

No to overreliance on imported seeds

It is disheartening to see that farmers, beyond the difficulty of getting access to enough fertilisers, are facing another formidable challenge: control over the very seeds they plant. The country is heavily dependent on imported seeds supplied by private companies, which reportedly provide around 60 to 100 percent of seeds for major crops including hybrid paddy, maize, jute, and vegetables. Any disruption in seed imports, therefore, could have a huge impact on agriculture, much like

Any disruption in seed imports, therefore, could have a huge impact on agriculture, much like the energy crisis we are facing due to overdependence on imported fuel.

Against this backdrop, farmers can preserve only a small quantity of seeds and are increasingly dependent on private companies for supplies.

the energy crisis we are facing due to overdependence on imported fuel. Against this backdrop, farmers can preserve only a small quantity of seeds and are increasingly dependent on private companies for supplies. It is true that Bangladesh has had to resort to higher-yielding imported hybrid varieties to meet rising demand. Higher yields usually mean higher profits for farmers. But what we are losing due to our overdependence on hybrid varieties is indigenous seed varieties, which are easier to preserve even though they generally produce

lower yields. Indigenous seeds are crucial because they help protect biodiversity, build climate resilience, and empower smallholder farmers. Having evolved over centuries, local varieties can withstand harsh conditions such as droughts, floods and high soil salinity. Women farmers, in particular, have preserved local seeds for generations, including varieties that can grow without expensive chemical fertilisers or pesticides. For small farming households, native seeds can keep production costs low while providing greater independence and financial stability. There are examples of how some countries have suffered from overdependence on imported seeds, with supply disruptions resulting in reduced production of essential crops, affecting their food security. Our seed policy should, therefore, focus equally on farmers' rights and autonomy over their crops. This requires greater support for smallholder farmers so that they can preserve indigenous seed varieties and pass them on to future generations. Farmers must also be protected from practices that allow private companies to use patent rules to restrict their ability to save seeds or breed new varieties.

The need to ensure food security, however, makes hybrid varieties a necessity that we cannot wish away. Therefore, Bangladesh must also strengthen the relevant public institutions to further develop high-yielding hybrid varieties and boost local production. The government can ease regulatory constraints to encourage joint ventures with countries that possess the necessary technology, with the aim of eventually developing independent local producers. This would considerably reduce prices, benefiting farmers.

PM urges youth to join

Minister said Bangladesh has around 23 lakh Scouts and 22,000 BNCC members, while the number of students from high schools, madrassas, colleges and universities is around 1.5 crore. Including primary schools and madrassas, the total number of students is around 2.5 crore.

“Yesterday, almost all the districts are connected here online. I want your help- Girl Guides, BNCC, Scouts, volunteers and all of you. We have to build this country. We have gathered here yesterday with one goal- the goal of building the country,” he said.Explaining the importance of public participation in dengue prevention, the Prime Minister said Aedes mosquitoes breed in stagnant water accumulated in discarded papers, plastic items and other objects.“If we all make a collective effort, we can change this situation,” he said.

Tarique Rahman urged people to become more conscious about cleanliness, saying that even a small piece of waste discarded casually can gradually accumulate into garbage and create an environment conducive to spread of the diseases.“So, let us keep ourselves healthy, keep our families healthy, keep our society healthy and try to keep our country healthy. This work is not very difficult,” he said.Tarique Rahman said people might have to make some effort initially, but spending just one hour every week cleaning their homes, schools, colleges or institutions could bring about rapid change.The Prime Minister also called upon people to discourage those who throw waste indiscriminately in public places and raise awareness among them.

“So, the message is one: work, work and work. And cleanliness, cleanliness and cleanliness must be our main goal for the days ahead,” he said.

The three-month campaign, which began yesterday, will continue until December 12 across the country. It aims to raise public awareness about dengue prevention, destroy Aedes mosquito breeding grounds, strengthen cleanliness activities and strengthen coordination among government, private and social initiatives.

Alongside Dhaka-focused activities, awareness and cleanliness drives are being conducted simultaneously at district and upazila levels nationwide.

Convener of the Nationwide Dengue Prevention and Cleanliness Campaign Implementation Committee and Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Bir Muktiyoddha Abdus Salam delivered the welcome address at the inaugural programme.LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abul Moyeen Khan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain, Information and Broadcasting Minister Barrister Andaleev Rahman Partho, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr MA Muhit, and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam also addressed the programme.Ministers, state ministers, advisers, senior officials of Prime Minister's Office and different ministries and departments, NGOs, DSCC, DNCC, cleaners, students, members of various voluntary organisations and journalists were present. Officials of district and upazila administrations from across the country also joined the inaugural programme online.

3-day Bangladesh Innovation

100 industry experts and more than 50 corporate organisations, said a ministry press release. Alongside connecting innovators with domestic and foreign industrial enterprises, investors, banks and financial institutions, and government decision-makers, opportunities will be created for B2B matchmaking and green transition-based partnerships.

In the opening ceremony, Science and Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam and Prime Minister's Adviser on Science and Technology and Posts, Telecommunications and

Bangladesh’s El Niño risk is bigger than weather

Md. Neyamul Hossain

major exporting countries can increase import costs. Bangladesh could consequently face higher food prices even when domestic production losses are relatively limited. The food production challenge is fuelled by higher input costs. Bangladesh imports over 85 percent of its total fertiliser demand. This leaves its agricultural production highly exposed to international fertiliser prices and supply disruptions. In the first five months of 2026, global fertiliser prices increased by 35 percent compared with the same period in 2025. Higher fertiliser prices can raise production costs and potentially encourage lower application rates, which could

The result is a potentially reinforcing cycle of lower production, higher costs, and higher food prices. A high volume of imported energy also creates macroeconomic risks. Global disruptions can place pressure on foreign exchange reserves and public finances because the country is a net importer of fuel and gas. A CGE analysis by Sanem estimated that a sharp short-term fossil fuel price shock could shrink the GDP by 0.79 percent and increase inflation by 1.19 percent. Poorer, rural and farm households bear the disproportionate share of the burden. A GTAP-based simulation by Sanem estimated that a combination of higher oil and LNG prices, rising international freight costs, and declining remittance inflows from the Gulf countries could reduce Bangladesh’s GDP by 1.2-3 percent in the short to medium term.

These figures are not estimates of El Niño’s direct economic impact. But they demonstrate Bangladesh’s underlying vulnerability to external energy and commodity shocks. If a climate-related agricultural shock occurs simultaneously with the existing energy and power crises, the combined impact could be considerably larger. The policy response should therefore address food and energy security together. Bangladesh needs bigger investment in climate-resilient agriculture, including stress-tolerant rice varieties, improved water management, efficient irrigation, and better weather forecasting. Expanding solar-powered irrigation along with efficient groundwater management could reduce farmers’ dependence on fossil fuels.

further affect yields. In June 2026, the World Bank approved an emergency programme to finance the import of 600,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser for Bangladesh. This is expected to support approximately 14 lakh hectares of rice production cultivated by smallholder farmers. Energy prices create another layer of pressure. Agriculture depends on fuel and electricity for irrigation, mechanised farming, transportation and processing. Higher oil and gas prices mean higher costs of producing and moving food. This is critical as Bangladesh relies substantially on imported energy. In 2024-25, 281.89 billion cubic feet of LNG was imported—31 percent of total gas consumption. In 2023-24, power generation accounted for 41 percent of the total gas consumption. Hence, any disruption in gas supply can substantially affect electricity generation and economic activity. The interaction between climate and energy shocks is perhaps the greatest concern. A climate shock can

nation in the event of prolonged supply disruption would similarly depend on the specific terms of the contract.The issue, therefore, is not only why electricity generation has fallen, but also what safeguards were incorporated into the agreement and whether they are being applied. What Adani says

On 2 September, Adani Power said coal supplies to the Godda plant had declined because of pressure on the railway network, loading restrictions at various locations and disruptions in coal transportation.The company said it had notified BPDB about the matter and was working with Indian Railways. After generation began recovering, however, one of the plant’s units was shut down because of the boiler-related problem. A technical failure at a power plant is not unusual. The more important issue in a long-term cross-border electricity arrangement is how quickly the problem is resolved and what measures the supplier takes to minimise the impact on the importing country. Timing fuels suspicion, but not proof

The timing of the disruption has nevertheless attracted attention because it followed months of diplomatic discussions over a possible visit by Tarique Rahman to India. On 16 August, Bangladesh’s Foreign Ministry said public remarks by Sheikh Hasina from Delhi had disrupted the process surrounding the proposed visit and that an appropriate environment was needed before the prime minister travelled to India.

Discussions continued into September. On 5 September, State Minister Humainul Kobir said there was no possibility of a visit by the prime minister to India before the United Nations General Assembly and that no date had been finalised.

On 10 September, Dhaka made it clear that Tarique Rahman would not attend the BRICS summit. The following day, news emerged that one of the Godda plant’s units had been shut down.

The proximity of the two events has naturally raised questions. But suspicion and evidence are not the same thing. There is, so far, no reliable evidence that the power disruption was politically motivated or linked to the prime minister’s decision not to visit India.

A strategic vulnerability Bangladesh’s dependence on imported energy means disruptions at a major cross-border power plant can have significant consequences.

The country’s power system was already struggling because of shortages of gas, coal and liquid fuel. Reports on 11 September put overall generation at around 13,000MW to 14,000MW against demand of more than 16,000MW.

The Adani disruption therefore appears to have aggravated an existing crisis rather than caused it single-handedly. Energy experts have long criticised aspects of the Adani agreement. Questions have also been raised about whether Bangladesh has become excessively dependent on a single cross-border source and whether the country has sufficient alternative generation and import capacity to absorb such disruptions.

The latest incident has brought those concerns back into focus. Electricity should not become a political tool Whether Bangladesh’s prime minister visits India is a sovereign decision for Dhaka. Likewise, bilateral relations should be determined by national interests, while commercial agreements should operate according to their contractual terms and mutual obligations.

Bangladesh does not receive Adani’s electricity as aid. It pays for the electricity under a commercial agreement. Therefore, any prolonged disruption naturally raises questions about the rights and remedies available to Bangladesh under the con-

tract.A technical failure can happen at any power plant. But if such a failure causes a substantial shortfall in Bangladesh’s electricity supply, the country must examine whether its energy system has adequate safeguards and alternatives. The immediate priority should be to establish the facts through contractual documents, generation data, technical reports and official explanations from Adani Power and the relevant authorities.If the incident is purely technical, Adani Power should restore normal supply as quickly as possible and provide a clear technical explanation.

If, however, evidence emerges of political or commercial pressure being exerted through electricity supplies, that would go beyond a power-sector issue and raise serious concerns about Bangladesh’s economic security and sovereign decision-making. For now, the facts establish a striking coincidence in timing—not a causal link.

from the Gulf countries could reduce Bangladesh’s GDP by 1.2-3 percent in the short to medium term. These figures are not estimates of El Niño’s direct economic impact. But they demonstrate Bangladesh’s underlying vulnerability to external energy and commodity shocks. If a climate-related agricultural shock occurs simultaneously with the existing energy and power crises, the combined impact could be considerably larger. The policy response should therefore address food and energy security together. Bangladesh needs bigger investment in climate-resilient agriculture, including stress-tolerant rice varieties, improved water management, efficient irrigation, and better weather forecasting.

Expanding solar-powered irrigation along with efficient groundwater management could reduce farmers’ dependence on fossil fuels while also lowering exposure to volatile energy prices.

For Bangladesh, El Niño is more than a temporary weather disturbance. Its significance lies in how it interacts with the existing vulnerabilities in agriculture, food markets, and energy supply. Climate change increases the underlying exposure, while El Niño can provide an additional short-term shock. At the same time, high dependence on imported energy and fertiliser can intensify the economic consequences. Strengthening climate-resilient agriculture, diversifying energy sources, and protecting vulnerable households should be treated as complementary elements of the country’s economic and climate policy.

1,100 Sacks of Fertilizer

illegally transported or smuggled. However, no conclusive evidence has yet been found to confirm the allegation. Authorities are investigating the ownership and source of the fertilizer, as well as the purpose for which it was being stored on the boat.

