtime allies continue to deteriorate. The latest US restrictions, due to take effect Sept 29, cover various Canadian wines and spirits, some motorcycles and mopeds, dairy products including whey, and certain types of molasses. Canada’s new tariffs took effect early Tuesday and cover hundreds of US products, including steel, aluminum, cheese, appliances, clothing, cosmetics and farm equipment. The rates range from 15% to 50%. Canada says the measures match US tariffs on a dollar-for-dollar and rate-for-rate basis and affect about 6% of the \$333.6

Funding cuts force dozens of health clinics to close in Sudan

International Desk

An additional three dozen health facilities serving more than 400,000 people in Sudan are closing this year due to global aid cuts, worsening a dire humanitarian situation in a country torn by more than three years of war, aid groups said Tuesday. The cuts come to a health care system that once numbered 6,500 primary health-care facilities and 300 public hospitals, but that already was decimated in the first year and a half of war. By September 2024, the World Health Organization said that up to 70-80% of facilities in the worst-hit areas were either closed or barely functioning. Sudan plunged into war in April 2023 when tensions between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, escalated into full-scale fighting across the country. The war killed at least 59,000 people, displaced some 13 million and pushed parts of the country into famine. More aid organizations are pulling out as clinics are left without necessary medicine or funding, forcing patients to face costly transportation and dangerous journeys to get treatment, said Doctors Without Borders, or MSF. “These cuts are stripping away what little capacity remains, closing facilities, sending health workers home, and cutting off supply lines for medicines and nutrition treatment. The system is already stretched past its limit,” said Mesfin Teklu Tessema, senior technical health director for the International Rescue Committee, or IRC. Fewer health facilities remain open as aid reaches fewer people



US destroys five more Iranian oil tankers after attacks on Navy warships

International Desk

The US military said Tuesday it destroyed five Iranian oil tankers after Iran targeted US Navy warships with ballistic missiles, while Tehran launched missiles at American targets in Jordan in the latest escalation in the more than six-month-old war. Iranian state media reported that missiles were fired toward US targets in Jordan following the US strikes. Jordan’s military said its air defenses intercepted 18 ballistic missiles and that two others landed in uninhabited areas, with no casualties reported. The latest exchanges came as President Donald Trump pursued a combined military and economic strategy aimed at pressuring Iran to end the war. The US administration also announced sanctions against more than two dozen Iranian commercial and private airlines and foreign cargo service providers as part of efforts to further isolate Tehran. The United States and Iran are also locked in a confrontation over the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world’s oil passed before the war. The conflict has pushed up energy prices, with Brent crude briefly reaching \$99.46 a barrel on Tuesday. US forces destroyed three Iranian oil tankers Saturday after Iran’s Revolutionary Guard attempted to strike a US aircraft carrier and destroyer with ballistic missiles. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington would continue responding to attacks on its naval forces. “For every time they do that or try to do that, they’re going to lose tankers,” Rubio told reporters during a visit to Colombia. US Central Command said Tuesday’s strikes came after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps targeted a US Navy warship twice over

the previous two days. The warship evaded the attacks and continued patrolling regional waters, and no US personnel were injured, it said. The five tankers destroyed Tuesday were identified as the Kivik, Charminar, Horizon 1 and Riesco in the Gulf of Oman, and the Derya near Iran’s Kharg Island in the Strait of Hormuz. The crews were warned to abandon the vessels before the strikes, according to Central Command. Iranian state television also reported attacks on oil tankers near the southern port of Jask and Kharg Island, saying their crews had been evacuated. Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Navy meanwhile warned crews of oil tankers near Kuwait and Bahrain to leave their vessels, saying the ships could be targeted in retaliation. It accused the two Gulf countries of hosting US forces and supporting American attacks. The US blockade of Iranian ports has further squeezed Tehran’s economy by restricting oil exports, while US forces have been assisting a limited number of vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz along a route near Oman. Iran has sought to impose its own designated route for ships passing through the strait, which had been regarded as international waters before the war. Danny Citrinowicz, an Iran expert at Israel’s Institute for National Security Studies, warned that continued military exchanges could trigger further retaliation and deepen the economic impact of the conflict. “There is no kinetic solution to the Strait of Hormuz problem,” he said, warning that attempts to resolve the dispute militarily could push Washington and Tehran toward an escalation that becomes increasingly difficult to control.

Russian strike damages couple’s home on eve of wedding, but they marry anyway

International Desk

Liudmyla Ryzhak carefully prepared her wedding dress and her fiancé’s traditional Ukrainian shirt the day before their long-awaited marriage. After several postponements because of the war with Russia, she was finally just hours away from marrying Leonid Ryzhak, a Ukrainian soldier, in a ceremony in Kyiv. But overnight, a Russian strike hit a warehouse across from their apartment building. The powerful blast shattered the apartment’s windows, damaged the home and scattered furniture, putting their wedding plans in doubt. The couple later searched through the rubble for their wedding clothes. Liudmyla pulled her white tulle skirt from beneath the debris, brushing away broken glass. Strike follows visit by US envoys The attack came shortly after US envoys visited Ukraine on Sunday, following a temporary pause in Russian attacks. The strikes resumed later with drones and missiles, with explosions reported across Kyiv for nearly five hours overnight. Attacks continued into Tuesday. Despite the danger, the couple decided not to let the war stop their wedding. Leonid had recently returned to Kyiv from the front lines in eastern Ukraine after spending months serving there. Liudmyla said she did not want to postpone happiness when life could change at any moment. "If God gave me a continuation of life, then why should I put it off" she said. "For someone, it ended. And who can guarantee this won't happen again tomorrow" The blast woke the couple and blew out the apartment windows. A curtain was left burned and hanging in pieces. Their ears ringing from the explosion, their first concern was the possibility of another strike. They rushed to a shelter with Liudmyla’s 6-year-old daughter and two guinea pigs. Their cat, frightened by the blast, had hidden and could not immediately be found. The couple escaped unharmed. A second strike hit while they were already in the shelter, but their apartment was left uninhabitable until repairs can be completed. Friendship grows into love Liudmyla and Leonid first met three years ago through mutual friends. Neither was initially looking for a serious relationship, and both had children from previous marriages. Their friendship gradually became a romantic relationship. Liudmyla supported Leonid during his deployments to the front, while their bond grew stronger. Leonid serves with a team operating bomber drones in the Pokrovsk area. He came to Kyiv for a long-awaited vacation about a week and a half before the wedding, just as frequent air raid alerts and daytime attacks began disrupting the capital. For six consecutive days, the couple went to the registry office but were unable to complete their paperwork because of repeated air raid sirens.