Sitakunda Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohinul Islam said that an investigation is underway to determine the ownership and source of the recovered fertilizer. Legal proceedings in connection with the matter are also ongoing.

Businessman Abducted from

Police (CMP) on Thursday (September 10).

According to police, businessman Helal Uddin was forcibly taken away in a microbus from the Shulokbahar area of Chattogram city on the afternoon of September 7 following a dispute over Tk 469,000 in outstanding business-related payments. The following day, the abductors allegedly called Helal’s wife and demanded Tk 5 million as ransom, threatening to kill him if the money was not paid. His wife subsequently filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station. Based on information gathered through technology and intelligence sources, police conducted raids at several locations in Chattogram city and arrested three suspects.

Following information obtained from the arrested individuals, police later conducted an operation at an abandoned cottage belonging to the Forest Department inside the Mohamaya Lake area of Mirsarai. Helal Uddin was rescued from the location, while five more alleged members of the gang were arrested. Police said the alleged mastermind, Abul Hashem, had hired the other suspects for Tk 100,000 to abduct Helal in an attempt to recover the outstanding money. Legal proceedings against the arrested suspects are currently underway, police said.

Bangladesh, Philippines

Friday, according to a BOTOA press release received here yesterday.

The BOTOA delegation held talks with Ivannovich "Dmitry" Agote, Chief of the Tourism Regional Division of DOT-NCR, focusing on expansion of tourism ties, improved air connectivity and long-term cooperation between the tourism sectors of the two countries.During the meeting, the two sides stressed that direct and convenient air links between Bangladesh and the Philippines could significantly facilitate tourist movement while also contributing to greater trade, investment and people-to-people contacts. The discussions also focused on increasing two-way tourist flows, including attracting more Filipino travellers to Bangladesh alongside the growing movement of Bangladeshi tourists to the Philippines.



Stone Dumping Occupies Roadside Space at Tamabil Land Port

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

An illegal stone dumping yard has been established on both sides of the main road at Tamabil Land Port, one of the major economic hubs of Sylhet. Large quantities of stones imported from Meghalaya, India, are being piled up along the roadside in violation of rules and regulations, turning the busy highway into an unofficial stone dumping area.

During a visit to the area, rows of stone piles were seen on both sides of the road connecting Tamabil Land Port with Jafllong and Tamabil. A large number of

cargo trucks and dump trucks are parked on the road for extended periods to load and unload stones. As a result, normal traffic movement is being disrupted, while the risk of road accidents is also increasing.

Local residents alleged that the roadside stone piles and illegal truck parking are causing serious inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists. They also said the excessive dust from the stones is contributing to environmental pollution. Khairul Bashar Mohammad Salam Hossain, Executive Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department, said piling stones beside the highway and

parking trucks illegally on the road are completely unlawful. He said an eviction drive would soon be conducted in coordination with the local administration, police and port authorities to keep the Tamabil-Sylhet road operational and safe. Gowainghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ratan Kumar Adhikari said establishing a dumping yard by occupying government land beside the road is completely illegal. He said steps would be taken soon to remove the illegal structures and stone piles from both sides of the road to keep the highway free from traffic congestion and accident risks.

Criticise government, but do not create unnecessary obstacles: Abdus Salam

Staff correspondent

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Administrator Abdus Salam on Saturday urged journalists to criticise the government's mistakes and shortcomings, but also provide positive suggestions to help the country move forward without creating unnecessary obstacles to its functioning. "The government's mistakes and shortcomings should be criticised, but alongside criticism, positive suggestions should be given so that the country can move

◆ see page 7

Bangladesh's medical education overhaul focuses on quality, faculty, clinical training

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh is undertaking a broad overhaul of medical education focusing on a persistent set of problems including inadequate teaching facilities, shortages of qualified faculty, uneven clinical exposure, limited research opportunities and the need for stronger quality assurance. The reform agenda comes at a time when the country is producing a grow

◆ see page 7



Removal of Pontoon Marks the End of the 'Rocket' Steamer Era at Boromashua Ghat

Syed Bashir Ahmed, Chief Reporter

The pontoon has been removed from the Boromashua steamer ghat (landing station) on the banks of the Baleswar River. It was transported to Barishal on Wednesday afternoon. With this, the last visible remnant of the long-abandoned ghat has vanished. Once bustling with the whistles of steamers, crowds of passengers, and the loading and unloading of goods, the ghat now stands silent.

According to local sources, the Boromashua steamer ghat was constructed and officially inaugurated in 1988. Later, in 2009, a pontoon and a Bailey bridge were

installed with funding from the Netherlands government to facilitate the safe boarding and disembarking of passengers.

Boromashua was once a vital hub for riverine transport in the southern region. People from various areas of Barguna, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur used this ghat for their journeys. Beyond transporting passengers to destinations like Dhaka, Barishal, and Khulna, the ghat also served as a transit point for commercial goods.

Conversations with local elders reveal that the area used to be a hive of activity during the days of steamer operations. The moment the

◆ see page 7



Adequate Fertilizer Stock Available; Stern Action Against Artificial Scarcity: Agriculture Minister

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Assuring farmers not to worry about fertilizer availability, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Livestock Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid stated that adequate fertilizer is currently in stock against the national demand. However, he warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone attempting to hoard fertilizer or create an artificial crisis for ill motives.

He made these remarks on Saturday (September 12) during a views-exchange meeting with journalists in Fulgazi, Feni. The minister visited the area to inspect overall preparations ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's scheduled visit to Feni on September 17.

The minister informed that to ensure support and services for farmers, the government has taken an initiative to distribute 'Agriculture Cards' to

◆ see page 7

Quality shoes made at small roadside shop, not factory

Staff correspondent

A small roadside shop in Panchagarh is quietly producing quality shoes, sandals and loafers by hand, offering customers factory-like products at comparatively affordable prices.

At the shop, located at Tetultala intersection in Barashahi Union of Boda upazila, finished footwear is displayed on one side, while leather, thread, scissors, knives and other shoemaking tools occupy the other. Inside the modest outlet, skilled footwear artisan Jamal Uddin remains busy crafting leather shoes according to customers' orders and preferences.

The quality of his handmade footwear, according to local customers, is comparable better to factory-made products. But what sets his business apart is the opportunity

◆ see page 7

Press Conference Protests Arrest of Six Anti-Drug Committee Members in Sitakunda

Families Demand Withdrawal of 'False' Case and Immediate Release of Detainees



Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

A press conference was held in Sitakunda, Chattogram, protesting the arrest of six members of an anti-drug committee in connection with an abduction case following their alleged involvement in anti-drug activities in the Kadam Rasul and Keshabpur areas.

The families of the arrested individuals demanded the immediate withdrawal of what they described as a "false case" and called for the detainees to be released on bail.

The press conference was held at the Sitakunda Press Club at 5:00pm on Friday (September 11), where family members of the

arrested individuals made the demands.

At the press conference, the families alleged that a local anti-drug committee had been formed by concerned citizens in response to the alleged spread and open sale of drugs in Kadam Rasul and Keshabpur.

According to them, the committee organized a human chain in Kadam Rasul on September 2. Local dignitaries and representatives of the administration were reportedly present at the programme.

The families further claimed that, following speeches against drug dealing, searches were conducted at several houses as part of the anti-drug campaign, during which alleged drugs and drug-use equipment were destroyed. They alleged that the activities created resentment among people involved in drug dealing.

They also alleged that several members of the anti-drug committee were attacked while returning

◆ see page 7



Body of Youth Recovered from Teesta River in Dimla Three Days After Disappearance

Mohinul Islam Sujan

Crime Reporter. The body of a 22-year-old youth named Arman has been recovered from the Teesta River in Dimla, Nilphamari, three days after he went missing. His body was retrieved from a downstream section of the river on Friday afternoon (September 11).

Arman had gone missing the previous Wednesday afternoon while bathing in the Teesta 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.

According to locals, Arman went missing after being swept away by the current while bathing in the river with several others. After failing to locate him despite extensive efforts, locals notified the Fire Service. Although a diving team from Rangpur arrived at the scene, they were unable to find the youth due to murky water and strong currents, and they eventually concluded the search operation without success. Later, on Friday afternoon, locals spotted the body floating downstream and informed

◆ see page 7



Human Chain in Gowainghat Demands Halt to Illegal Sand Extraction and Protection of Farmland

Naim Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

Residents of two villages in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet have formed a human chain demanding an immediate halt to illegal sand extraction using dredger machines from a river adjacent to Uttar Hatir Para-Khaoiura in Paschim Alirgaon Union and measures to protect agricultural land from river erosion.

The human chain was held on Thursday (September 10) on the bank of the river adjacent to Uttar Hatir Para-Khaoiura, jointly organized by residents of Hatir Para and Pukash villages. Local Union Parishad member Masuk Ahmed presided over the program. A large number of affected farmers and people from different walks of life from Pukash and Hatir Para villages participated in the human chain.

Speakers at the program alleged that a group led by Abzal, Soyful, Hamid and Faruk has allegedly been extracting sand illegally from the river using dredger machines day and night for a long time, without following any rules or regulations. As a result, severe river erosion has reportedly occurred, causing hundreds of acres

◆ see page 7

Pirojpur: A Dengue Hotspot



G.M. Adol, Pirojpur District Correspondent

Pirojpur district is currently at the top of the Barishal Division in terms of dengue infections. The prevalence of dengue is increasing at an alarming rate across the district, raising growing concern among residents.

According to the latest information from the Pirojpur District Health Department, 31 new dengue patients were admitted to the district hospital in the last 24 hours. At present, a total

of 90 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at the district hospital and seven upazila health complexes. Of them, 32 patients are receiving treatment at Pirojpur District Hospital.

19 in Nesarabad, 15 in Bhandaria, 13 in Nazirpur, 7 in Kaukhali, and 4 in Mathbaria. So far 1905 patients have recovered after receiving

treatment and have been discharged from hospitals. The Health Department said that the highest number of patients 870 have received treatment at Pirojpur District Hospital. In addition 378 patients were admitted to Bhandaria, 344 to Nesarabad, 134 to Nazirpur, 134 to Kaukhali and 90 to Mathbaria Upazila Health Complexes.

With the rising number of patients, Pirojpur District Hospital is facing a severe shortage of beds and space.

◆ see page 7

BCI holds training workshop on public procurement law, e-GP system

Staff correspondent

The Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) yesterday organised a training workshop on the Public Procurement Act, 2006, Public Procurement Rules, 2025 and the electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system. The workshop was held at the BCI boardroom in the capital with the participation of BCI members, organisations engaged in government procurement, lawyers, entrepreneurs and trainees, said a press release. BCI Senior Vice President Preeti Chakraborty chaired the inaugural session, while BCI President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury (Parvez) attended the closing session and distributed training certificates among the participants. Former secretary and former Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority S M Moin Uddin Ahmed served as the

◆ see page 7

Brahmanbaria-2: Rumin Farhana Faces Public Questions Over Road Development

M. Badal Khandakar, Brahmanbaria Correspondent

The independent Member of Parliament for Brahmanbaria-2 constituency, Barrister Rumin Farhana, is facing public scrutiny over road and development work in various parts of the area. Residents of several unions in Sarail-Ashuganj and Bijoypur say that the area's infrastructural problems have remained unresolved for a long time.

People from multiple areas of Sarail and Ashuganj allege that the condition of Sarail-Ashuganj has not changed much even 5 years after independence. Locals are raising questions on social media and at various public gatherings: "Why couldn't any MP bring about change? Why didn't the people of Sarail-Ashuganj get what they deserve?"

Rumin Farhana herself, after submitting her nomination papers on December 29, 2025, described Sarail-Ashuganj to journalists as "two neglected upazilas."

Rumin Farhana, BNP's International Affairs Secretary, did not get the BNP party nomination for the 13th National Parliament election and instead contested as an independent candidate with the "Duck" symbol. She said she has spoken for people's rights and against injustice for 17 years. She added that she decided to run as an independent under pressure from the people of the area.