They eventually managed to submit their documents and were given Sept. 8 as their wedding date. Neither expected their apartment to suffer heavy damage on the same day. It was not Liudmyla’s first experience with a Russian attack. On Aug. 20, another strike damaged her home, cutting gas lines and shattering windows. She was so frightened that she avoided returning for some time. But daily responsibilities eventually brought her back. The wedding was approaching, and the children needed to attend school. Another attack interrupts wedding ceremony Despite everything, the couple dressed for their wedding and headed to the registry office. Leonid tried to keep the mood positive, saying the most important thing was seeing his bride smile. "It's fine. We'll get through it," he said. Outside their damaged apartment, the courtyard looked almost like a disaster zone. Thick black smoke rose behind a colorful children’s playground as neighbors cleared away debris. Some neighbors stopped to congratulate the couple. "We should all be celebrated, that we survived," Liudmyla told them. The couple reached the registry office at 10:40 a.m., as planned. Leonid wore a traditional embroidered Ukrainian shirt known as a vyshyvanka, matching the pattern on Liudmyla’s dress. He could not retrieve his black trousers and shoes from the rubble, so he wore army trousers and black sneakers with fluorescent yellow soles and laces instead. Liudmyla’s white tulle skirt also bore tiny holes caused by the broken glass and debris she had pulled it through. Soon after they arrived, another air raid siren sounded. The registry office closed temporarily for safety, leaving the couple waiting outside in the courtyard. Explosions could be heard nearby as attacks struck surrounding districts and fires broke out. Nearly three hours later, the alert ended, allowing the couple to return inside. Couple marry despite the destruction Before entering the ceremony hall, the couple exchanged nervous jokes. "I didn't even get to finish the repairs at home," Leonid joked, referring to their badly damaged apartment. "I've never had such a spectacular day," Liudmyla replied. The ceremony finally went ahead. The officiant told them, "Love is when two people become a team." Moments later, Liudmyla and Leonid officially became husband and wife. "We're gaining a new life, because we survived," Liudmyla said. She said the day could have ended very differently, adding that if they had not survived, she would not have been wearing her wedding dress. Instead, she said, someone might have been choosing darker clothes for her funeral.



30 years after her death, Gilda remains a revered folk saint in Argentina

Entertainment Desk

Thirty years after cumbia singer Gilda died in a road accident, thousands of her admirers continue to visit the site of her death, seeking miracles, healing and protection from the beloved Argentine performer. Born Miriam Alejandra Bianchi, Gilda was 34 when the tour bus carrying her and her band collided with a truck. She died on Sept 7, 1996, but her popularity grew after her death as fans began to regard her as a miracle-working folk saint. At a shrine near the crash site, devotees gathered Monday to mark the 30th anniversary of her death. Some prayed quietly while others sang and danced to her best-known songs. Gilda became a nationally popular figure during her lifetime through her cumbia music, a style of Latin dance music deeply rooted in Argentine popular culture. Her posthumous album went double platinum, while several of her songs became widely recognized anthems. Fans began travelling annually to the site where she died, sharing accounts of dreams in which Gilda appeared and stories of prayers they believe she answered. Although she has not been formally recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church, devotees invoke Gilda in much the same way Catholics pray to officially recognized saints, asking for healing, protection and assistance during difficult times. The wreckage of the tour bus has been preserved as a memorial near a national highway beside Argentina's Paranacito River. It is now covered with flowers, stuffed toys, candles and handwritten messages seeking help. A nearby chapel contains wedding dresses from women who say their prayers to Gilda helped them marry, along with sports trophies and jerseys, discarded crutches and police uniforms left by devotees who attribute personal achievements or recoveries to her intercession. "For me, it's about faith — putting everything in God's hands and asking Gilda to intercede," said Julia Domínguez, 63, who credits Gilda with helping cure growths on her vocal cords nearly two decades ago. Folk saints remain popular. Gilda's shrine, roughly a two-hour drive from Buenos Aires, reflects Argentina's long-standing tradition of popular religious devotion outside formal Catholic institu-

tions. Unofficial figures such as Gauchito Gil, a 19th-century outlaw often compared to Robin Hood, and Difunta Correa, a woman from Argentine folklore believed to have miraculously breastfed her baby after death, have large followings across the country. Former Argentine football star Diego Maradona has also attracted a form of quasi-religious devotion from some fans. Cleopatra Barrios, a researcher of popular religion at Argentina's national scientific research body Conicet, said devotees commonly describe folk saints as companions who remain present in their daily lives. "Miracles aren't understood as they are from the institutional Catholic point of view, as something extraordinary. Here, they're things that happen every day," she said. Gilda's connection with ordinary people has also contributed to her enduring popularity. During her career, she performed in prisons and maintained personal contact with fans through handwritten letters. Paola Martini, 46, who arranges pilgrimages to Gilda's shrine from different parts of Argentina, said she regularly asks the singer to accompany her through difficult moments. Church keeps distance but embraces devotees. Catholic authorities have not directly opposed devotion to Gilda and other folk saints but have encouraged worshippers to keep God at the centre of their faith. Two priests celebrated Mass at the shrine on Monday but did not refer to Gilda as a saint. The enduring popularity of folk saints comes as the Catholic Church faces declining influence and competition from other Christian denominations in Latin America. Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Argentina, Uruguay and Peru in November on his first trip to South America as pope. Argentine church officials told local media that he is expected to visit a Buenos Aires prison and a centre serving people with disabilities, although the Vatican had not immediately confirmed the itinerary. At Gilda's shrine, however, devotees see no conflict between their Catholic faith and their devotion to the singer. "In the end, sainthood isn't always decided by the church. Sometimes, the people recognize it first," Domínguez said.



Actress Nafiza going to be mother

Entertainment Desk

Popular small screen actress and 'Lux Star' Nafiza Jahan is going to become a mother. The actress, who has been away from the entertainment world for a long time, is currently living permanently in New York, USA with her husband Rajib Hassan. The news of Nafiza becoming a mother was first shared on Facebook by her longtime colleague and actress Nawsheen Nahreen Mou. Sharing a photo of a home baby shower held in New York, Nawsheen wrote, "Our little celebration for our Nafiza and Rajib's new life; and lots of love."

Cruelty to women, artistes increasing day by day: Peya Jannatul

Entertainment Desk

Actress Azmeri Haque Badhon faced an unpleasant experience while participating in the Venice International Film Festival in Italy. Model, actress and lawyer Peya Jannatul has now taken to social media to speak out about such unpleasant incidents happening abroad and the growing insensitivity of people towards women and artistes. Peya shared an emotional post on her Facebook page on Tuesday morning expressing her deep concern and disappointment. Without directly mentioning the bond, she wrote, "People are becoming so cruel and insensitive day by day, especially towards women and artists, which is really heart-breaking." Highlighting the narrow-mindedness of some people living abroad, Peya further wrote, "It's not true that people's thinking changes or their minds become more open just by being outside the country. For me, real progress is understood in how much a per-



son respects others, how much they understand, and how humane they can be—that's where it's sad, it's in these places that we're slowly going backwards." Badhon was attacked in front of her brother and young child in a park in the Mestre area of Venice. A video circulating on social media shows a group of people calling themselves 'Venice Chhatra League' and Bangabandhu's soldiers abusing and physically abusing the actress, calling her a 'July militant'. Later, in a video message, Badhon described the abuse he suffered, saying she was physically abused, had cold drinks and water thrown at her, and had her mobile phone dragged and thrown away. It is believed that the attack was carried out because of her active role on the streets during the 2024 student uprising. Since this incident came to light, fellow artistes from the showbiz arena, politicians, and ordinary netizens have been expressing strong anger on social media and demanding the swift arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved.

Totini's confidence in good stories, not views

Entertainment Desk

Tanjim Saiyara Totini is now a well-known name in the world of drama. She is working regularly, breaking herself in various roles, and with each new work, the audience's expectations are getting bigger. The actress has recently come into the spotlight again with Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz's 'Pothohara Mon'. The film is now also being shown on Amazon Prime. However, for Totini, the definition of success is a little different at this time of popularity. For her, the story, characters and how well the work is done is more important than the million views of a drama. Nowadays, the number of views on YouTube has become one of the criteria for measuring the popularity of a drama. But Totini does not consider this number to be the only measure of success. She believes that how many viewers have watched it — along with what they have watched — is also important. This idea is also evident in her choice of work. Totini gives the most importance to the story behind the acceptance of 'Pothohara Mon' by the audience. She said, "People have easily found their own similarities with the story of the drama. Besides, Zahid Hasan's return to fiction after a long time has increased the interest of the audience." Family story-based dramas are now being produced regularly. After the success of 'Tomader Golpo', the audience's interest in such stories has also increased. But Totini does not think that the audience will accept it if it is a similar story. According to Totini, how the story is presented to the audience is the real thing. And this is where a director's individuality is important. In the case of Raz's work, she feels that that unique pattern easily creates a connection with the audience. Story and character are no less important in Totini's own career. 'Shalu' in 'Tomader Golpo' is one of the milestones of her acting career. Apart from this, 'Alo' in 'Suhashini', 'Raha' in 'Hridoy Govire', 'Ira' in 'Shomoy Shob Jane' and 'Kajol' in 'Kajol Chokher Meye' — these five characters are especially remembered by her. Each character has taught her something different, given her new experience. In other words, growing as an actress through character is more valuable to her than popularity. Along with drama, Totini has also worked on the big screen. She was seen in a small role in 'Jaya Aar



Sharmin'. However, she is in no hurry to become a regular in movies right now. Although she received several offers, none of them attracted her enough because, when stepping into the big screen, she wants to give the most importance to the story and character. Rather, she is waiting for a character that will further increase the expectations created for her in minds of the audience. She wants to do work that the audience will say — 'I was waiting to see Totini in this character.' Her philosophy about her current career becomes clear in these words. Popularity has kept her busy, the love of the audience has made her known; but Totini does not want to compromise with the quality of her work in pursuit of that popularity. Views will come, pairs will be formed, work on new platforms will be done, and all of these are part of her career. But in end, the story and character remain in minds of the audience. And this actress wants to make her place there.

Miley drops last name from her name

Entertainment Desk

American pop star Miley has hinted at a new chapter in her career. Along with announcing the release of a new album, she also dropped the 'Cyrus' surname from her name on social media. This raises the question, is this just a promotion for a new musical chapter, or is the Grammy-winning star really starting her journey with a new identity. Miley's 10th studio album 'Bess Persuaded' is being released on September 18. The album consists of 10 songs. A day before the album announcement, she removed the name 'Cyrus' from all her social media accounts and changed her name to just 'Miley'. Miley told 'Wonderland' magazine that the new album is essentially a love story. But that love is not one-dimensional; rather, it includes many levels of life. Her relationship with longtime boyfriend Max Morando also influenced the album's concept. The couple announced their engagement last December.



I may be living abroad, but I am continuing to work: Nova

Entertainment Desk

Nova Firoze began her journey in showbiz after becoming the champion of "You Got the Look". She subsequently started modelling before making her acting debut in Animesh Aich-directed "Prem O Ghamer Golpo". She went on to act in two prominent television series, "Dolls House" and "Mahanagar", and appeared in numerous other dramas. She also acted in the film "Mridha vs Mridha". Tap here to add .