According to the election results, she was leading with 34,460 votes after results from 45 out of 151 centers were announced. Brahmanbaria-2 constituency

◆ see page 7



কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথালমোলোজী)
সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল এন্ড ফ্যাকালি সেন্টার

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

০১৭০২-৫৫৮৭৫৯
০১৯২০-১২৫৪৯৫

ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

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



Feni Launches Nationwide Dengue Prevention and Cleanliness Campaign

Staff Reporter

Under the banner of "Clean Feni, Safe Feni, Dengue-free Feni: Let's Stay Aware Together," the Prime Minister's nationwide dengue prevention and cleanliness campaign 2026 was officially inaugurated in Feni.Feni-1 MP Rafiqul Islam Majumdar launched the drive on Saturday (September 12), organized jointly by the Feni District Administration and Feni Municipality.

Chaired by Feni Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mahbubul Karim, the event was attended by Superintendent of Police Protyush Kumar Majumder, Deputy Director of Feni Local Government Division and Feni Municipality Administrator Nuruddin Muhammad Shibli Noman, Additional District Magistrate Fatima Sultana, Additional District Commissioner (Revenue) A.K.M. Faisal, ADC (Education & ICT) Rifat Asma, ADC (General) Mohammad Al-Amin Sarkar, and Zila Parishad Administrator Prof. M. A. Khalek, alongside senior district officials.

The inauguration began with a colorful rally through the city streets, highlighting slogans urging residents to maintain cleanliness, stay conscious, and protect their communities against dengue.

Speaking as the chief guest, MP Rafiqul Islam Majumdar said, "Following the Prime Minister's visionary call, a special nationwide campaign against dengue has commenced yesterday. Tackling dengue cannot rely on government initiatives alone; it is a shared social responsibility for everyone's health and safety."

He added, "Aedes mosquitoes do not discriminate. Their breeding grounds lie in stagnant clean water around our homes, rooftops, and flowerpots. To protect our families and neighbors, every citizen must take responsibility to clean their surroundings at least once a week."

He noted that the campaign will intensify cleanup and mosquito extermination efforts across all upazilas, municipalities, and unions in Feni, urging local administration, youth groups, teachers, and civic organizations to actively volunteer.

Supported by Feni Municipality, the launch was attended by Executive Engineer Md. Zakir Uddin, Chief Executive Officer Md. Samsuddin, Medical Officer Dr. Krishna Pada Saha, municipal staff, sanitation workers, and representatives from local voluntary organizations.



Free Eye Treatment Camp Held in Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

A day-long free eye treatment camp has been held in the Kaijuri Union of Faridpur Sadar Upazila. This camp was organised on Friday (11 September) from 10 am to 4 pm at the premises of 'Nil Shopno Pre-Cadet and High School' in the Akain area of Ward 6 of the union. The medical service was provided under the auspices of the 10 No. Kaijuri Union BNP and 'Lions Club of Dhaka Sugandha, District 315 A-1, Bangladesh'. The camp was inaugurated by the Member of Parliament for Faridpur-3, Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf. In his inaugural speech, MP Chowdhury Nayab Yusuf expressed hope for the success of this initiative, stating, "Through such humanitarian service activities, many poor and helpless people in the area will receive free eye treatment services." At this time, he expressed gratitude to the general public for electing him in the last national parliamentary election and sought everyone's cooperation for the overall development of the area in the future. Throughout the day, local underprivileged and general people were provided with free eye examinations, medical services, and necessary health advice at this camp. A large number of patients from the area received treatment during this service-oriented event. Local BNP leaders and prominent individuals from the area were present at the event.



Police arrested 4 people including 2 women with 1 kg of ganja and 202 pieces of yaba in Madhyora in Kalapara Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent.

Police arrested 4 people including two women with 1 kg of ganja and 202 peach yaba tablets in Kalapara of Patuakhali. At around 11:30 pm on Thursday night, under the leadership of officer-in-charge of Kalapara police station, the police raided the house of Amir Hossain of West Badurtali village of Tiakhali Union and arrested them.

The arrested are: Runa Begum (45), Mosa: Mim Akhtar (23), Raihan (22) and Md. Rajib Akon (30). Police said that all of them are professional drug dealers. However, Amir Hossain, the accused in 14 drug cases, managed to escape when he sensed the presence of the police.

According to local sources and the police, the arrested persons had been dealing in drugs in the West Badurtali area for a long time by avoiding the eyes of the police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kalapara Police Station. Nazrul Islam said that a case has been filed against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act. They will be produced in court later on Friday afternoon.

Bangladesh's medical edu

ing number of medical graduates but continues to face major weaknesses in its health workforce and medical education system.According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh had only 13 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population in 2022, compared with a global median of 49.Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain on Monday told parliament that only 30,311 doctors are currently working in government hospitals across Bangladesh, while the country needs around 88,909 physicians to meet the minimum doctor-population ratio in line with international standard.

According to a government-funded study conducted in 2026, Bangladesh will need around 88,909 doctors in 2026 to meet the WHO's minimum standard of 0.50 doctors per 1,000 population, he said.

Criticise government, but

forward without creating unnecessary obstacles to the government's journey," he said.

DSCC administrator pledges to turn city areas greenerAbdus Salam made the remarks as the chief guest at a programme organised at the IDB Bhaban in Kakrail in the capital on the occasion of the fifth founding anniversary of The Daily Bangladesh Diary.He said journalism is an integral part of society and newspapers are regarded as the fourth estate of the state.

Removal of Pontoon Marks

steamer's whistle blew at the scheduled time, a flurry of movement would begin among passengers and their relatives; some waited to depart, while others came to bid farewell to loved ones. Once the steamer departed, a relative silence would settle back over the riverbank.

However, the importance of Boromashua Ghat gradually declined with the development of road networks and the eventual discontinuation of the steamer service. After passenger transport via waterways ceased, the pontoon remained abandoned at the site for a long time, serving as a poignant reminder of a bygone era of river travel.

With its removal on Wednesday, nothing remains of the ghat's former appearance. Now, only the site itself and the memories of those times linger on the banks of the Baleshwar.

Local resident Bishwajit Majumdar remarked, "Boromashua Ghat was not merely a place for vessels to dock; it shared a deep, long-standing connection with the lives of the people in this region." People utilized this terminal for various purposes, including employment, business, medical needs, and staying in touch with relatives.

Adequate Fertilizer Stock

110,000 farmers across the country in the first phase. Among them, nearly 7,500 farmers in Feni district will receive this benefit. The program will be officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister during his visit on September 17.

Prior to the press briefing, the Agriculture Minister inspected the venue for the Prime Minister's planned public rally in Fulgazi. During the inspection, he discussed overall preparations, security measures, and event management with senior officials from the district administration, police, and the agriculture department, issuing necessary instructions. Senior officials from the district administration, police department, and the Ministry of Agriculture were present at the event.

Quality shoes made

for customers to choose their preferred designs, sizes and specifications.This flexibility, coupled with affordable prices and durable products, has helped Jamal earn a loyal customer base and a strong reputation in the local community. About two decades ago, Jamal worked at a shoe factory in Dhaka, where he learned the craft of shoemaking through hands-on experience. He later returned to his hometown and started his own small-scale business.Although the physical size of his operation has changed little over the years, the number of customers has steadily increased.

Jamal Uddin told BSS that he has to bring leather and other raw materials from Dhaka. However, due to limited capital, he cannot purchase materials in bulk, restricting his production capacity despite growing demand.“If I had more capital, I could produce shoes in larger quantities. Then I would have been able to supply not only the local market but also wholesale markets. For that, I need financial support,” he said.Regular customer Iqbal Bahar said he initially visited the shop out of curiosity after noticing the roadside shoemaking outlet.

Press Conference Protests

home after the human chain. Subsequently, an abduction case was filed against members of the committee, resulting in the arrest of six individuals, they claimed.

The families also alleged that a woman named Jotna and her family had allegedly enlisted the support of some influential individuals in the area to facilitate drug dealing. They further alleged that some of those influential persons received regular monthly payments. However, the allegations could not be independently verified, and no immediate comment was available from the individuals concerned.

Leaders of the anti-drug committee said that if people are arrested in cases for protesting against drug dealing, ordinary citizens may become reluctant to speak out against drugs in the future. They warned that such a situation could weaken community-based resistance against drugs and negatively affect law and order.

They also said that despite the state's stated policy of taking a strict stance against drugs, the arrest of people involved in anti-drug activities was concerning. They demanded a proper investigation to establish the facts and the release of those they claimed were innocent.

Body of Youth Recovered from

the family, who then recovered the body with the help of the community.

Confirming the incident, Ashraful Islam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Dimla Police Station, stated that the body was handed over to the family following a preliminary inquest, as no complaints were lodged by the family or anyone else.

Pirojpur: A Dengue

Due to the lack of adequate beds, dengue patients are being treated alongside general patients and even on the floor. Pirojpur Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Motiur Rahman said that sufficient medicines, saline and antigen test kits for free dengue testing are available at the district hospital and upazila health complexes. He also said that free government healthcare services are being ensured for dengue patients.

The district health authorities have urged people to keep their surroundings clean, remove stagnant water and use mosquito nets while sleeping both during the day and at night to prevent the spread of dengue.

Human Chain in Gowainghat

of agricultural land in Hatir Para and Pukash villages to gradually disappear into the river.

The speakers warned that if the illegal sand extraction continues, large areas of agricultural land in the two villages could be lost to river erosion in the near future. They said the situation is not only causing serious losses to farmers but also threatening the livelihoods and environment of local residents. In his speech, UP member Masuk Ahmed said, “Farmers in the area have become desperate due to the aggressive activities of those involved in illegal sand extraction. As agricultural land

is being washed away by the river, many people are losing their means of income. We strongly urge the administration to immediately stop illegal sand extraction using dredger machines and take strict legal action against those involved.” He further warned that if immediate action is not taken, the local residents would launch a larger movement.

Local elders and social workers Abu Bakkar, Abdul Aziz, Abdul Kadir, Abdur Nur, Badrul Islam and Izzat Ullah, among others, expressed solidarity with the human chain and addressed the gathering.

The speakers also urged the Gowainghat Upazila Administration and the Water Development Board to take immediate and effective measures to stop illegal sand extraction and demanded the construction of a sustainable embankment to prevent river erosion.

BCI holds training workshop on

resource person at the workshop.In her opening remarks, Preeti Chakraborty said BCI has been working continuously to enhance the capacity of the business community. She said the training would help participants acquire proper knowledge of the technical aspects of the e-GP system, enabling them to remain competitive in business.

The resource person conducted two sessions on "An overview of Public Procurement Act, 2006 & Public Procurement Rules, 2025" and "An introduction to e-GP system, how it works and benefits."

Brahmanbaria-2: Rumin Farhana

includes Sarail and Ashuganj upazilas, and Budhanti and Chandura unions of Bijoypur upazila. The total number of voters is 4,09,498. Rumin Farhana's ancestral home is in Budhanti Union of Bijoypur, and her current residence is in Shahbazzpur Union of Sarail Upazila.

As the BNP gave up the seat to its alliance partner Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Rumin Farhana and two other BNP leaders ran as independents. She was later expelled from the party for defying the party's decision.

The main demands of the local residents are road repairs, improvement of communication systems, and an end to long-standing neglect. In recent days, they have held courtyard meetings and human chains in various unions, calling on the MP to start development work quickly.

Rumin Farhana said, "The people of my area are my strength. Whatever they want is my decision." She also said she has informed the administration and will take immediate action if there are any problems in the constituency.

Now the local people want to see how quickly the election promises are turned into reality.

Hanging Body of Journalist

If possible, please collect the money owed to me by Samakal and hand it over to your sister-in-law [my wife].’

Police stated that the ‘suicide note’ ??was also addressed to his wife, Priyanka, reading: ‘Priyanka, please forgive me. Life goes on for everyone. Please look after Prakriti [Pulak Chatterjee's daughter] and ensure her education continues. Stay close to Deepak [Pulak Chatterjee's brother]; he will look after you all.’

Police claim the ‘suicide note’ ??also addressed Pulak Chatterjee's brother, Deepak Chatterjee, saying: ‘Forgive me. I have left a heavy burden on you. Please look after Priyanka [Pulak Chatterjee's wife] and Prakriti [Pulak Chatterjee's daughter].’