Sporshia now a 'red fairy'

Entertainment Desk

Do fairies only exist in fairy tales, or do they roam around us as well. Actress Orchita Sporshia is appearing in her new drama titled 'Lalpori', posing such a mysterious question. This time, the actress is going to appear in front of the audience with a new story. She has acted in the drama 'Lalpori' directed by Jobayer Abir Peal. Sporshia has released a mysterious official poster of 'Lalpori' on social media. Since the poster was released, there has been a lot of curiosity among the audience about the drama. Speculation has started especially around the fairy-like atmosphere in the poster and the mysterious caption of the actress. Sharing the poster, Sporshia wrote, "Do fairies only exist in fairy tales Or do they roam around us in real life too" Her question seems to have added more mystery to the story of 'Lalpori'. However, amidst the speculations surrounding 'Lalpori', Sporshia has clarified one thing. She said, "'Lalpori' is not a



movie or a web film, it is a drama. Farrukh Ahmed Rehan is my co-star in the drama." When asked about the plot, the actress did not want to give any details. She said, "We cannot say anything about the story right now because our 'first look' has just been released. Maybe it will be possible to tell the details about the story only after the trailer is released." After the release of the first look, fans are praising Sporshia's new character and the atmosphere of the drama on social media. However, viewers will have to wait until the trailer is released to know the real surprise of the story of 'Lalpori'.



Mourinho's Real Madrid make winning start against Inter Milan



Sports Desk

Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid secured a narrow 2-1 victory over his former side Inter Milan in a high-octane Champions League opener on Tuesday.

The record 15-time European champions took a two-goal lead through Kylian Mbappe and Fede Valverde thanks to two Inter errors in the first half.

Carlos Augusto smashed home for Cristian Chivu's team in the second half but they could not find an equaliser in a pulsating battle at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid coach Mourinho led the Italian side to Champions League glory in 2010 at the same stadium, the last time either they or he managed to lift the trophy, a few days before joining Los Blancos for his first stint at the helm.

After two seasons without a major trophy and enduring early European exits, Madrid president Florentino Perez brought back the Portuguese veteran to try and stop the rot, and Mourinho got the team off to both a triumphant and entertaining start to the league phase. Mourinho's side bounced back from a first defeat of the season at Real Betis in La Liga on Friday, although goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made several smart saves and Inter were wasteful.

"It was a crazy game," Mourinho told Movistar.

"Often there's criticism when a match is boring and yesterday it was a crazy game. "A game that finished 2-1 could have finished 7-6 without any problems." Mourinho admitted his team struggled to control the game but said Inter were incapable of doing so either. "If you don't have control and they have it, it's



'Our year': Kane and Bayern primed for Champions League tilt

Sports Desk

Bayern Munich have made it clear their main goal this season is to win the Champions League after recent near-misses, with Harry Kane saying "it has to be our year".

Bayern fell agonisingly short against eventual champions Paris Saint-Germain in a wild semi-final last campaign.

PSG won a manic first leg 5-4 and then frustrated Bayern in a 1-1 draw in the second in Munich to advance to the final, where they beat Arsenal on penalties to win a second straight title.

Bayern start their latest tilt at a seventh European Cup at home against Norwegians Bodo/Glimt on Thursday.

Those around the club, such as former midfielder and 2013 winner Bastian Schweinsteiger, believe only a lack of squad depth in what will be another a punishing season could derail Bayern's hopes of winning the trophy for the first time since 2020.

Coach Vincent Kompany has made the Champions League the team's target, alongside Bayern's almost default domestic dominance.

"The goals with Bayern are always the highest: winning the Bundesliga, winning the Pokal (German Cup), winning the Champions League — and maybe even winning every game," Kompany told the club magazine in August.

Bayern have twice made the Champions League semi-finals in Kane's three years at the club, but no further.

Bayern were within touching distance of the final in 2023-24, but became the latest victims of a smash and grab from a title-bound Real Madrid.

Kane was substituted with Bayern holding a one-goal lead with six minutes remaining in the second leg, only for the Spanish giants to score twice in the space of three minutes to turn the tie on its head.

"Yes, we're really close," Kane told TNT Sports on Monday of Bayern's chances this season.

"I think last year was the finest of margins --

to go out to a team who has won the Champions League back-to-back. There's no shame in that.

"We're coming into this season now saying that it needs to be our year. We need to find a way to get it done."

- 'Luck at the right moment' -

The England captain has been part of plenty of near-misses in his career for club and country.

Long derided for a lack of team trophies, Kane has five since arriving at Bayern -- including two Bundesligas and a German Cup -- and said he now knows what it takes to win.

"It is not just about being the best team. Sometimes you also need a bit of luck at the right moment," Kane said.

Fortune with injuries could define Bayern's season.

Bayern made two major additions in the summer, opting for depth and versatility in what will be a punishing campaign.

In came Ismael Saibari, who can play anywhere across the forward line, along with Germany's Nathaniel Brown, who has been shifted between left-back and midfield this season.

Schweinsteiger said Bayern "will dominate the Bundesliga" but depth may still be a concern, particularly with the uncertainty around Jamal Musiala.

After collapsing in pre-season games, Musiala revealed he is suffering from a neurological disorder which can lead to seizures, but he was able to return without incident in Saturday's scoreless draw at Schalke.

"We have to see. There are some suggestions they may still be one or two players short," Schweinsteiger told AFP.

"The situation with Jamal Musiala is difficult, so it will be interesting how Bayern Munich manage it, because over the course of a season you need strong options from the bench."

"When I think back to the matches against PSG, their options from the bench made a difference in the second leg.

"Luis Enrique made excellent tactical adjustments in the second half of the match in Munich to win and progress.

a very difficult situation," he continued.

"However, if you don't have it and they don't have it... Courtois made a lot of saves, but how many chances did we not take... It was a great game."

Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez said his team were wasteful in front of goal as Courtois, on his 100th Champions League game, made several saves.

"We were unable to make the most of all the chances we created," said the Inter skipper.

"We still leave here with heads held high, as we played at a high level against a great opponent.

"Courtois is one of the best goalkeepers in the world, but we need to improve in front of

goal and could have done better." The Italians started energetically in attack but were destabilised by two grievous errors at the back. Madrid stopper Courtois made two saves as the visitors probed early. However, in the 14th minute Curtis Jones's poor pass put Yann Bissec under pressure and Brahim Diaz poked the ball through to Mbappe, who swiftly fired home.