Police reported that the ‘suicide note’ ??also addressed S.M. Zakir Hossain, General Secretary of the Barishal Press Club, stating: ‘Since I have committed suicide voluntarily, there is no need for an autopsy. Please arrange for my body to be handed over to my family without administrative complications. I share many memories with you. Please look after my wife, Priyanka, and Prakriti. Goodbye.’

Dengue must be prevented

directions to those involved.

He said cleanliness activities must be turned into a continuous social movement. Alongside government agencies, individuals, families, educational institutions, businesses, voluntary organisations and people from all sections of society must play responsible roles in preventing dengue.

Briefing journalists after the inspection, the state minister said the nationwide three-month special campaign had begun following its inauguration by the prime minister.

“The objective is not merely to kill mosquitoes but to prevent the creation of Aedes breeding grounds through cleanliness and public awareness and to establish lasting awareness among citizens,” he said.He said preventive measures were being given the highest priority. To prevent the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes, the surroundings of homes, under-construction buildings, government and private offices, educational institutions and other establishments must be kept clean regularly, he opined.

Rizvi calls for unity

self. But that criticism must certainly be constructive. It should not be propaganda or character assassination,” he added.

Regarding the gas, fuel and electricity crisis, Rizvi said the government, which has been in office for only six months, should not be held responsible for the crisis.

"Due to the war in the Middle East, the impact of the global situation has fallen on the country's fuel system. Tarique Rahman's government is not responsible for this. This is a global crisis," he said.Highlighting the government's social protection and public welfare initiatives, he said marginalised, helpless, poor and destitute people were receiving benefits through various cards under social safety-net programmes.He said the old-age allowance had been increased from Tk 600 to Tk 700, while the number of beneficiaries had risen from 61 lakh to 62 lakh.

"All of these are the fulfillment of one social rotection commitment after another and the government is doing those things one by one," Rizvi said.

Referring to the food self-sufficiency programme of BNP founder Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Rizvi said Bangladesh faced a severe food crisis after independence in 1972.

ECNEC approval expected

at Rampal and implemented in phases from 2028.

The proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) plant will be developed on 918.5 acres of unused land previously acquired for a coal-fired power project, BPDB Member Md Zahurul Islam said.

"We will use the Power Development Fund to construct the solar power project on vacant land of the Rampal power plant," he said.

The project has an estimated cost of Tk 2,502.4 crore, according to the BPDB.Major site development works, including land filling and boundary protection, have already been completed, which is expected to reduce construction costs and shorten the implementation period compared with a greenfield project.

A feasibility study by the Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Company (IIFC) found that the existing site infrastructure would significantly lower construction expenses, a BPDB official said.

The plant will be connected to the national grid through a new 230-kilovolt transmission system linked to the nearby Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Limited (BIFP-CL) substation.

The proposed project is expected to add clean electricity to the national grid, reduce carbon emissions and lessen Bangladesh's dependence on imported fossil fuels.



Approval and Introduction Meeting of Bangladesh Press Club Sarail Upazila Committee Held

Taslima Khandaker Nushrat (Sarail Upazila)

The approval and introduction meeting of the Bangladesh Press Club Sarail Upazila Committee was held on Wednesday at Baten Tower in Shahbazzpur, Sarail Upazila.

At the meeting, the new committee was approved and an introduction session with the committee members was held. Discussions were held on improving the standards of journalism, reporting objective news, and highlighting various problems of the upazila.

The chief guest at the event was Enamul Haque Arif, Founding President of Bangladesh Press Club Brahmanbaria District. The special guest was journalist Abu Taher, General Secretary of Bangladesh Press Club District Committee.

Also present were Md. Ripon Mia, prominent contractor; Journalist K. M. Habibullah, Finance Secretary, Bangladesh Press Club Brahmanbaria District;

Journalist Ariful Haque Himel, General Secretary, Bangladesh Press Club Sadar Upazila;

Journalist Moniruzzaman, Finance Secretary,

Bangladesh Press Club Sadar Upazila;

Journalist Zahidul Monir, Senior Vice President,

Bangladesh Press Club Sadar Upazila;

Journalist Hridoy, Assistant Organizing Secretary,

Bangladesh Press Club Sadar Upazila.

The speakers said that Bangladesh Press Club will always work for truth and justice. Along with fulfilling their professional duties, journalists must play a positive role in the development of society. It was expressed that the new committee will work to maintain unity among the journalists of the upazila and to deliver reliable information to readers.

New Committee.

President: Journalist M. Badal Khandaker

Senior Vice President: Journalist Abdullah Al Mamun

General Secretary: Journalist Rounak Khan

Organizing Secretary: Journalist Selim Master

Women Affairs Secretary: Journalist Taslima Khandaker Nushrat

Legal Affairs Secretary: Journalist Advocate Hamidul Islam Khan

Religious Affairs Secretary: Md. Elias Mollah

Publicity Secretary: Journalist Al Amin Box

Office Secretary: Journalist Md. Palash Mia

Member: Md. Shamim Mridha

Member: Zahidur Rahman

At the end of the meeting, the leaders of the newly formed committee were welcomed with flowers.



Three People Detained in Intoxicated Condition in Rajapur (Jhalokathi)

Rajapur Correspondent

In a special operation conducted yesterday at 02:20 PM in an under-construction building on the east side of Rajapur Sadar Upazila Health Complex, three people were detained while consuming Yaba drugs in an intoxicated state. The detained individuals are,1.Md. Sajjad Ahmed Akash (19), Father, Habibur Rahman, 1 No. Ward, Upazila Sadar. 2.Shabid Islam Sami (20), Father, Kobir Khan, Chatikhola, Rajapur sadar.3.Md. Mohiuddin Maruf (20), Father: Anwar Hossain, North Southpur area, Mathbari Union. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rifat Ara Moulik, through the mobile court, sentenced each of them 06 (six) months of simple imprisonment and a fine of 2,000/- Taka.



Meeting for the formation of the Freedom Fighter Children Unit Command Committee in Fakirhat

S A Kalam Fakirhat Bagerhat

A meeting was held for the formation of the Freedom Fighter Children Unit Command Advisory Committee in Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat.

The meeting was organised by the Upazila Freedom Fighter Council on Saturday (12 September) at 4 PM in the conference hall of the Upazila Freedom Fighter Council building.

The chief guest at the meeting was Sheikh Kamrul Islam Gora, president of the Upazila BNP. The meeting was presided over by Sheikh Shadour Rahman Joha, the member secretary of the Upazila Freedom Fighter Unit Command. The event was jointly conducted by the joint convener Pankaj Kumar Roy.

Other speakers included Freedom Fighter Children MA Morshed Pial, Md Masud Rana, Md Saiful Islam, Prasenjit Das, Nawsad Azam, Md Monirul Haque, Limon Khan, Iqbal Mallik, Lovely Das, Mumu Mohanto, Narsin Akter, among others. At this time, brave freedom fighters and their children were present.

The convener of the Upazila Freedom Fighter Unit Command, brave freedom fighter Morol Nur Mohammad, stated that the formation of the Freedom Fighter Children Unit Command in Fakirhat Upazila and the advisory committee of the Freedom Fighter Children Unit Command in the 8 unions of the Upazila will be announced very soon.



BRICS leaders gather in India as wars, US tensions challenge bloc



International Desk

Leaders of the BRICS countries gathered in New Delhi on Saturday for a summit focused on trade, investment and major global conflicts, as the group seeks to strengthen its influence in international affairs and promote the interests of emerging and developing nations.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is hosting Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and leaders from the other eight BRICS member states.

The summit is taking place amid the ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as growing tensions between the United States and China. The developments are testing the bloc's ability to reach consensus among members with different geopolitical interests and foreign policy positions.

Authorities have deployed thousands of police and paramilitary personnel across New Delhi, particularly around the summit venue. Traffic restrictions and diversions have also been introduced in several areas of the capital.

BRICS was established in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, while South Africa joined the group in 2010. The bloc has since expanded to 11 members, collectively representing about half of the world's population and a substantial portion

of the global economy. It has increasingly demanded greater representation for developing countries in major international institutions.

The leaders are expected to address economic cooperation, investment, energy, food security, technology, supply chains and reforms to global institutions. Another major issue will be reducing dependence on the US dollar, with member states encouraging the use of national currencies for trade and payments and seeking alternatives to financial institutions dominated by Western countries.

For India, the summit provides an opportunity to demonstrate its strategy of maintaining strong relations with Russia and Iran while simultaneously strengthening ties with the United States and Europe.

New Delhi has sought to preserve its longstanding partnerships with Moscow and Tehran while expanding cooperation with Washington and other Western countries in areas including trade, defence and technology.

India has continued to maintain close relations with Russia and Iran despite the Ukraine war and tensions between Tehran and Washington. At the same time, it has repeatedly called for dialogue and diplomatic efforts to resolve international conflicts. Modi held separate meetings with Putin and Pezeshkian in New Delhi on Friday ahead of the summit.

The summit is also taking place as Iran, one of the expanded BRICS members, remains directly involved in the Middle East conflict. This has created another challenge for the group's unity as member countries hold differing views on the war and on their relationships with the United States.

A major challenge for India as the summit host will be securing a joint declaration from all participating leaders. Differences within the bloc were already visible in May, when BRICS foreign ministers failed to reach agreement on a joint statement concerning the Iran war.

Houthis capture Red Sea island, raising shipping concerns

International Desk

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen captured Mayun island at the entrance to the Red Sea Friday, after seizing the port of Mokha Thursday, threatening international shipping. Iran urged Saudi Arabia to end its blockade of Yemen and resume talks.

Mayun is a strategic alternative route for Saudi oil and other exports amid Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The seizure was confirmed by officials from Yemen's internationally recognized gov-



ernment and the Houthis, who spoke anonymously. Saudi Arabia responded by striking Mokha airport, with no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Saudi airstrikes hit Houthi-held Mokha airport as rebels seize strategic island

About 12% of global goods normally pass through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is vital to Saudi Arabia. Its long-running blockade of Houthi-held Yemen has contributed to attacks on Saudi shipping. Iran backed negotiations, while Yemen's National Defense Council condemned renewed Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

AI company Anthropic said it blocked users in northern Houthi-held Yemen who used Claude Code to develop advanced ballistic and hypersonic missiles. No evidence showed a weapon was deployed. Iran denies arming the Houthis.



Philippine ferry fire death toll climbs to 35

International Desk

The number of people killed in a fire aboard a passenger ferry in the Philippines has increased to at least 35 after rescuers recovered additional bodies. Survivors described scenes of chaos as the flames spread rapidly, leaving some passengers unable to reach life jackets.

The blaze broke out Wednesday night near Palawan province, and 54 people remain unaccounted for. Forty-three passengers and crew members survived. Coast guard photographs showed the severely burned interior of the vessel, with what appeared to be human remains, ashes, twisted metal and a damaged vehicle.

Survivor Arnulfo Nokki Villanueva said the fire moved through the ferry so quickly that he had little time to react. Speaking in a video aired by News5, he said his back was burned after he fell to the floor and that he eventually escaped by jumping through a window. He explained that he tried to obtain a life jacket but could not because frightened passengers were stepping over him in the panic.

Search teams faced difficult conditions Thursday as intense heat and thick smoke prevented them from entering parts of the vessel. The recovery operation continued into Friday, when officials confirmed that the death toll had reached 35. The ferry had departed from Manila and was approximately 7.4 kilometers (4.5 miles) from Turda village, near its destination of Coron, when the fire was reported. Authorities have not yet established what caused the blaze.

At a rescue center in Turda, Lira Daco anxiously waited for information about her 20-

year-old daughter, Cyriel, who remained missing. She said it was heartbreaking to imagine that her daughter may have been calling for help as the fire spread. Daco also expressed anguish over the difficulty of identifying the recovered remains, saying that even recovering her daughter's body after drowning would have allowed the family to provide a proper burial.

The ship's manifest listed 134 people aboard, including 117 passengers and 17 crew members. The 53-meter (174-foot) ferry was designed to accommodate up to 306 passengers and 27 crew. The coast guard said two people listed on the manifest later told authorities that they had never boarded the vessel.

Two Chilean tourists were among the survivors, according to Rachel Conserman, an employee of the ferry's operator, Atienza Interisland Ferries Inc. Both were receiving treatment for their injuries at a hospital in Coron. She said there were no reports of any other foreign nationals aboard.