Madrid's second was gobbled up by Valverde when Inter goalkeeper Josep Martinez dallied on the ball and the Uruguay international charged straight for him and tackled the ball into the net.

- 'Crazy' second half -

Mourinho's side should have added another before half-time but Martinez made amends for his mistake with a sensational save to thwart Jude Bellingham. Mbappe blazed past Inter's defence and Martinez saved his low shot before somehow blocking Bellingham's effort from point-blank range.

Courtois added to his collection of impressive saves by pushing away Alessandro Bastoni's low drive as Inter tried to find a foothold. "The second half was a bit too crazy and that's something to improve," said Courtois. Carlos Augusto then blasted past the Belgian from Lautaro Martinez's cross in the 77th minute to give Madrid a nervy ending to the game. But Courtois saved his side again as he beat away a deflected Henrikh Mkhitaryan effort to ensure Real took all three points. Valverde was named player of the match but he said the credit also belonged to Courtois. "I think he saved us yesterday, he produced an incredible performance, so I think this is his prize too," admitted Valverde.

Bangladesh finishes Men's Jr. Asia Cup with losing note

Sports Desk

Bangladesh finished their U-20 Men's Junior Asia Cup Hockey tournament with a losing note as they conceded a 3-0 defeat to Pakistan in their ultimate group match held yesterday (Wednesday) in China's Moqi city in Mongolia.

In the proceeding, Pakistan took an early lead in the first quarter. Rana Waleed scored two field goals in the 9th and 12th minutes. Bangladesh tried hard to fight back and defend well in the next two quarters. However, Pakistan scored their third goal in the 52nd minute through Mustafa Ghulam to seal the victory.



Australian World Cup star Volpato fined over positive cocaine test

Sports Desk

Australian World Cup star Cristian Volpato has been fined after failing a roadside test for cocaine, police and media reports said Wednesday.

Volpato was reported in July to have allegedly tested positive for cocaine after he was pulled over for speeding in Sydney.

New South Wales police said on Wednesday that a second sample taken at the time had also tested positive. They said a 22-year-old man -- widely identified as Italy-based Volpato by local media -- was fined Aus\$722 (US\$522). His driving licence has also been suspended since July.

Volpato, an attacking midfielder for Serie A side Sassuolo, made three appearances at the World Cup after switching his international allegiance from Italy to Australia shortly before the tournament.



Tafuul wrecks U-23 with devastating six-wicket haul in GD Trophy final

Sports Desk

Bangladesh Under-19 Tafuul Alam Tamim demonstrated a stellar performance the GD Trophy final, claiming six wickets as Bangladesh Under-23 were bowled out for 245 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The right-arm pacer returned figures of 6-36 from 8.4 overs, spearheading the U-19 attack in the final.

The U-23 side, after winning the toss and electing to bat, initially looked to rebuild after losing Adil Bin Siddique to Sheikh Atiqur Rahman Akash. Azizul Hakim Tamim and Kalam Siddique Eleen then attempted to steady the innings.

Introduced in the 13th over, Tafuul quickly changed the course of the innings. Hakim, who made 15 off 29 balls, was caught attempting a big shot, before Tafuul dismissed Rizan Hossain with the following delivery.

The pacer had to wait for his next breakthrough but returned in the 43rd over to break an 86-run partnership between Debashish Sarkar and Ahrar Amin Pean, dismissing the latter.

Tafuul struck again with the first ball of his next over, removing Debashish for 43 off 41 balls, with Farhan Sadiq taking an excellent catch.

He completed his five-wicket haul in the following over by bowling Sheikh Parvez Jiban, before returning in the final over to dismiss Sadhin Islam, wrapping up the U-23 innings with two deliveries remaining.

Tamim's six-wicket haul was complemented by Akash, who finished with 3-40, as the U-19 bowlers kept the U-23 batting lineup under sustained pressure.

Record rain forces Asian Games athletes to evacuate accommodation

Sports Desk

Hundreds of Asian Games athletes in Japan were briefly evacuated from their accommodation as record rainfall lashed host city Nagoya, with competition beginning on Thursday.

Rainwater also leaked into some competition venues, with more wet weather forecast for the coming days.

About 104mm (four inches) of rain fell in an hour in Nagoya on Tuesday, prompting municipal officials to issue an evacuation order for parts of the city.

Scientists say human-induced climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of weather events in Japan and elsewhere.

There is no dedicated athletes' village at this year's Asian Games, with organisers instead relying on a cruise ship, temporary wooden containers and hotels.

An official with Nagoya Port Authority told AFP that "hundreds" of athletes staying at the city's Garden Pier area, where the wooden container huts are located, were told to move to safety.

The athletes returned after the evacuation order was lifted about two hours later.

The Asian Games officially begin with an opening ceremony on September 19 but several events get under way before that.

The basketball competition begins on Thursday.

Rainwater was found in several competition venues but Nagoya Mayor Ichiro Hirotsawa said the facilities were not seriously affected and that events would go on as scheduled.

"There has been limited impact like rainwater leaking from the roofs of some buildings, but the situation is not so serious that the opening on the 19th is in jeopardy for now," he said.

"Given the current circumstances, I believe there will be no obstacles to holding the Asian Games."

More than 17,000 athletes and officials are expected at the Games -- a bigger number than the Olympics.

Subway and bus services in Nagoya were temporarily halted on Tuesday and the Japan Meteorological Agency issued its highest flood warning for a major river in the area.



Real Madrid win Champions League opener as Haaland stars for Man City

Sports Desk

Jose Mourinho got off to a winning start on his return to the Champions League with Real Madrid on Tuesday as the Spanish giants beat Inter Milan 2-1, while Erling Haaland scored twice in Manchester City's victory at Porto.

There were also wins for Aston Villa and Borussia Dortmund on the first night of action in this season's league phase, as the opening matchday spreads across three nights.



Record 15-time European champions Real have brought back Mourinho for a second spell in charge, and his first game back in the competition came against the side he led to Champions League glory in 2010.