Coron is a well-known tourist destination, famous for its clear waters, limestone cliffs and striking rock formations.

Ferries are an important part of transportation across the Philippine islands. However, maritime accidents remain a recurring problem, with storms, poorly maintained vessels, overcrowding and inadequate enforcement of safety standards contributing to the risks, particularly in remote areas.

One of the country's worst maritime disasters occurred in 1987, when the ferry Dona Paz collided with a fuel tanker and sank. More than 4,300 people died, making it the deadliest peacetime maritime disaster in recorded history.

Over 500,000 Russian troops killed in Ukraine, UK says



International Desk

More than 500,000 Russian troops have been killed in Ukraine since Moscow launched its invasion in February 2022, British Chief of the Defense Staff Air Marshal Sir Richard Knighton said Friday.

He said Russian casualties had reached 1.5 million, including those killed. The British figures broadly match Ukrainian military estimates. Russia has not commented.

Knighton said Russia's army was making bat-

tlefield progress, while its forces had lost more than 10,000 armored and protected vehicles, nearly 3,000 air defense and artillery systems, and more than 370 aircraft and helicopters. He did not provide figures for Ukrainian losses.

Russian drones struck two Ukrnafta gas stations in Kyiv for a second day, killing two people and injuring six, prosecutors said. Minister Andrii Sybiha accused Russia of targeting civilian locations to cause casualties and fear.

Five people were killed and 67 injured in a Russian drone strike near malls in Pavlohrad. In Zaporizhzhia, a 32-year-old woman and her 10-year-old son were wounded.

Russia said it intercepted 777 Ukrainian drones across 16 regions, Crimea and seas. Two people were killed and three injured in Tula. A Ukrainian drone reportedly hit an oil refinery and Ozon logistics facility in Saratov.

Modi urges freedom of navigation, safety of seafarers in meeting with Iranian President Pezeshkian

International Desk

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in New Delhi on Friday on the eve of the BRICS summit, emphasizing the need to safeguard freedom of navigation, commerce and the safety of seafarers.

According to a statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Modi reiterated India's stance that "all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy". He also underscored the necessity of continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability across the region.

The bilateral meeting comes as ongoing conflict between Iran and the United States has choked off Gulf oil exports to multiple countries, including India. The maritime escalation has directly affected Indian personnel, with several Indian sailors killed in recent attacks on oil tankers.



BRICS opens up new possibilities for more dynamic Global South

International Desk

When the BRICS cooperation mechanism was formally launched in 2006, it opened a new chapter for cooperation among major emerging economies. Two decades on, BRICS has, through the ebbs and flows of the global economy, expanded through multiple rounds of enlargement and broadened the scope of its cooperation.

This evolution has ushered in a new era of greater BRICS cooperation, better reflecting the growing weight and aspirations of the Global South.

When BRICS leaders prepare to gather for this year's summit in New Delhi, India, the mechanism is playing a greater role in amplifying the collective voice of emerging economies, and expanding practical cooperation amid a changing international landscape beset by raging protectionism and economic fragmentation.

Its growing weight is reflected in its economic and demographic scale. BRICS countries now account for approximately 40 percent of global GDP at purchasing power parity and nearly half of the world's population. Data released by the UN Trade and Development in March showed that the intra-BRICS merchandise trade has expanded more than 13-fold since 2003, and exports reached 1.17 trillion U.S. dollars in 2024.

BRICS, however, is more than an economic force. Its growing significance lies in how countries with different development paths are pooling their strengths in resources, industry and technology to advance shared development.

A prominent area is financing. For many developing economies, access to affordable, long-term funding remains critical to turning development ambitions into reality. The New Development Bank (NDB), headquartered in Shanghai, has helped provide such an option by mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Figures released by the bank showed that by the end of the first quarter of 2026, the NDB had approved 42.9 billion dollars in financing for 140 projects.

Covering such areas as infrastructure, clean energy and digital

transformation, these projects address the pressing development needs of Global South countries while echoing the priorities highlighted by the theme of the forthcoming BRICS Summit, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

The ever-evolving BRICS cooperation is also helping developing countries gain new growth momentum. In recent years, BRICS cooperation has been expanding into areas like renewable energy, digital infrastructure, scientific and technological innovation.

A case in point is the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in Xiamen, which was established in 2020 to provide a platform for cooperation in digitalization, advanced manufacturing and technological innovation.

These efforts point to the broader value of BRICS: it is not simply giving the Global South a stronger voice, but creating practical opportunities for countries to access financing, technology and cooperation suited to their development needs.

Such collaboration helps explain BRICS' growing appeal to countries seeking greater opportunities to participate and cooperate. As a founding member, China has contributed not only by building platforms for practical cooperation, but also by supporting greater openness and broader participation to promote high-quality cooperation within an expanded BRICS.

Some in the West portray BRICS as a rival bloc seeking to build a parallel order. Yet this claim bears little resemblance to reality. BRICS stands for openness, inclusiveness and mutual benefit, not confrontation or exclusion. That is fundamentally different from the exclusive blocs championed by some Western countries, and a key reason behind the growing vitality of BRICS.

Looking ahead, BRICS is poised to embark on its third "golden decade" after 20 years of growth and transformation. By rising up to the challenges of the times, BRICS countries can help shape a more equal and orderly multipolar world and a more universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and, in doing so, write a new chapter of solidarity and cooperation across the Global South.

Iraq faces fallout over Saudi pipeline attack

International Desk

Iraq's government was racing Saturday to contain the fallout after local Iran-backed militias were accused of attacking and shuttering a key Saudi pipeline. Iraq's government confirmed the attacks had originated from its territory, pledged to investigate and dismissed a military commander.

The country is under mounting pressure to prevent local militias from aiding other Iran proxy groups across the region. It's especially acute as the Iran-backed Houthi rebels make an advance across Yemen's west coast in a major setback to the Saudi-backed coalition that risks escalating the war in the region.

The Iraqi government has set a Sept. 30 deadline for nonstate groups to disarm, but several of the most powerful militias have said they will not comply.

The Houthis on Friday seized an island in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key shipping lane through which around 12% of global trade passes.

Their virtual control of the strait could send global oil prices — already inflated by the six-month Iran-U.S. war — spiraling. The strait has become a vital commercial lane for Saudi oil ever since the Iran war disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iraq to investigate attack on Saudi pipeline

Iraqi authorities determined that attacks targeting the east-west Saudi pipeline were launched from a site in the country's Maysan province on the borders with Iran, the government said in a statement early Saturday.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi ordered an investigation into the province's operations command and dismissed its commander, the Saturday statement said.

Saudi Arabia shut down the major, cross-country oil pipeline on Friday, saying it was a "precautionary measure" after the pipeline came under drone attack.

In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry blamed the attacks on several drones that came from Iraq, but said the kingdom would not retaliate, to give

the Iraqi government "an opportunity to take the necessary measures."

Built in the 1980s, the East-West pipeline has played an important role in Saudi Arabia's ability to export oil following the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz during the Iran war. By early June, Saudi Arabia had more than doubled oil exports from the Red Sea port at the pipeline's end to more than 5 million barrels per day, according to the International Energy Agency.

Tehran-backed Iraqi militias have carried out strikes on U.S.-linked targets both inside and outside of Iraq since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, and have coordinated with Yemen's Houthi rebels to attack Saudi Arabia.

Iran closes border crossings with Iraq

In a move possibly linked to the investigation, Iraq closed two key border crossings with Iran, Iraq's state-run news agency reported Saturday.

The report said that Iraqi officials were at the border, investigating previous "violations and infractions" at the crossings.

Valiollah Hayati, the deputy governor of Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province, named the closed crossings as Shalamcheh and Chazabeh. They are among the main official border crossings between Iran and Iraq.

Iranian state media said the measure would halt all passenger and commercial traffic through the two crossings until further notice.

Saudi Arabia and the United States bombed Iranian-backed militias in Iraq in July after blaming them for drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities that had been claimed by the Houthis. Regional officials told The Associated Press that the Houthis helped the Iraqi militias plan and execute the attacks.

The fighting threatens to reignite Yemen's civil war

The escalating fighting threatens to end a fragile truce that had largely halted Yemen's civil war since 2022. At stake are 40 million people in the Arab world's poorest country. The conflict killed 150,000 and brought many others to the brink of famine.



Haiwaan X Review: Fans Praise Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar’s Performances

Entertainment Desk

Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan have reunited on screen after 18 years in Priyadarshan's latest film Haiwaan. Following its release, the movie has generated a strong response on social media, with viewers particularly praising the performances of both actors. Akshay Kumar's portrayal of the antagonist has emerged as one of the film's major attractions, with many viewers describing his performance as intense, frightening and convincing. Social Media Reactions One viewer praised Kumar's transformation into the character, saying the actor delivers a psychologically complex performance filled with dark and disturbing elements. The fan highlighted the opening sequence and climax as moments in which Kumar particularly stands out. The same viewer also praised the film's visual presentation, cinematography and background score. According to the reaction, the story carries shades of Cape Fear, while Saif Ali Khan's character receives considerable emotional depth. The screenplay reportedly gains momentum during the second half, particularly through the cat-and-mouse chase sequences, while the ending was described as satisfying, with a surprise cameo adding to the experience. Another viewer called Haiwaan a gripping psychological thriller driven by strong performances from Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan. The user also praised the styl-

ish visuals and background music, noting that Priyadarshan successfully maintains tension, particularly in the latter half, before delivering an unexpected ending. A fan described the movie as an intense and thrilling revenge story, praising the performances of both leads and the engaging first half. Another viewer singled out Akshay Kumar's portrayal of the villain, calling it terrifying and impressive and praising his screen presence, attitude and intensity. Saif Ali Khan was also described as solid, although the viewer felt Kumar dominated the villainous role. One social media user said Saif Ali Khan was impressive in the lead role, while Akshay Kumar "nailed" his portrayal of the antagonist. The face-off between the two actors was described as a major attraction for audiences. The viewer felt the film could have been about 15 minutes shorter but still considered it an engaging watch. Another fan praised Priyadarshan's direction and described the first half as strong. The viewer also expressed admiration for Akshay Kumar's acting and praised Saif Ali Khan's return to the big screen after a long gap. About Haiwaan Haiwaan also features Boman Irani, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Saiyami Kher, Sharib Hashmi, Rajpal Yadav, Rajesh Sharma, Pahal Chaudhary and Manoj Joshi in important roles. The film has been produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Shailaja Desai Fenn under the banners of KVN Productions and Thespians Films.



Kareena angry over blind imitation of Bollywood

Entertainment Desk

In Bollywood, a film of a particular genre becoming a superhit means that other filmmakers are following the same path. Kareena Kapoor Khan has strongly attacked this tendency of blindly copying that hit formula without any fundamental thought. The star has directly criticised the 'sheep herd mentality' of the Hindi industry, citing the surge in violence in Bollywood after the massive success of Sandeep Reddy Bhangra's film 'Animal'. Recently, while appearing in a chat show on 'Yuva', Kareena said, "Our audience is much more intelligent. They understand which movie is good just by watching the trailer. Now we can't be stuck in the old days when Animal was a hit, let's also introduce violence and mayhem in our movies. We are actually blindly imitating like a flock of sheep, what more can I say! Audiences now want to see deep, thoughtful works that make them think. Gone are the days when audiences would run to the cinema halls just by making a comedy or when all the movies would do business of Rs 200-500 crores."

Bollywood stars embrace viral 80s-inspired AI trend

Entertainment Desk

The 1980s have made a comeback on social media, with Bollywood celebrities joining a viral Instagram trend featuring retro-inspired looks created with artificial intelligence. Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra, Shruti Haasan and several other celebrities have embraced the nostalgic trend, sharing their own versions of 80s-style images with their followers. Kiara shared an AI-generated image on her Instagram Stories featuring herself and her husband Sidharth Malhotra in retro avatars. Sidharth, known for Ek Villain, appeared in a classic double-denim outfit paired with dark aviator sunglasses. Kiara opted for the colourful fashion associated with the era, wearing a vibrant pink outfit with puffed sleeves. She completed the look with oversized hoop earrings and bangles. She also added Sidharth's romantic song "Samjho Na" from his upcoming film The Vvaan to the post. Actor Ameesha Patel also joined the trend in a neon-pink retro outfit featuring a one-shoulder top and denim shorts. She accessorised the look with leg warmers and white-and-pink sneakers while posing on a large boom-box.



Shruti Haasan, however, went further back in time, sharing an image inspired by the 1960s rather than the 1980s. The actor appeared in a hippie-inspired look featuring a printed top, matching headscarf and blue jeans. Tahira Kashyap, wife of actor Ayushmann Khurrana, and Saba Ali Khan, sister of Saif Ali Khan, also participated in the trend, sharing their own retro-inspired images on social media. How to create an 80s-inspired AI photo Creating an 80s-style image using AI is relatively simple. Users can upload a clear photograph to an AI image-generation tool such as ChatGPT and ask it to place the person in an 80s-inspired setting while retaining recognisable facial features. To give the image an authentic retro feel, users can include elements such as voluminous hairstyles, colourful clothing, denim jackets, statement accessories, vintage interiors, Bollywood-inspired backgrounds, warm lighting, faded tones and a film-grain effect. The generated image can then be refined by adjusting details such as the hairstyle, outfit or background while keeping the person's identity intact. The viral trend highlights how AI is giving social media users an easy way to recreate and revisit styles from the past.

Oscar-winning Israeli filmmakers' documentary on Gaza war premieres at Venice Film Festival

Entertainment Desk

Twenty-four Israeli military insiders including intelligence officers and soldiers give insight into the war in Gaza and what they say is the systemic killing of Palestinian civilians in "NAZA," a documentary that's having its world premiere Thursday at the Venice Film Festival. The film was made by Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, the Israeli filmmakers behind the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land." "NAZA" was shot in secret on rooftops in Tel Aviv across three years and its subjects' identities are obscured, with digital alterations of their voices and appearances. The film's title references an Israeli military acronym used as a shorthand for civilian casualties, including men, women and children. Testimony from Israeli military insiders The subjects in the film detail the surveillance systems and remote bombing involved in the Israeli military's operation, which they say uses artificial intelligence to identify potential Hamas targets and bomb their homes and apartments often knowing that families are inside. "We just told these officers and soldiers, please describe to us what you did," Abraham said in a news conference Thursday. "Of course there were other questions that arose but the principal question was a question of detail — sketch it for us, we want to know how it worked. And sometimes just asking the question, you get answers." "NAZA" builds on reporting between 2023 and 2025 published by the Israeli-Palestinian +972 Magazine, the Hebrew-language outlet Local Call and The Guardian. Szor spoke about the purpose of making a film with information that has already been reported and published. "We felt that there is still some sort of importance to take those testimonies and put it in a film," Szor said. "It's different to hear, actually, the people who designed and operated those systems talk about it in front of a camera, and sketch it, show it." "NAZA" was produced by The Guardian and filmmakers behind "The Zone of Interest." It is the only documentary competing for the Golden Lion award, and one of two with a female director. It was a late add to the festival, which producer James Wilson said was at their request, in part to allow them to finish the anonymization of their subjects. Keeping the focus on the victims, not the subjects The film doesn't dwell on what motivated their subjects to speak. Abraham noted that some expressed remorse, some didn't; some deliberately spoke in Hebrew, some spoke out of indifference and pride. The filmmakers and producers were inspired by "The Zone of Interest" filmmaker Jonathan Glazer's note that in his film the victims are out of the frame, but never out of mind. "We felt that by focusing too much on these feelings of remorse or guilt that exist, we would be taking away from the core of the film," Abraham said. "And the core of the film is a system of killing that has killed more than 70,000 Palestinians in Gaza — estimates say the real number is much higher — the way it worked and the way the world allowed it to happen. This is the heart of what we want to do." Wilson also spoke about the antisemitism accusations that are sometimes thrown at projects critiquing the actions of the Israeli government. "I myself actually don't think there are any connections with Judaism or Jewishness and the policies of the Israeli government," Wilson said. Bearing witness, from 'No Other Land' to 'NAZA'



Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all fatalities. "The killing of civilians in Gaza is ongoing," Abraham said. "Just this week while we were at the festival there was a seven-year-old girl killed with her father in their car ... what we are showing is something that is very much ongoing." "I think our film is showing that this is not some mistake. It's not an accident. It's something very, very systemic," he added. "And this should have been apparent to everyone, I think, from the start. But we are showing it from the inside, with insider testimony." The ongoing conflict is top of mind at the Venice Film Festival The areas Israel controls in Gaza have been mostly destroyed and depopulated. Most of the territory's 2 million Palestinians are in areas that remain under Hamas control. Israel has continued striking Gaza, saying it's targeting Hamas and its infrastructure. Israel blames Hamas for the heavy civilian casualties in Gaza, saying the militant group operates in residential areas and uses civilians as human shields. The military has acknowledged using artificial intelligence to help identify targets, but maintains no strike is carried out without human involvement. "When it comes to 'pressing the red button,' only a person can do it," said an Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity pending a formal statement from the army. The war was top of mind at last year's festival as well, where thousands gathered for a large pro-Palestinian protest in hopes of redirecting the spotlight from the movie stars to the real world. The subject was also prominent in the program: Kaouthar Ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab," about the death of a 6-year-old girl attempting to flee Gaza City with her family, won the festival's Silver Lion award. Ben Hania is part of the Maggie Gyllenhaal-led jury that will be selecting the award winners at the festival. Winners will be announced on Sept. 12.



Priyontee Urbee visiting Paris, the city of love

Entertainment Desk

Priyontee Urbee, a well-known and popular face of the small screen, is currently roaming around the city of love, Paris. Recently, the actress shared some beautiful pictures of her trip to Paris with her fans on social media. In the caption, she wrote, "Priyontee in Paris. Hahaha." In the pictures posted on social media, Priyontee Urbee is seen in a very elegant and casual look. She has adorned herself in an off-shoulder black polka dot dress, where the white dot design brings a kind of softness to her entire look. With her open hair and sunglasses, she maintains a simple beauty with a French vibe. The background of the pictures shows the beauty of famous Eiffel Tower of Paris and the Seine River. In one picture, she is seen posing with the Eiffel Tower in the background, making a heart sign with her hands, which further highlights her moment of joy. Not only travelling, but also enjoying the famous food of Paris is captured in her framed photos. Urbee shared her fun experience of eating pizza with her fans.

‘The stage means everything to me’: Tamalika Karmaker on her return to theatre

Entertainment Desk

After a long break from the stage, National Film Award-winning artiste Tamalika Karmaker is set to return to theatre with Mamunur Rashid's "Omanush" in Virginia. Directed by Jannatul Tumpa, the play will be staged on October 4. Tamalika will share the stage with actor Sayed Babu. Tamalika spent three decades performing with Aranyak Natyadal, appearing in several acclaimed productions and earning recognition for her stage performances. She has been living in the United States for several years. Image "The stage means everything to me": Tamalika Karmaker on her return to theatre Speaking about her return, Tamalika said, "To be honest, I am scared. Every time I return to the stage to perform, I feel nervous. This time too, I will be returning to the stage after many years with 'Omanush', and I am genuinely scared."Despite working in television and films, theatre has always remained her first priority. "I performed on stage with Aranyak Natyadal for 30 consecutive years. The stage means everything to me. The joy, satisfaction and happiness I get from performing theatre, I do not get from anything else. The stage always comes first for me," she said. She added, "My love for theatre is such that I have left television dramas and films at times. I always made time for other work while keeping theatre as my priority." "Omanush" is particularly meaningful to Tamalika as it was written by her mentor, Mamunur Rashid.





Top seed Zverev holds off Khachanov to reach US Open final



Sports Desk
Top seed Alexander Zverev out-gunned Karen Khachanov to reach his third straight Grand Slam final on Friday, rolling into the US Open title match with a straight sets win. Zverev, who followed up his maiden major at the French Open with a runner-up finish at Wimbledon, saved two set points in the final tiebreaker to close out the 6-3, 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (8/6) victory. He'll face the winner of the all-American semi-final between eighth-seeded Ben Shelton and 11th seed Frances Tiafoe in Sunday's championship match. The German predicted an "absolutely epic" contest between the two Americans, after which he'll be out to thwart the winner's bid to become the first American man in 23 years to lift a Grand Slam trophy. "Hopefully I can not make the American dream come true on Sunday," said Zverev, who came agonizingly close to the US Open title in 2020 before falling to Dominic Thiem in five sets. After a somewhat inauspicious start to the tournament, spending nine hours and 26 minutes on court in laborious five-set victories in the first and second rounds, Zverev has steadily upped his game. He needed two hours and 57 minutes to deny 50th-ranked Khachanov's bid to become the lowest-ranked Grand Slam finalist since number 54 Marcos Baghdatis at the 2006 Australian Open. But the Russian, who fell to Zverev in the Olympic gold medal match in Tokyo in 2021, put up a spirited challenge in the second and third sets. Unable to make any real headway in the first set, Khachanov fell a quick break down in the second. The Russian couldn't resist a grin when he snuck a passing

shot by Zverev to open the fourth game, and flung his arm into the air in celebration three points later when a forehand winner gave him his first break chance of the match. Zverev double faulted to hand him a break that leveled the set at 2-2. Khachanov had another chance two games later when Zverev's backhand into the net to end a 32-shot rally gave him a break point. But the German came up with a big serve and escaped the danger as they went to the tiebreaker, where Khachanov denied Zverev on two set points with thumping forehand and a brilliant backhand down the line before Zverev closed

out the set. Neither player mustered a break point in a tense third set. Khachanov had a chance to extend the match when he took a 6-4 lead in the tiebreaker, but after a pair of forehand errors from the Russian Zverev came up with his 15th ace and sealed the win on the next point when Khachanov sent a forehand long. - US Grand Slam drought - Shelton vanquished defending champion and seven-time Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz in an enthralling five-set quarter-final clash that lasted until 3:34 am -- the latest finish in US Open history. Having notched the biggest win of his career, Shelton is now chasing his first major final as he and Tiafoe duel for the chance to be the one to end American men's Grand Slam drought. The last US man to reach the US Open final was Andy Roddick, whose triumph in 2003 remains the Americans' last major win. Tiafoe rallied from two sets down to hand fellow American Alex Michelsen a devastating quarter-final defeat and reach his third US Open semi-final. The clash under the lights on Arthur Ashe Stadium promises an intriguing clash of styles between big-hitting left-hander Shelton and shot-maker supreme Tiafoe. Shelton leads their head-to-head, but they have split two prior US Open meetings, Shelton winning in the 2023 quarter-finals and Tiafoe turning the tables in the third round the following year. The women's final is on Saturday, when Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina will try to thwart Aryna Sabalenka's bid for a third straight title just days after ending the Belarusian's near two-year reign atop the world rankings by reaching the semi-finals.



England survive scare to seal 3-0 sweep against Pakistan

Sports Desk
England overcame a major wobble to beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the third Test at Edgbaston on Saturday, sealing a 3-0 series sweep. The home team, chasing just 130 to win, were in deep trouble when openers Ben Duckett and Emilio Gay were dismissed in the first over, bowled by Mohammad Abbas. Joe Root, England's record runscorer, edged his first ball, bowled by Razaullah, through the slips for four in a nervy start but settled and scored quickly to take the sting out of the situation. The skipper was given a huge reprieve when he chopped onto the stumps off Mohammad Ali, only for the umpire to signal a no ball, leaving the bowler distraught. Root, with Jordan Cox at the other end, had another let-off when he edged an Abbas delivery between first and second slip, with neither fielder moving. But he reached his half-century off 57 balls with a cut for four and Cox matched him shortly afterwards. England reached their target in the 25th over, with Root unbeaten on 62 and Cox 59 not out. Root's men had appeared set for a quickfire win inside three days on Friday before debutant fast bowler Razaullah launched an auda-

cious assault with the bat, clubbing nine sixes as he raced to 81 off 63 balls. The 21-year-old number nine, who also took four wickets in England's first innings, put on 121 for the ninth wicket with fellow paceman Abbas (42) as England floundered. Razaullah's heroics have changed the mood music but they came too little, too late for Pakistan, who have endured a miserable series, losing the first Test by an innings and 103 runs and the second by 194 runs. The tourists sent seven players home after their crushing defeat in the second Test at Lord's and brought in seven replacements, with Razaullah among them. They also sacked head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and assistant Umar Gul as their tour plunged into chaos. Pakistan made four changes to their side for the third Test and they put up a fight despite being dismissed for a paltry 133 in their first innings. The 3-0 whitewash is a huge tonic for England, who were in turmoil just weeks ago following a series loss to New Zealand and the exits of head coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. But tougher challenges lie ahead, starting with a Test series in South Africa in December and January, while a home Ashes looms next year.