Madrid were two goals ahead midway through the first half at the Bernabeu thanks to two gifts from the Inter defence, with Yann Bissec at fault as Kylian Mbappe opened the scoring on his 99th appearance in the competition.

Mbappe has now scored 71 Champions League goals, equalling the tally of Real legend Raul.

The home side doubled their lead when Inter goalkeeper Josep Martinez tried to turn away from Fede Valverde inside his own six-yard box only for the Uruguayan to tackle him and score.

Carlos Augusto pulled one back for Inter, but Real held on for the victory.

"It was a crazy game," Mourinho told broadcaster Movistar. "A game that finished 2-1 could have finished 7-6 without any problems."

Enzo Maresca's City won 2-0 away to Portuguese champions Porto thanks to a second-half brace by Haaland, the first coming two minutes after the restart when he headed in Enzo Fernandez's cross.

Haaland sealed the points in stoppage time and has now scored an astonishing 59 goals in 59 appearances in the Champions League.

"Erling Haaland is an animal. He is a beast, so every time he is on the pitch, I'm going to look for him, and hopefully give him many more assists," Fernandez told Amazon Prime.

It was a fourth straight victory in all competi-

tions for City, Champions League winners in 2023, whose next European game will be at home to title-holders Paris Saint-Germain.

- Welcome win for Villa -

Villa, last season's Europa League winners, put their poor start to this campaign behind them to beat Belgian champions Club Brugge 3-2 away.

John McGinn curled into the far corner to open the scoring for Unai Emery's side, who have not yet scored a goal three games into the Premier League season.

Hugo Vetlesen equalised for the hosts, but Emiliano Buendia quickly restored Villa's lead and then Nicolas Jackson made it 3-1 two minutes before the break.

The summer signing ran through to score his first Villa goal after home goalkeeper Yann Sommer came flying out of his box and failed to get to the ball.

Nicolo Tresoldi pulled another one back just after the hour mark following a handball by Aaron Wan-Bissaka. The same

player hit the post soon after, but Villa claimed a welcome victory.

"We took one step forward yesterday and it was very, very important for our confidence and stability," said Emery.

Serhou Guirassy was the chief protagonist as Dortmund, runners-up in 2024, started their campaign with a 3-2 home win against Villarreal.

Renato Veiga's own goal gave Dortmund the lead early in the second half, but Santiago Mourino headed in the equaliser for the Spanish side.

However, Guirassy put the Germans back in front with 10 minutes left, then converted a penalty for his second and his team's third. He rounded things off with an own goal when a Gregor Kobel save ricocheted back off Guirassy's face and went in.

- Ueda Champions League -

Troy Parrott was the hero for Real Betis for the second time in five days as the Spaniards came from behind twice to win 3-2 against Lille in France.

Marc Bartra equalised twice for Betis, cancelling out goals by Japan's Ayase Ueda and Brazil defender Alessandro for Davide Ancelotti's Lille.

Irish striker Parrott, who scored his new club's winner against Madrid at the weekend, then struck the decisive goal on 53 minutes as Betis claimed a victory on their return to the Champions League after a 21-year absence.

Lille finished with 10 men as Ethan Mbappe, younger brother of Kylian, was sent off. In the night's other game, Greek champions AEK Athens beat Austrian title winners LASK 1-0 thanks to a stunning Razvan Marin free-kick.



Tiafoe escapes Michelsen to reach US Open semi-finals

Sports Desk

Frances Tiafoe rallied from two sets down -- and 3-0 down in the fifth set -- to hand Alex Michelsen a heartbreaking US Open defeat on Tuesday.

Tiafoe edged 22-year-old Michelsen 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (10/6) to reach the semi-finals at Flushing Meadows for the third time in five years.

American 11th seed Tiafoe had all he could handle from his young compatriot, who hadn't dropped a set in reaching the first Grand Slam quarter-final of his career.

He was on the brink of another three-set win when he served for the match at 5-4 in the third, but a pair of double faults opened the door to Tiafoe and the more experienced player plowed through.

"I feel like I just handed it to him," a dejected Michelsen, ranked 46th in the world, said. "Then after that he started playing really good."

It would take two more sets before Tiafoe landed a forehand winner to clinch the 10-point match tiebreaker after four hours and 38 minutes. Michelsen weeping in the winner's arms as they met at the net.

"I was trying to keep it together, and I didn't do a good job of that," Michelsen said. "The match was very emotionally draining. Frances, he's such a good guy and he said a lot of personal things and just kind of got to me."

Michelsen had come out swinging on Arthur Ashe Stadium against an uncharacteristically passive Tiafoe, who usually feeds on the energy of the crowd.

"They were flat, but I was even more flat than the fans," Tiafoe said. "I was joking about that, but they definitely woke up as I started to pick it up."

After surviving the third set, he had a new lease of life, and even when Michelsen responded with an early break in the final set Tiafoe refused to fold.

"The moment is huge," said Tiafoe, who next faces either defending champion Carlos Alcaraz or eighth seeded American Ben Shelton.

"I've won a lot of great matches here. I've lost a lot of tough matches here as well. It feels amazing to get this done."



Construction Continues Despite Ban! Endless Questions Surrounding ‘Ekhlach Home’



M Badol Khandokar (Brahmanbaria)

The controversy surrounding the under-construction multi-story building named ‘Ekhlach Home’ in Munsefpara, an upscale area of Ward No. 3 of Brahmanbaria Municipality, refuses to die down. The municipality claims the building has no approval. Yet despite bans, raids, and seizures, construction has progressed beyond the beam level. The administration launched another raid yesterday.

What Happened

1. August 2: First Ban

Following complaints, Brahmanbaria Municipality put up a red banner at the building and ordered construction to stop. At the time, work had only reached the beam level.

2. Allegation of Ignoring the Ban

Locals allege that after the banner was removed, construction resumed.



Sanitary Violations, Public Smoking: 2 Establishments Fined in Kaptai

Staff Reporter

A mobile court conducted a drive in Kaptai markets to enforce consumer rights and environmental protection, fining two business establishments a total of BDT 2,500 for preparing food in unsanitary conditions and violating public smoking regulations.