Bangladesh positive to play bilateral T20I series against Nepal next year

Sports Desk
Bangladesh are positive to play a bilateral T20I series against Nepal next year amid a packed schedule, with the two sides set to meet in a bilateral series for the first time. Bangladesh have so far played two T20Is against Nepal, both in the T20 World Cup. However, the two teams have never faced each other in a bilateral series. Nepal's ambassador to Bangladesh Ghanshyam Bhandari expressed interest in arranging a bilateral series with Bangladesh during a meeting with State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque last Thursday. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has also responded positively to the proposal, with the series potentially taking place early next year.

"Talks are going on between the BCB and the Nepal Cricket Association. Our FTP is very packed. Even then, we are trying to find a convenient time within this cycle. If everything goes well, the series may take place," BCB cricket operations manager Shahriar Nafees told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. He said both boards were keen to arrange the series within the current FTP cycle. "We want to arrange the series within this cycle. The Nepal Cricket Association has also made the request. We are looking at the matter positively," Nafees said. Nepal was recently hit hard by devastating floods. The ambassador proposed the bilateral series with Bangladesh as a gesture of support and to inspire the people affected by the disaster.

Bangladesh women's football team reach Japan for Asian Games

Sports Desk
The Bangladesh women's national football team reached Japan safely early today to participate in the women's football competition of the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026. The team arrived in Japan at around 3 am Bangladesh time today (Saturday), following a preparation camp in China. The team left China on Friday, according to a message received here. With their arrival in Japan, the Bangladesh women's team has officially begun its Asian Games campaign. Bangladesh have been drawn in Group B and will open their campaign against DPR Korea on September 14. They will play their second group match against the Republic of Korea on September 17 before taking on Myanmar in their final group match on September 21. Bangladesh have participated in the Asian Games women's football competition only once before. At the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games in China, Bangladesh were eliminated in the group stage after securing one draw and suffering two defeats in three matches.

Bangladesh U-20 women's hockey team make history with Malaysia win

Sports Desk
Bangladesh U-20 women's hockey team ended their campaign in the Women's U-20 Junior Asia Cup Hockey tournament on a high note, beating Malaysia 2-1 in the fifth-place playoff in Hulunbuir, China, today (Saturday). The victory earned Bangladesh fifth place in the tournament and marked a memorable achievement for the country's junior women's hockey. Both teams played an attacking game from the outset, but neither could find the net in the first half. Bangladesh broke the deadlock in the third quarter when captain Sharika Safa Rimon converted a penalty stroke to put her side 1-0 ahead. Kona then doubled Bangladesh's advantage with a field goal in the fourth quarter. Malaysia pulled one goal back late in the match, but Bangladesh maintained their composure to hold on for a historic 2-1 victory. Bangladesh captain Sharika Safa Rimon was adjudged the player of the match for her impressive performance. The victory came after Bangladesh produced a series of competitive performances throughout the tournament and successfully overcame Malaysia's strong defensive challenge in the playoff. The Bangladesh Hockey Federation congratulated the players, coaches and officials on the team's notable achievement.



BCB Integrity Unit vows to stamp out corruption from Bangladesh cricket

Sports Desk
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Integrity Unit independent chair Alex Marshall today iterated his stance on stamping out the corruption from the country's cricket. He said the unit is working independently to investigate alleged breaches of the anti-corruption code and hinted at more corruption cases coming to a conclusion in the coming weeks. "There are more cases under investigation. You can expect to see some more announcements in the coming weeks," Marshall said at a press conference organised by the BCB Integrity Unit here yesterday. He, however, declined to disclose details of the ongoing investigations, saying it would be unfair to individuals under investigation and could affect their right to a fair hearing. Marshall said the Integrity Unit has announced eight cases in recent weeks, with seven people charged under the anti-corruption code and one declared an excluded person. "Some of the people who were charged in recent weeks have already accepted their charges and are awaiting their agreed sanction," he said. He explained that the Integrity Unit follows a three-category process after completing an investigation. "If there is very strong evidence, I recommend charges. If the evidence is not strong enough to charge, people remain under monitoring and review for a period of time. Or there is no evidence and the matter is finished," he added.



Miraz continues to impress in CPL

Sports Desk
Bangladesh allrounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz produced a yet another match-winning bowling performance to guide Guyana Amazon Warriors to a six-wicket victory over Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Providence Stadium. Making his CPL debut in the previous match, Miraz had taken three wickets for just 13 runs. He followed that up with an impressive four-wicket haul in his second appearance, earning the Player of the Match award as Guyana chased down a modest target with eight balls to spare. Put into bat, Trinbago Knight Riders made a brisk start, reaching 41 in 4.3 overs before Miraz struck for the first time, bowling Colin Munro for 26 off 16 balls. Imran Tahir, who had set a world record for the oldest player to claim a five-wicket haul at the age of 47 in the previous match, dismissed Alex Hales for 22.

Justin Greaves top-scored for Trinbago with 35 off 37 balls, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to offer much resistance. Miraz then bowled Nicholas Pooran first ball before dismissing Gudakesh Motie and Sunil Narine to finish with four wickets for 23 runs from his four overs. Shamar Joseph claimed two wickets as Trinbago were restricted to 126-8 in 20 overs. Guyana lost openers Mavendra Dindyal and Glenn Phillips for 36, but Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope steadied the innings and guided the hosts towards victory. Hetmyer scored 42 off 35 balls, while Hope contributed 28 off 19 balls. Guyana reached 127-4 in 18.4 overs to secure their sixth-wicket victory. Miraz, who came in late in the innings, scored just two runs off 14 balls, but his outstanding bowling performance had already laid the foundation for Guyana's comfortable win. The victory kept Guyana Amazon Warriors at the top of the points table with 16 points from nine matches. Antigua and Barbuda Falcons are second with 13 points from 10 matches.



Shelton powers past Tiafoe to book US Open title clash with Zverev

Sports Desk
Big-serving Ben Shelton overpowered American compatriot Frances Tiafoe in four sets to reach the first Grand Slam final of his career at the US Open on Friday. Eighth-seeded Shelton blasted 20 aces on his way to a thrilling 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court that sends the 23-year-old into Sunday's championship match against top-seeded Alexander Zverev of Germany. A pulsating all-American semi-final had seen both players vying to reach a Grand Slam final for the first time. Shelton -- who took down defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the quarter-finals -- will now have the chance to become the first American man to win a Grand Slam title since 2003, when Andy Roddick triumphed at the US Open. "It's a lot of emotion," Shelton said in an on-court interview after a win that was watched by a star-studded New York crowd. "My dad, my mom have sacrificed a lot for me to be in this position today. My dad lost his mom earlier this year, and she's the reason that he was able to play tennis. "Without her, there's no Ben Shelton standing here today. So this one is for her. And I'm gonna need you guys on Sunday to to bring the energy. I'm going for it. I'm gonna leave it all on the court. Earlier, Tiafoe got off to a bright start, claiming the first set after breaking when Shelton uncharacteristically double-faulted to trail at 5-4. Tiafoe held to love to clinch the first set but Shelton came flying out of the blocks to start the second. An early break helped him into a 2-0 lead before Tiafoe responded with a break to level at 2-2. Yet with Tiafoe's serve increasingly erratic, Shelton grabbed another break in the eighth game to go 5-3 up and then held to level. The momentum was all with Shelton and Tiafoe had to fight off two break points before holding early in the third set. However Shelton -- who had one serve initially clocked at 158mph before it was later adjusted to 144mph -- made no mistake in the fifth game with a break to go 3-2 up. Tiafoe needed to hold to keep the set alive in the ninth game, and a furious arm-wrestle saw the 11th seed once again save three break and set points. Shelton though earned his fourth break point after pouncing on Tiafoe's second serve once more, scorching a backhand return down the line. Shelton converted that when Tiafoe netted a forehand to find himself 2-1 down. The fourth set went with serve until the 12th game, when Shelton grabbed the crucial break to seal victory.



Wrong record in the name of Rajapur school Case filed against Headmaster and President

Rajapur (Jhalokathi) Correspondent

In Rajapur, Jhalokathi, a case has been filed against the headmaster and the president of the managing committee over allegations of wrongfully recording an additional 19 decimals of land in the name of the school, which was donated for the school.

On 8 September 2026, local residents Md. Niamul Ahsan and Md. Sarowar Hossain Talukder filed the case in the Jhalokathi District Court. The matter came to light on 10 August. In the case, Md. Jahidul Islam, Headmaster and Member Secretary of Rajapur Model Pilot High School, has been made Defendant No. 1, and the President of the school's managing committee has been made Defendant No. 2.

According to the plaint, in CS Khatian No. 143, Dag No. 2196 of Rajapur mouza, the plaintiffs' ancestors owned a total of 39.33 decimals of land. During the establishment of the school, they donated 20 decimals of that land to the school. The remaining *19 decimals have been in the plaintiffs' possession for a long time. They built shop rooms on that land and rent them out to tenants.



The plaintiffs allege that beyond the 20 decimals that were donated, the remaining 19 decimals were also wrongfully recorded in the school's name during the RS, SA, and BS surveys. Recently, citing that record, the school authorities claimed ownership of the land, which led to a dispute. As no initiative was taken to correct the record, they had to turn to the court.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs have sought a declaration of their inheritance rights and also sought a show-cause order against the defendants. The court has accepted the case and ordered the defendants to show cause.

Plaintiff Md. Sarowar Hossain Talukder said, "We have no claim over the 20 decimals of land that our ancestors donated during the school's establishment. Our claim is only for the remaining 19 decimals. We have demanded that the record for that land be corrected in our name."

Regarding this, Headmaster Md. Jahidul Islam said, "I am not aware of the case. If they have any documents regarding the claim mentioned in the case, we will sit and take initiatives to resolve it through discussion."

Human chain by students demanding the protection of the school in Sadarpur, Faridpur

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

Hundreds of students have formed a human chain to protect 'Adarsha Janasangha High School' from the continuous erosion of the Padma River in the Akterchar Union of Sadarpur Upazila, Faridpur. This programme was held on Thursday (10 September) in the Shoytangkhal ghat area of the upazila.

For a long time, many houses, shops, and hundreds of bighas of agricultural land in the area have been swallowed by the river due to severe erosion. The school, located just 300 meters from the river, is currently in serious danger. During the human chain, students expressed their anger, stating that the level of erosion has intensified due to illegal sand extraction. They demanded an immediate halt to illegal sand extraction and the construction of a permanent dam to protect the school. The headmaster of the school, Ayub Ali Shikdar, mentioned that although some temporary measures like dumping geo-bags had been taken earlier, they have not brought any permanent solution. Currently, there is intense fear among the students.

Nasir Uddin Sardar, chairman of the Diara Narkelbaria Union Parishad, said that not only temporary measures but also a quick construction of a sustainable dam is necessary to protect the Piyajkhali market and Adarsha Janasangha School; otherwise, there is a risk of losing educational institutions and settlements from the map of the area. Parents have also urgently called for effective government intervention so that their children's educational lives do not fall into uncertainty.



Pirojpur Declared a School Dropout Free Upazila

G.M. Adol, Pirojpur District Correspondent

A closing ceremony of the initiative to eliminate child labour and declare Pirojpur a child labour and school dropout free Upazila was held with the support of the District and Upazila Administration of Pirojpur and organized by Pirojpur Area Development Programme (ADP), World Vision Bangladesh.