The operation was carried out around 12:30 PM on Wednesday (September 9) in the Jetty Ghat and New Market areas of Kaptai Upazila. Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Neli Rudra led the drive.

According to court sources, the Executive Magistrate inspected the kitchen of ‘Lake Haven Hotel’ at Jetty Ghat market and found extremely unhygienic conditions. For violating food safety regulations, the hotel owner, Md. Sohul (40), was fined BDT 2,000.

Meanwhile, Fakhrul Islam, owner of ‘Mizan Cooling Corner’ in the New Market area, was fined BDT 500 for allowing public smoking in violation of the Tobacco Control Act.

Following the drive, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Neli Rudra stated that routine monitoring would continue to ensure public health and safe food accessibility.

During the operation, business owners were also instructed and sensitized on keeping fire safety equipment on site and ensuring emergency protection protocols.

Two business establishments fined Tk 75,000 in Rangpur

Rangpur Correspondent

The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) in a market surveillance campaign fined two business establishments Taka 75,000 in Rangpur city this afternoon.

The DNCRP Divisional and District Offices conducted the campaign and inspected various chilling centers, animal feed shops, and meat shops in the Mandira Madhyapara area of Mahiganj and the Babupara area of Tajhat in the city.

During the campaign, Sagar, a milk vendor from Mandira Madhyapara area of Mahiganj, was fined Taka 50,000 for producing adulterated milk by mixing chemicals into it.

Additionally, “New Swad Bakery” in the Babupara area of Tajhat was fined Taka 25,000 for mixing banned substances into food products and engaging in illegal production processes.

The total fine of Taka 75,000 imposed at that time was collected immediately on the spot.

Deputy Director of the DNCRP Rangpur Divisional Office Md Jahangir Alam, Assistant Director of the DNCRP Rangpur District Office Md Mostafizur Rahman, representatives from the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority and Ansar-VDP members were present.

DNCRP Deputy Director Md Jahangir Alam told local reporters that such market monitoring and enforcement operations would continue in the public interest.

3. August 11: Magistrate’s Raid

Under the leadership of Executive Magistrate Atikur Rahman, a raid was conducted and iron rods along with other construction materials were seized and taken to the municipality.

4. Pillars Built Beyond Beam Level

Despite the raid, construction did not stop. Large pillars have been built beyond the beam level. The question arises: how did the work continue despite the ban and seizure

5. September 7: Statement by Deputy Secretary Sharifull Islam, Deputy Secretary of Brahmanbaria Municipality, told the media that ‘Ekhlach Home’ has no approval of any kind. The portion built beyond the beam level, especially the pillars, will be removed.

6. August 29: Allegation of Attack on Journalists

It is alleged that 20-21 people attacked 3-4 journalists while they were gathering information on the construction. At the same time, counter-allegations of extortion were made against the journalists. The journalists have called these allegations ‘false and misleading’. The incident has sparked widespread discussion and criticism among journalists in Brahmanbaria. There are demands for the attackers of journalists to be brought under the law quickly.

7. September 9, 2026, Wednesday: Yesterday’s Raid

Most recently yesterday, a raid was conducted at ‘Ekhlach Home’ by Executive Magistrate Romana with police. On site, orders were given to keep construction work halted.

Only One Question

According to the municipality, if the building has no approval at all, then who is responsible for the construction progressing this far despite the ban

The people of Munsefpara and concerned citizens are now seeking an answer to this question.

Journalist Sajol Ahmed Khan of Akhaura Passes Away

M. Badal Khandakar, District Correspondent, Brahmanbaria

Sajol Ahmed Khan (58), Senior Reporter of the national daily Sarejamin Barta and a well-known surveyor-document writer of Akhaura, is no more.

He breathed his last at his residence in Debgram area of Akhaura Municipality in the early hours of Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at around 5:00 AM due to illness. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun.

Sajol Ahmed Khan was a resident of Debgram in Akhaura Municipality and the fourth son of the late Jamshed Ahmed Khan.

He had been involved in journalism for a long time. He initially served as the Akhaura Upazila Correspondent for the daily Sarejamin Barta and later worked as the newspaper’s Senior Reporter. Alongside journalism, he also worked as a reputed surveyor and document writer in Akhaura. Throughout his professional life, he maintained cordial relationships with people from all walks of life.

His sudden demise has cast a pall of grief over his family, relatives, colleagues, and the local journalist community.

Funeral and Burial

According to family sources, the funeral prayer for the deceased will be held yesterday, Wednesday, after Asr prayers at the Baitul Izzat Eidgah ground at Amtali Bazar in Debgram, Akhaura. He will be laid to rest at the family graveyard following the funeral prayers.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter, and numerous admirers. The Sarejamin Barta family and colleagues have prayed for the eternal peace of his departed soul and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family.

May Almighty Allah forgive the late Sajol Ahmed Khan and grant him the highest place in Jannatul Ferdous. Ameen.



Sonagazi Press Club President Hands Over 'Weekly Sonagazi' Copy to UNO

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter.

Local journalists paid a courtesy call on Sonagazi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kamrul Hasan Marjan Hossain. During the meeting, Mahmudul Hasan, Editor of ‘Weekly Sonagazi’ and President of the Sonagazi Press Club, formally handed over a copy of the recent issue of the newspaper to the UNO.

The courtesy meeting, held at the Upazila Nirbahi Officer’s office, included a brief discussion on the overall development, law and order situation, and the role of objective journalism in Sonagazi. UNO Marjan Hossain thanked the local journalists for highlighting the region’s issues and potential through objective news reporting. News Editor of the weekly Sheikh Abdul Hannan and journalist Salah Uddin, among other news professionals, were present on the occasion.

Co-Vice President of District Chhatra League Dollar Arrested in Nabinagar

M. Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria

Nabinagar Police Station police have arrested A.B.M. Rashedul Hasan Dollar (35), Co-Vice President of Brahmanbaria District Chhatra League, in Nabinagar. He was arrested from his own residence in Nabinagar Sadar on Tuesday evening (September 8, 2026).

According to police sources, acting on secret information,



a team of police led by Nabinagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Morshedul Alam conducted a raid and arrested him. Later, he was shown arrested in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Md. Morshedul Alam, Officer-in-Charge of Nabinagar Police Station, confirmed the arrest and said he was arrested in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

District administration stands by flood-affected people in Rajshahi

Rajshahi Correspondent

District administration stood by the flood-affected people to mitigate their sufferings to some extent.

Around 12 noon yesterday, Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kazi Shahidul Islam distributed dry food among the waterlogged people in the Dogar Ghat area of Harian Union in Paba Upazila.

Along with distributing relief, he spoke to the waterlogged people and also arranged lunch for them.

After being waterlogged for almost a week, hundreds of people from Char Khidirpur Middle Char have left their homes by boat and taken shelter at Dogar Ghat on the Padma to save their lives and livestock.

DC Kazi Shahidul Islam said about 200 families have been affected as water rose in Char Khidirpur and Middle Char. Relief is being distributed among these families. The relief materials include about 25 types of products.

Regular health check-ups and necessary medicines are being provided in these camps. Special importance is being given to healthcare to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

Informing that a temporary shelter has been arranged in one place for the affected people, the Deputy Commissioner said, there is also an arrangement for keeping livestock there.

However, a long-term solution has been planned for the people of Char Khidirpur. A proposal has been sent to the government for this. According to the plan, two large shelters about 10 feet high will be built. There, along with people, there will be space for several thousand livestock.

According to local residents, due to several days of heavy rain, about more than three hundred families and about 10,000 livestock of Padma’s Khidirpur Middle Char have become waterlogged. As houses, courtyards and roads have been submerged, most families have come to the Dogar Ghat area by boat with their livestock and essential belongings.

Farmer Jamu Ali of Char Khidirpur said, for eight days about 300 families and thousands of livestock of Char Khidirpur Middle Char have been waterlogged. To save their lives, most people have come to this side of the Padma with their cattle.

Monowara Begum, a resident of Char Khidirpur, said, ‘We have been suffering a lot due to water for the last seven days. We are very happy to receive the relief.’

Farmer Bazlur Rashid said, “We have been waterlogged for a week. Getting relief in this disaster is a great help for us. We will remember the DC sir’s sincerity and love during this disaster for a long time.”

Distribution various types of fruit tree seedlings among more than three hundred students on the initiative of environmentalist organizations in Kalapara

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

Fruit tree saplings have been distributed among 372 students of Lalua Janata Secondary School in Lalua Union with the commitment to plant trees, build green country, and build a green belt across the coast in Kalapara of Patuakhali. This tree planting program was organized by the environmental organization Dharitri Raksha Amara (Dhara), the river-canal protection rights movement organization Water Keepers Bangladesh and the voluntary organization Amara Kalapara residents.

Kalapara upazila executive officer Md. was present as the chief guest at the school sapling distribution ceremony on Wednesday September 9 at noon. Arifuzzaman. He officially distributed the saplings of this tree among the students.

In addition to the chief guest, school head teacher Avni Kumar Roy, Lalua Union Parishad chairman Shaukat Hossain Tapan Biswas, Dharitri Rakse Amara Kalapara coordinator Mezbahuddin Mannu, Water Keepers Kuakata representative



10 Dredgers, 6 Excavators and Other Equipment Destroyed in Jaflong

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

The Department of Environment has conducted an operation against the illegal extraction of stones and sand in the Environmentally Critical Area (ECA) of Jaflong in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet. During the operation, 10 dredgers, 6 excavators and a large quantity of equipment used for illegal stone and sand extraction were destroyed. The operation was conducted on Tuesday (September 9) under the initiative of the Sylhet Divisional and District offices of the Department of Environment.

A mobile court led by Tania Akter, Executive Magistrate of the Sylhet Divisional Office of the Department of Environment, conducted the operation in the Jaflong-Dawki ECA areas, including Baurbhag Haor, Nandirbhag Haor, tea gardens, Jhumpara and Zero Point. During the operation, 10 dredgers, 6

excavators, 5 generators, 44 “Barki” boats, 13 conveyor belts, 15 shallow machines and 5 batteries used for illegal stone and sand extraction were destroyed. In addition, 4 more batteries were seized.

Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Director of the Sylhet Divisional Office of the Department of Environment, said that operations against illegal stone and sand extraction would continue to protect the environment. He added that regular mobile courts would also be conducted against air pollution, hill and mound cutting, illegal brick kilns and banned polythene. Assistant Director of the Sylhet District Office of the Department of Environment Faizul Kabir, Senior Technician of the Divisional Office Al Mamun, and other officials and employees were present during the operation. Members of the Gowainghat Upazila Administration and Police Station also assisted in the operation.



Young man goes missing while bathing in Teesta River in Dimla

Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

A young man named Arman Islam (22) has gone missing after entering the Teesta River to bathe in Dimla, Nilphamari. He disappeared at 1:30 PM on Wednesday (September 9) while bathing in the river at Dohol Para village, located in Ward No. 2 of Khogakharibari Union. He was the son of Halim, a resident of the same village.

As of the time of writing this report (5:00 PM), locals have been unable to rescue or locate the missing youth despite their efforts.

According to locals, Arman had entered the Teesta River with a few others when he was swept away by the current and went missing. Despite extensive efforts, locals have not been able to find any trace of him.

Bazlar Rahman, the Union Parishad (UP) member for the area, confirmed the incident, stating that he has not yet been found (as of 5:00 PM). Locals are currently searching the river by boat. Although a diving team has set out from Rangpur, they have not yet arrived at the scene.



Kamal Hasan Roni, Amara Kalapara residents organizer Nazrul Islam, Lalua Janata Secondary School Platneers Club members spoke. Saplings of mango, kathal, jam, amlaki and guava trees were distributed among the students.

Eighth grade student Sadiq Abdullah said that he got a kathal tree sapling. Will plant properly at home. I will take care. I will keep the tree alive. I can eat fruit. The opinion of this student is that there is no alternative to planting trees to protect the environment. A huge festive atmosphere prevailed among the students around the distribution of saplings.