The programme aimed to eliminate child labour and bring children who have dropped out of school back into the mainstream education system. Linda Dafo Manager of World Vision Pirojpur Area Programme presided over the event. District Commissioner and District Magistrate Abu Sayeed attended the programme as the chief guest. Speakers at the event emphasized the importance of eliminating child labour, bringing school dropout children back to school, and ensuring their education and protection. They stressed the need for collective efforts by government and non-government organizations, teachers, parents and members of society to protect children's rights and ensure a safe, supportive and child-friendly educational environment. During the programme, various initiatives and achievements aimed at bringing out of school children back to education were highlighted as part of the campaign to declare Pirojpur a school dropout free Upazila. The speakers also called upon all concerned to play a more effective role in ensuring that no child is deprived of educational opportunities or becomes involved in child labour in the future. Officials from the district and upazila administrations representatives of World Vision Bangladesh, teachers, parents, students, stakeholders and representatives from different professions attended the event.

National Dengue Prevention and Cleanliness Drive Launched in Amtali

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

The three-month-long 'National Dengue Prevention and Cleanliness Drive-2026' has been inaugurated in Amtali.

The program was organized by the Amtali Municipality on Saturday at 9:00 AM. Md. Ashraful Islam, the Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Amtali Upazila, presided over the event.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's direc-



tive, a decision was made to implement a special three-month program—running from September 12 to December 12, 2026—to prevent dengue nationwide. As part of this initiative, dengue prevention and cleanliness activities have commenced simultaneously across the country's 64 districts and 503 upazilas, as well as in various city corporations, municipalities, and local areas.

Earlier on Saturday, the program was formally inaugurated at the national level. The Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated this special three-month program via video conference from the South Plaza of the National Parliament House. Officials from various city corporations, district and upazila administrations, and relevant stakeholders joined the inaugural ceremony virtually.

Under the initiative of the Barguna District Administration, heads of various district-level departments and relevant Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) also joined the national inaugural ceremony virtually from the Payra Conference Room at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Students, headmasters, assistant teachers,

scout members, officials and employees from various government departments, municipal sanitation workers, members of the 'Tarunyer Alo Youth Forum', NGO representatives, civil society members, human rights activists, and journalists from print and electronic media participated in the inaugural program organized by the Amtali Municipality.

Speaking at the event, Md. Rezaul Karim Badal, President of the Amtali Press Club and a senior journalist, stated: "Relying solely on medication or mosquito-killing operations will not suffice to prevent dengue; everyone must become aware of the need to destroy the breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes—the carriers of dengue—and to keep their homes, educational institutions, offices, and surrounding environments clean." Emphasis was placed on preventing water accumulation—particularly on rooftops, in flower pots, discarded containers, coconut shells, plastic bottles, and stagnant water at construction sites.

Subsequently, in accordance with the Prime Minister's directives, cleaning staff from the Amtali Municipality, along with various government and private offices, educational institutions, NGOs, voluntary organizations, media personnel, and other stakeholders, participated in cleanliness drives and public awareness activities.

Officials stated that through this three-month-long program, initiatives to prevent dengue—including cleanliness drives, raising public awareness, identifying and destroying Aedes mosquito breeding grounds, and engaging citizens—will continue across the Upazila, including the Amtali Municipality area.

Speakers urged ordinary citizens to play a responsible role alongside government efforts to transform dengue prevention into a social movement. They emphasized that the risk of dengue can be significantly reduced through collective action guided by the resolve: "Keep our own premises clean and prevent dengue."

Police seize smuggled sarees, arrest three in Chhagalnaiya

Staff Reporter

Police in a drive seized a consignment of smuggled Indian sarees and arrested three youths in Chhagalnaiya upazila of Feni on Thursday. The operation was conducted on the road north of the Eidgah in Langalmora village under Shubhapur Union, based on secret information.

The arrestees were identified as Zainal Hossain Junayed, 30, son of Moinal Habib of South Ballabhpur village in Shubhapur Union; Sajjad Hossain Ovi, 20, son of late Shahjahan of South Adharmanik village in Radhanagar Union; and Mainuddin Masum, 26, son of Abdul Awal Chowdhury of East Madhugram village in the same union.

Police said a team from Chhagalnaiya Police Station intercepted a pickup van used for transporting the goods and conducted a search. During the raid, officers recovered sacks of illegal Indian sarees and detained the three individuals on board.

Md. Abu Taher, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chhagalnaiya Police Station, confirmed the matter, adding that legal proceedings against the arrestees are currently underway.



Terrorist 'Tester Mobarak' Arrested with Weapons in Fatikchhari, Robbery Busted

Staff Reporter

Police have arrested Md. Mobarak Hossain, alias 'Tester Mobarak' (32), a key associate of Chittagong's notorious criminal David Imon, along with a large stash of sharp domestic weapons. He was detained during a midnight raid on Friday (September 11) in the Manikpur area under Kanchannagar Union of Fatikchhari Upazila.

Mobarak is the son of Abu Taher of Manikpur village.

According to police sources, a group of armed bandits had gathered at an abandoned shack near 'Kashem Chaiman's Tila' in the Chaillatali area of Manikpur to make final preparations for a robbery. Acting on a secret tip-off, a special team from Fatikchhari Police Station conducted a sudden raid at the location. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, other members of the gang managed to flee, but 'Tester Mobarak' was caught red-handed at the scene. Following the raid, police recovered a large consignment of domestic weapons. The seized items include two iron swords, two ramdas, one iron crowbar, one dhama (cleaver), one sharp billhook, one knife, one SS pipe, and one iron rod. Confirming the arrest, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Fatikchhari Police Station, Robiul Alam Khan, stated that Mobarak is an active member of an organized gang involved in terrorism and robbery in the area. Legal action is being taken against him, and police operations are ongoing to arrest his fleeing accomplices.



A woman named Golappi Aktar was seriously injured due to a dispute over land in Kalapara

Kalapara (Patuakhali) Correspondent

In Kalapara of Patuakhali, a woman named Golappi Aktar was beaten up and seriously injured while seeking a share of ancestral property. The incident took place in Mohammadpur bus stand area of ??Nilganj Union on Friday night.

Locals rescued the injured Ropapi Aktar and admitted him to Kalapara Hospital. The victim's family claimed that Pink suffered severe spinal injuries in the attack.

Injured Mosa, the victim, who went to the surface on Saturday: Golappi Aktar alleges that his father died four years ago, after his death, his uncles forcibly occupied their ancestral land. They were angry that they were told to give away the land. On Friday, when his brother Mehdi and Imran went to the Mohammadpur bus stand, Sohail Khan, Feroz Khan, Dulal Khan, Babul Khan, Enayet Khan, Piara Begum and Shajahan Rahri attacked them. Later, when he got the news, he went there from home and he was also beaten with an iron rod, he alleged.

Golapir's brother Mizanur Rahman said that they live in Dhaka because of their jobs. The uncles have been occupying their land ever since the death of the father. They have come home to take ownership of the ancestral property and there is talk of a Shalis meeting through the Union Parishad. Hearing about the Shalis meeting, they were attacked in the meantime. He demanded a fair investigation of the incident and justice of the guilty.

Accused Feroze Khan admitted the land dispute and said that they will not get the land they are demanding. He also admitted that there was a fight between them.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kalapara Police Station. Nazrul Islam said that no complaint has been received in this incident yet. Action will be taken according to law if written complaint is received.

195 Arrested in 10-Day Special Police Drive in Feni

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

Police have arrested 195 individuals, including professional criminals and warrant-listed suspects, during a 10-day special operation aimed at maintaining law and order in Feni. A total of 27 separate cases involving theft, robbery, narcotics, and drugging gangs were filed during the drive, which ran from September 1 to the morning of September 11.

According to Feni Model Police Station sources, the special operation was launched under instructions from higher authorities to curb drug abuse and enhance overall security across the district. Those arrested include members of a "Malam Party" (drugging gang), drug traffickers, active robbers, and convicted criminals. All suspects have been sent to jail through the court following legal procedures.

Key Achievements of the Drive: "Malam Party" Member Arrested: Litton Mia alias Sumon (37), a member of an organized gang that targets returning

Allegation of gang rape of two women on a boat after coming to a wedding ceremony in Sarail

M Badal Khandaker (District Correspondent), Brahmanbaria

In Sarail, Brahmanbaria, allegations have emerged that two women, including a teenager dancer (16), who had come to perform at a wedding ceremony, were gang-raped on a moving boat in the middle of the Titas River. In connection with this heinous incident, a case has been filed at Sarail Police Station naming a youth named Rakib as the prime accused and five others as unnamed accused.

According to police and the FIR, the 16-year-old victim is a member of a dance troupe from Chandina area in Cumilla. A contract was made for 9,000 taka with their group to perform at a wedding ceremony at a house in Sarail Police Station area. As per the agreement, on September 10 at around 4:30 PM, the teenager arrived in Sarail along with two other members of her group.

As stated in the FIR, after arriving in Sarail, a youth named Rakib, on behalf of the event organizers, welcomed them and took them to the area under Shahbazpur Bridge in Sarail. There, along with five other accomplices who were already present, Rakib told them that it would be faster to reach the wedding venue by river rather than by road. Trusting them, the dance group boarded a motorized boat. The complaint states that as soon as the boat reached the middle of the Titas River, about 30-40 yards from Shahbazpur Bridge, the boatman turned off the engine. Then, at gunpoint, the two women were taken inside the boat's canopy and forcibly gang-raped. At the time, when the only male member of their group tried to resist, the miscreants held a sharp weapon to his throat and threatened to kill him.

This barbaric assault continued from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM inside the boat on the river. Later, at around 8:00 PM, the accused dropped the victims off at the bank of Gokarnaghat River



in Nasimagar Upazila, near their neighborhood, and fled. Immediately after the incident, that night the victims went to Nasimagar Police Station seeking legal assistance. However, as the crime scene falls under the jurisdiction of Sarail Police Station, Nasimagar police advised them to contact Sarail Police Station. Subsequently, on September 11, based on the victim's written complaint, a case (Case No. 10) was registered at Sarail Police Station under Section 9(3) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 (Amendment-03). Sarail Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md. Manjur Kader Bhuiyan confirmed the incident and said, "The incident of such brutal torture of women in the middle of the river is being treated with utmost importance. Multiple police teams are working in the field to bring the prime accused in the case along with the other perpetrators involved to justice as soon as possible. The operation to arrest the offenders is ongoing."

Woman and Teen Detained with 400 Yaba Pills and 200g of Cannabis in Amtali

Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

Police have recovered 400 Yaba tablets, 200 grams of cannabis, and Tk 10,565 in cash—proceeds from drug sales—in Amtali. A woman has been arrested, and her 16-year-old son has been detained in connection with the incident. The raid was conducted late Friday night (around 12:30 AM) at the residence of a man named Md. Baijid in Charkgachia village, under Arpangashia Union of Amtali Upazila.

According to police sources, the Amtali Police Station has intensified its anti-drug operations as part of a nationwide special drive. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Md. Tanjil Alam raided the house. During the operation, Shahanur Begum (35) and her 16-year-old son were detained.

Police claim that a search of the premises yielded 400 Yaba tablets, 200 grams of cannabis, and Tk 10,565 in cash. A formal case under the Narcotics Control Act has been filed against the arrested Shahanur Begum. Legal action has also been taken against her 16-year-old son regarding the same incident; his identity has not been disclosed due to legal restrictions concerning minors.

Md. Yakub Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Amtali Police Station, stated that their operations against drugs would continue. Procedures are underway to produce the arrested woman and the teenager before the court in accordance with the law. The police have sought the cooperation of local residents in eradicating the drug menace and urged the public to assist law enforcement agencies by providing information about those involved in the drug trade.



expatriates with sedatives to rob them, was arrested from the Starline Bus Counter area in the town. He faces at least 15 cases in various police stations across the country.

Foiled Robbery Preparation: Police arrested three professional robbers equipped with three local weapons while they were preparing to commit a robbery in the Brahmanpukur Par and government college backstreet areas near Feni Railway Station.

Stolen Goods Recovered: A thief named Jahangir Alam was arrested along with stolen aluminum wires following a theft from a Gazipur-bound covered van originating from Chattogram.

Aminul Islam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Feni Model Police Station, said: "We maintain zero tolerance against drugs, theft, robbery, and any crimes that disrupt law and order. This special drive will continue throughout September. A joint task force involving other law enforcement agencies will soon be formed to conduct a large-scale crackdown to curb crime."

